Free TSA CBT Practice Test

What Is the TSA CBT Test?

The TSA CBT (Computer-Based Test) is a required pre-employment exam used by the Transportation Security Administration to assess candidates applying for the role of Transportation Security Officer (TSO). It includes either a traditional version with X-ray image analysis and English skills assessment or a newer short version testing spatial and cognitive abilities. Passing the TSA CBT is essential to move forward in the TSA hiring process.

What's on the TSA CBT Test?

There are two different versions of the TSA CBT exam, depending on your testing location and the position you're applying for:

Traditional Version (2.5 hours):

- X-ray Object Recognition Test
- English Skills Assessment (grammar, reading comprehension, vocabulary)

Short Version (25–45 minutes):

- A newer, fast-paced test that measures visual and spatial processing skills.

How do you know which test you'll take?

Your scheduling email from Pearson VUE will usually indicate the version. If it says:

"This assessment is not an English language proficiency assessment,"
you're likely taking the short version. It may also note that your appointment lasts 25–45 minutes.

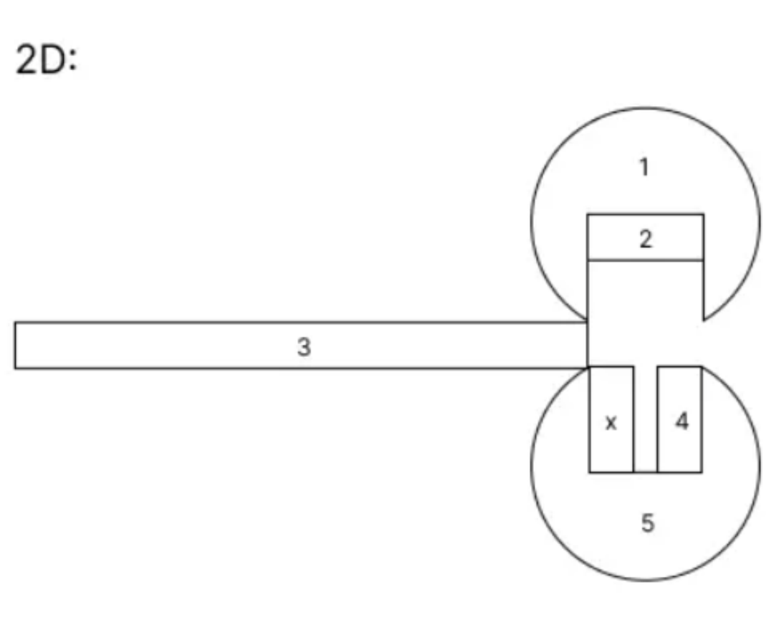
TSA Shape Folding Questions – Practice & Tips

In these TSA CBT test questions, you are given a flat, 2D shape (often with markings or labels on various segments) and asked to visualize how it would look when folded into a 3D object. You will be asked to match numbers on the faces of the 2D shape to the corresponding letters on the faces of the folded 3D shape.

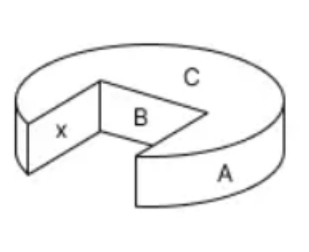
2D to 3D Sample Question

Take a look at this sample question and see if you can solve it:

2D:



3D:



A = ? | B = ? | C = ?

View Explanation

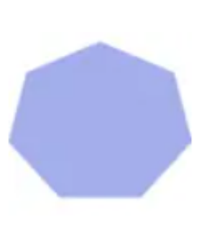
Figure Folding requires methodical work, attention to detail, and an understanding of 3D figures. In the second example, while some 3D components overlap, the shape that connects them is unique, making it easier to track. Developing a methodical workflow will improve your accuracy. Find many examples in our All-Inclusive TSA CBT PrepPack.

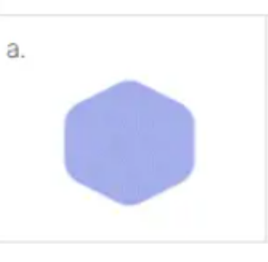
TSA Image Matching Practice Questions

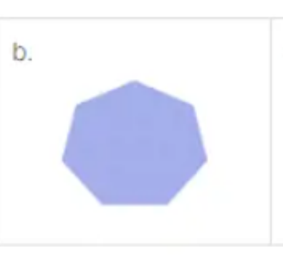
In Shape Match questions, you are given a target shape and must quickly identify the matching shape from a series of other shapes. The matching shape may be rotated or scaled, adding to the complexity. On the actual TSA CBT exam, time counts forward. While there's no time limit, answering quickly can improve your score.

