



AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE

Assessment Center

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http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Support_Services/Assessment.htm

READING COMPETENCY

Sample Items

Read the sample passage:

Regular tune-ups of your heating system will cut heating costs and will most likely increase the lifetime and safety of the system. When a service technician performs a tune-up, he or she should test the efficiency of your heating system.

The technician should measure the efficiency of your system both before and after servicing it and provide you with a copy of the results. Combustion efficiency is determined indirectly, based on some of the following tests: 1) temperature of the flue (or chimney); 2) percent carbon dioxide or percent oxygen in the atmosphere; 3) presence of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere; and 4) draft. Incomplete combustion of fuel is the main contributor to low efficiency. If the technician cannot raise the combustion efficiency up to at least 75% after tuning your heating system, you should consider installing a new system or at least modifying your present system to increase its efficiency.

Adapted from Alex Wilson and John Morrill, "*Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*". © 1993 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

1. The passage suggests that, if carbon monoxide is present in the atmosphere, it is likely that the:

- A. heating system is losing efficiency due to incomplete combustion.
- B. heating system only needs minor repairs and will most likely function for a number of years.
- C. temperature of the flue will be lower than expected.
- D. heating system cannot be repaired and must be replaced.
- E. costs for running the heating system will decrease.

2. According to the passage, when performing a tune-up of a heating system, the service technician should:

- A. ensure that the combustion efficiency is at least 25%.
- B. modify the heating system before initially measuring efficiency.
- C. measure combustion efficiency both before and after servicing the system.
- D. provide his or her supervisor with a written report of the system's efficiency.
- E. ignore the age of the heating system.

3. Combustion can be best described as a process of:

- A. fueling
- B. charging
- C. spinning
- D. burning
- E. cooling