

**AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE
ASSESSMENT CENTER**

**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