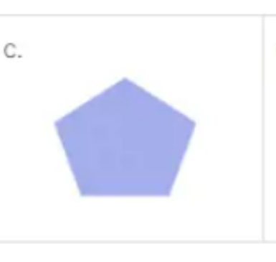
Shape Match Sample #1

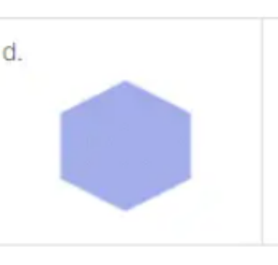
Here is an example, take a look and try to identify the matching figure as fast as you can:

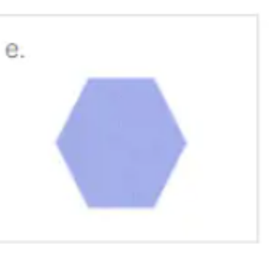


a.


b.


c.


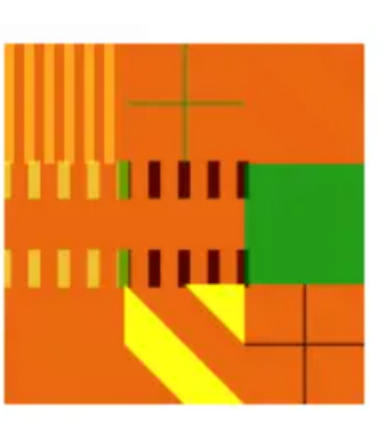
d.


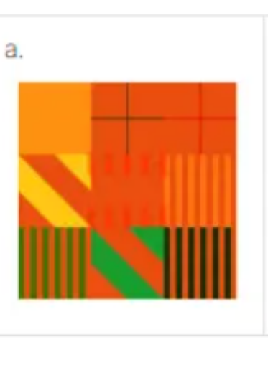
e.


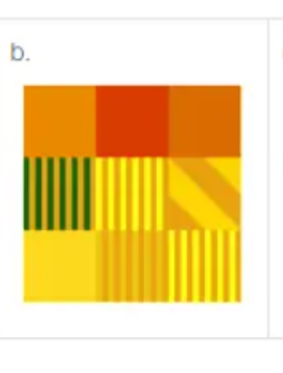
View Explanation

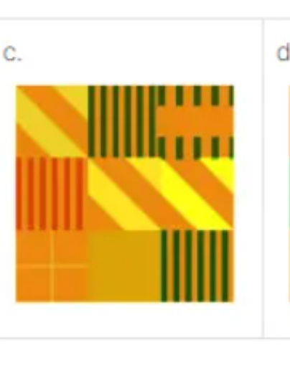
Shape Match Sample #2

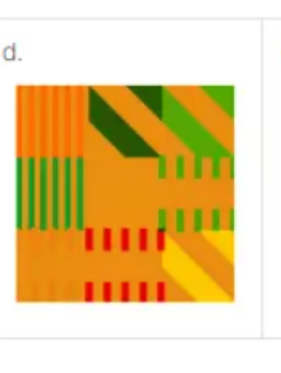
The complexity of the question may also increase, as shown in the following example:

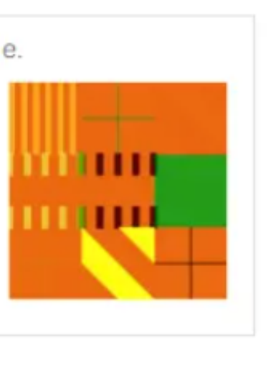


a.


b.


c.


d.


e.


