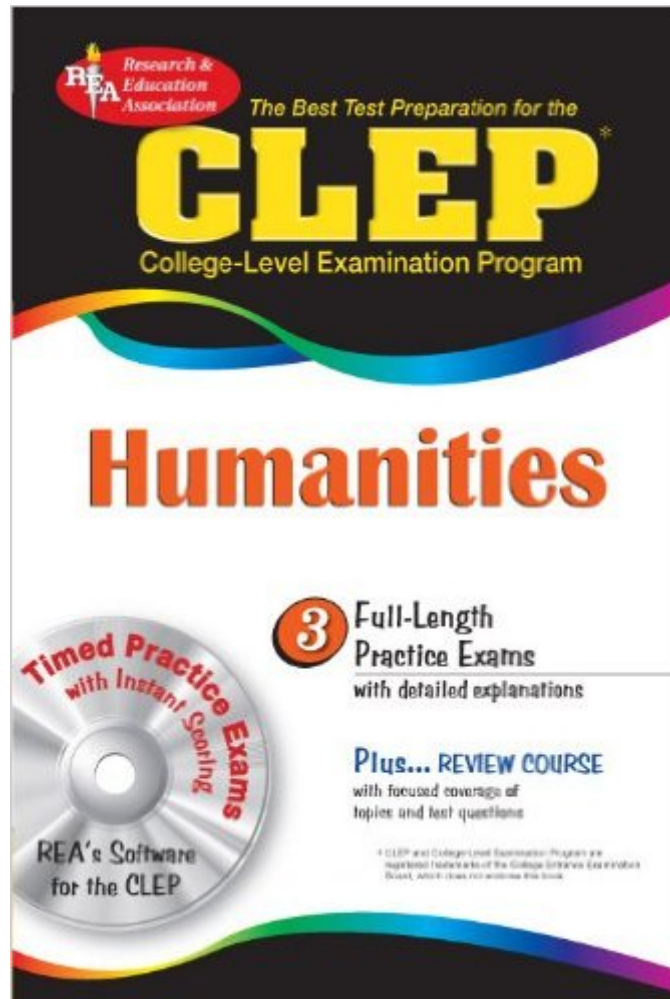


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Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

As a returning student 18 years out of the game, I wanted to get off to a big start in a subject area where I already felt pretty comfortable. I picked the CLEP Humanities because it would get me 6 hours of credit for knowledge I already possessed. After getting 61/70 correct on the College Board's "official" practice exam, I scheduled a testing date. Then I got cold feet, decided a little preparation couldn't hurt, and ordered this book. The good reviews here were encouraging, and the "Testware" software put REA above the rest for me. The good: The book contains concise yet comprehensive reviews of all the major subject areas covered on the test. (I thought I was pretty savvy, but I still learned a lot.) Each chapter ends with a drill on the subject matter -- including material that wasn't covered. If you learn all the material presented, you're sure to pass the test. There are three complete practice tests, all of which turned out to be much harder than the actual exam. I found the heightened difficulty level to be a plus: Better to not get too cocky and to be a little better prepared than necessary than to not be prepared enough. (If you're *that* close to the pass/fail line, maybe you need to just take the courses.) The back of the book contains nice glossaries of (1) important literary figures by period and (2) literary terms. There's also a conventional subject index. The not so good: Testware is a good idea executed badly. I used it to take the first practice test and it scored me with 55 correct answers out of 140. This was a little discouraging, as I thought I'd done better. As I reviewed the correct answers and explanations, I soon found 2 questions I was sure I had given the correct answers to that Testware said I answered incorrectly.

This review volume was quite useful. I looked at everything was offering (from the collections with about 50 pgs. specific to the CLEP to full Humanities volumes like this), the reviews LAPL had in circulation, and some used book stores' offerings. I settled on this book and another called *Mastering the CLEP* (both written recently and I assumed would give me the most update scenarios for questions and review examinations). Overall, I was impressed with REA's volume. However, a word of caution. The Humanities test is CHALLENGING. REA's book can seem like a maze of unfamiliar, and highly detailed, or even irrelevant ideas, people, places, dates, and movements if you are not well versed TO BEGIN WITH in the Humanities. The review book itself was simply a sweeping overview of the major sections of the possible test questions: Literature, Music, Art,

Philosophy & Anthropology type subjects. It covered things in more broad categories (Enlightenment, Industrial Revolutionary thought), but also was extremely specific with the people and places which were relevant to the test. Ultimately, I could not have passed the test without THIS review book, if that tells you anything. I needed a 50 for credit and received a 63, much due to the helpful review specifics I found in here. I read the entire book in a single day, reviewed the notes I took the morning of, went over the timeline of people and things in the index and took the test. This is NOT normal however. I studied Milton, Shakespeare, Philosophy, and music in undergraduate. My professors were excellent and personal and I read incessantly. It is hard on purpose (you are receiving a semester of credit for taking a 140 question test...) I would highly recommend the REA review book.

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