View Explanation

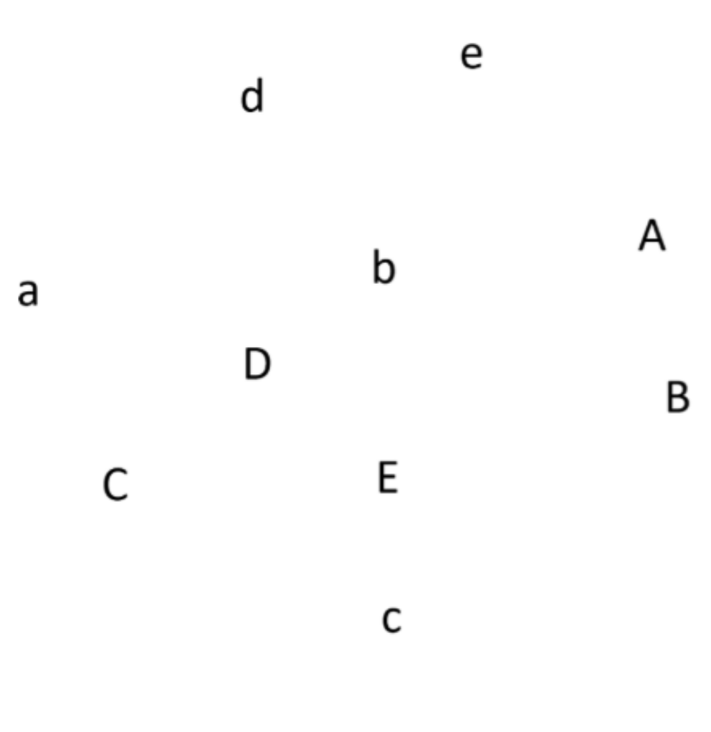
Tip

To answer quickly, narrow down the options by elimination. Scan the patterns from top-left going clockwise, and identify distinctive features. If there are multiple possible answers, refine your choices further using pattern differentiation techniques.

TSA Connect-the-Dots Test Free Practice

On these TSA CBT test questions, you are presented with numbers and/or letters scattered on the screen. You'll need to connect them numerically (1-2-3...), then alphabetically (A-B-C...), and finally sequentially (1-A-2-B-3-C...). This section of the TSA computer-based test assesses your **speed and accuracy.** It primarily focuses on the ease of switching between the alphabetical and numerical tasks.

It is similar to a common assessment of task shifting known as the Trail Making Test.



TSA X-Ray Object Recognition Test (Legacy Version)

The X-ray section of the TSA Computer-Based Test (CBT) is one of the most challenging parts of the exam. It's designed to test your ability to identify potential threats inside passenger luggage using color-coded images. This section is part of the **traditional 2.5-hour TSA CBT**, alongside an English assessment, and is administered at TSA testing centers.

How the TSA X-Ray Test Works

- **Duration**: 15 seconds per image
- **Question Types**: Identify whether a specified item (e.g., gun, knife, water bottle) appears in the image
- **Scoring**: Based on accuracy and speed. Incorrect guesses or missed threats can reduce your score

You'll see scanned images of bags containing both harmless and prohibited items. Your job is to quickly and confidently decide if the target item is present.

How to Read TSA X-Ray Colors (Material Density Guide)

The TSA X-Ray test (also used by GardaWorld) images are color-coded based on material density:

- **Blue / Black** – Dense materials like metal and hard plastic (e.g., guns, knives)
- **Green** – Medium-density materials like light metal and plastic (e.g., electronics)
- **Orange** – Organic materials (e.g., food, rubber, explosives, drugs)
- **Red** – Very low-density items (e.g., paper, fabric)

💡 **Important: Focus on structural features over color.** Some items may appear in unexpected shades depending on their composition. Focus on structure and outline.

What Items Appear on the TSA X-Ray Test?

The test mixes everyday items with potential threats. You may be asked to find or rule out:

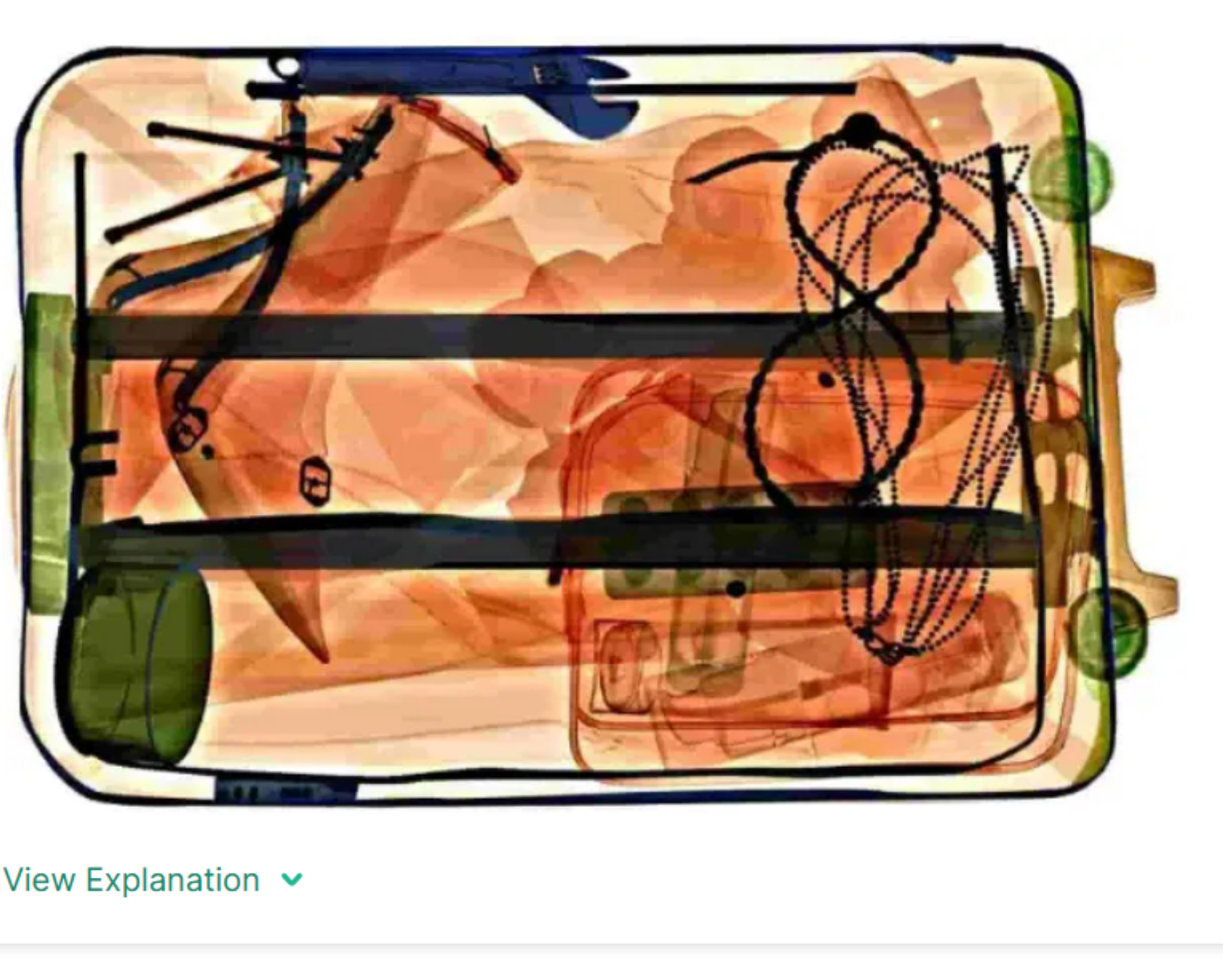
- **Tools**: wrench, screwdriver, spatula
- **Household items**: pen, key, shoe, watch
- **Electronics**: charger, headphones, flashlight
- **Weapons**: knife, gun, grenade

Let's go through sample questions so you can get a feel for what to expect.

TSA X-Ray Practice Questions

X-Ray Sample Question #1

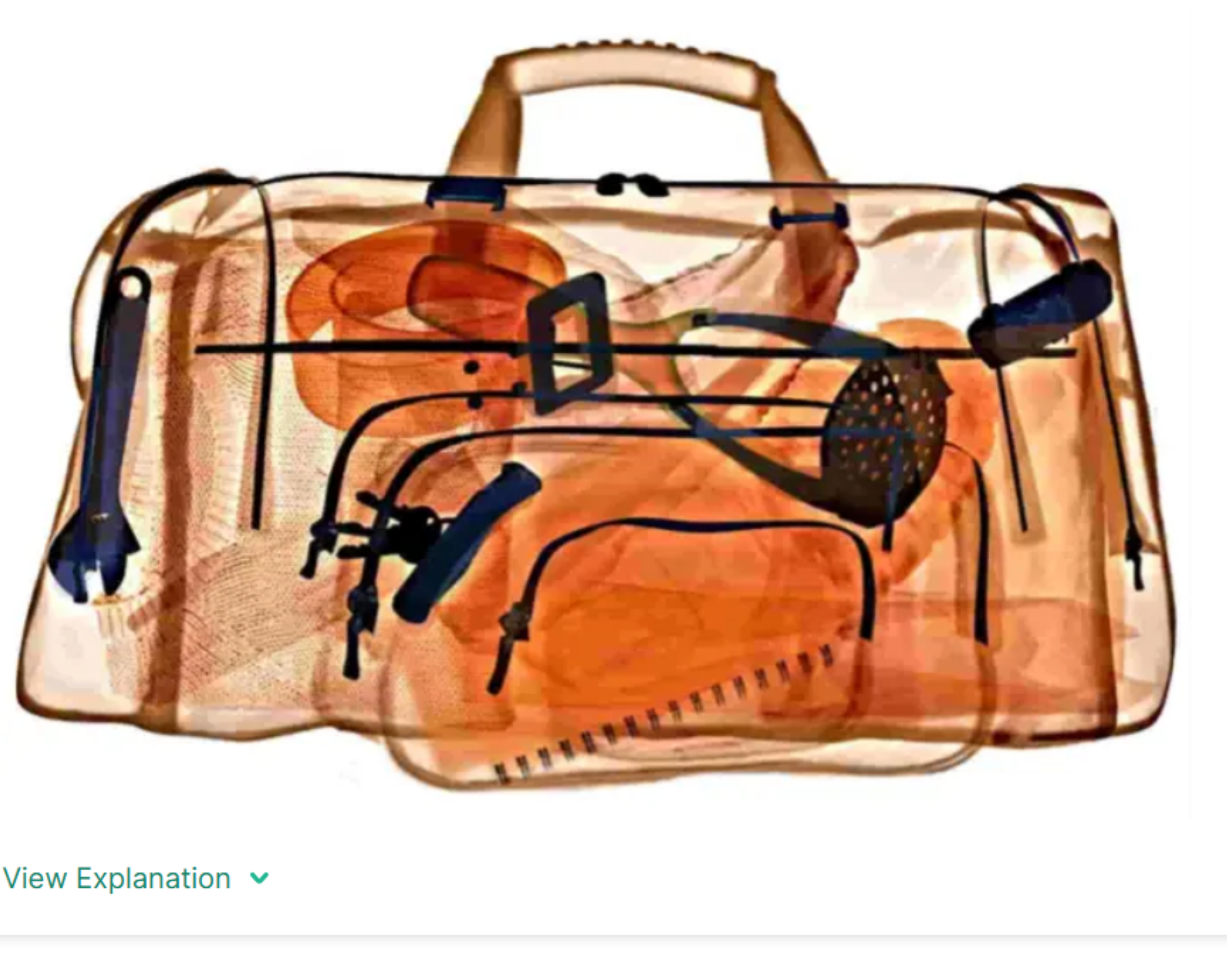
Can you identify a wrench in the X-ray image?



View Explanation

X-Ray Sample Question #2

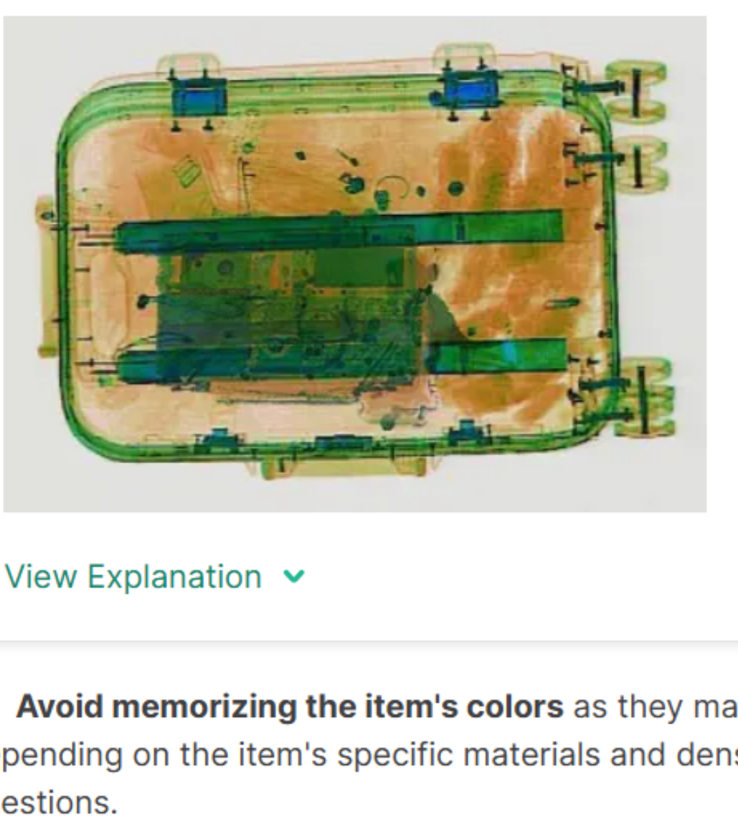
Can you identify a Kitchen Tool in the X-ray image?



View Explanation

X-Ray Sample Question #3

Can you identify a toy in the X-ray image?

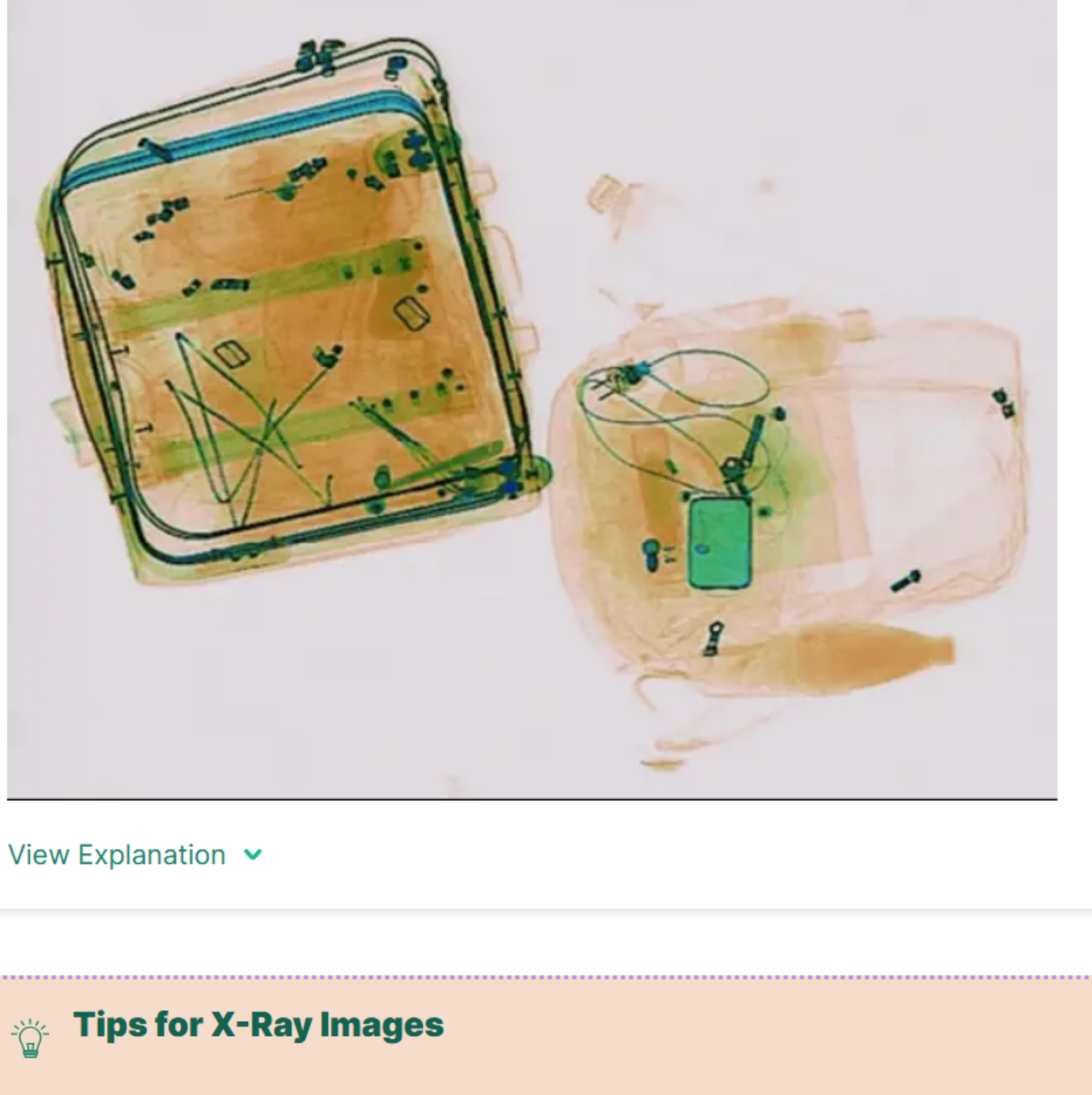


View Explanation

💡 **Avoid memorizing the item's colors** as they may change from one question to the next depending on the item's specific materials and densities – as can be seen in the following questions.

X-Ray Sample Question #4

Can you identify a pen in the X-ray image?



View Explanation

Tips for X-Ray Images

- **Scan methodically**: Move left to right or break the image into quadrants so you don't miss small or rotated items.
- **Focus on shape, not just color**: Materials may show up in unexpected colors depending on density.
- **Look for types, not exact matches**: A knife or shoe might look different from the preview — train yourself to spot the category.
- **When in doubt, leave it out**: Don't mark an item unless you're confident it's there. Random guessing lowers your score.
- **Expect color or angle variations**: Some images may be grayscale or contain overlapping items at odd angles — stay flexible.
- **Train for unpredictability**: You may see unfamiliar items or designs. Rely on key traits, not exact replicas.

Free TSA CBT English Test Practice

The TSA screener English test (also known as the TSA Writing Skills Assessment) includes Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, and Written Communication. Your TSA exam may contain some or all of these topics.

💡 **Tips for Reading Comprehension:**

- Read the questions first before reading the passage.
- Answer the easiest questions first.
- Base all answers strictly on the passage—do not assume external knowledge.

💡 **Tips for Synonym & Antonym Questions:**

- Eliminate at least two answer choices with similar meanings.
- Use prefixes & suffixes to determine meanings.
- For antonyms, first identify if the given word has a positive or negative connotation.

TSA Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

Read the following passage and try answering the questions below:

A growing body of research suggests that the regular, high-level use of more than one language may actually improve early brain development. According to several different studies, a command of two or more languages aggrandizes the ability to focus in the face of distraction, decide between competing alternatives, and disregard irrelevant information. These essential skills are grouped together, known in brain terms as 'executive function' and research suggests they develop ahead of time in bilingual children. While no one has yet identified the exact mechanism by which bilingualism boosts brain development, the advantage likely stems from the bilingual's need to continually select the right language for a given situation.

1. *The research suggests that 'executive function' increases with the number of languages mastered.*

1. True on the basis of the passage.
2. False on the basis of the passage.
3. Not possible to say if the statement is true or false on the basis of the passage.

Answer:
The correct answer is (3).
The passage mentions differences expected in the 'executive functions' of the brain between children who have command of a single language and children who have mastered more than one.
However, it cannot be inferred that this effect continues as the number of languages continues to grow. For instance, it is not clear whether the difference in executive functions is also present between children who have command of two languages and children who have command of more than two languages.

2. *Which one of the following provides the best summary of the main point of the passage?*

1. It's recommended to know more than one language.
2. Bilingualism has significant advantages.
3. Bilinguals have difficulties selecting the right language
4. Bilingualism contributes to the development of 'executive functions'.

Answer:
The correct answer is (4).
The passage introduces two main themes: bilingualism and 'executive functions', emphasizing how the two are connected. The only distracter that offers insight into this connection is D.
All three remaining distracters focus either on bilingualism or 'executive functions', failing to acknowledge the essence of the passage.

💡 Tips for Reading Comprehension questions

- Read the questions before the passage. This will help you understand what you should be looking for in the text.
- Choose the easiest questions first. For example, a question asking what a word means in the given context or a question asking how two statements are related.
- Don't try to assume anything outside of the text. Everything you need to answer each question can be found within the passages themselves. Disregard any answer that is not supported by the text.
- For 'True/False/Cannot Say' questions, if you are having trouble answering any question, the most likely answer will be 'cannot say'.