Practice Test 1

# Section 2: READING

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

***Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.***

1. The word we are looking for in this sentence describes Solzhenitsyn’s ability to predict the appearance of his books in Russia. The key word here is ‘predicted’—which of the possible choices would describe someone’s ability to predict an action?
   * 1. Foresight is the ability to see something before it occurs, which is the case with the prediction in this sentence. This looks like a good choice.
     2. Nostalgia looks backward rather than into the future. This option won’t work.
     3. Folly indicates Solzhenitsyn did something foolish, which is not the case here. Next.
     4. Predicting the appearance of his books in Russia would not likely cause despair or sadness. This option is not correct.
     5. Artistry could describe his writing, but artistry doesn’t have anything to do with predictive ability.

A is the correct answer.

1. The word we are looking for here is an adjective to describe the reflection of Lange’s photographs. The first part of the sentence already describes these photographs as “simple and direct,” so we are looking for a word that would indicate a “simple and direct” reflection.
   * 1. Something that is intricate is usually quite complicated, not simple. Let’s keep looking.
     2. A candid photograph would be simple and direct; think of a candid conversation, one in which someone is honest and direct. This answer looks promising.
     3. An ostentatious photograph is showy or flashy, not simple. Nope.
     4. There is nothing here that would indicate the photos are fictional; photos are usually nonfiction (think pre-Photoshop).
     5. Something that is convoluted is complicated (similar to answer choice A.) rather than simple. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. We are looking for a word that Kate’s friends would use to describe Kate, someone who is impulsive and prone to sudden whims.
   * 1. This is a good option. Capricious is a synonym for impulsive, so someone who is capricious would also be considered impulsive.
     2. Someone who is bombastic is loud and showy, not impulsive. This answer choice is not correct.
     3. A loquacious person is talkative, and we have no indication that this is true of Kate.
     4. Typically, impulsive people are driven to their whims by passion, so it does not make sense that Kate would be dispassionate.
     5. Decorous describes someone who shows decor, or good taste. There is nothing in this sentence that would indicate that this is true of Kate, so we can eliminate this option.

A is the correct answer.

1. Here, we are asked to fill in two missing words. In many cases, we can eliminate an option because one of the words will not fit no matter what the second word may be. Start by identifying these options first, so they can be eliminated.

Pay attention to the words “rather than,” which would indicate that we are looking for a word that is in contrast to visceral (instinctive) for the first missing word. If the first word could work, the second missing word would need to be an antonym for rational. Let’s keep these clues in mind while evaluating the answer choices.

* + 1. Emotions can be described as visceral, so we can eliminate this option as we are looking for a decision that is not visceral.
    2. Chance seems like an odd word to describe a judgment. Chance happens by luck, while a judgment would indicate a conscious decision. Let’s keep looking.
    3. A visceral judgment would also be intuitive—these words are synonyms, not antonyms. Next.
    4. A deliberate judgment means one that is well thought out and made on purpose rather than as a result of instinct. This option works so far. In restating this, the judgment was not so much rational as instinctive, which would give us the contrast we’re looking for. This option looks good.
    5. *Intentional* contrasts with *visceral*, so that’s good, but logical, our second missing word, is a synonym for rational. So, it would not fit with this sentence.

D is the correct answer.

1. The first part of this sentence describes the result of versatile and adaptable businesses being transformed by rigid policies. The word used is *destroyed*, so we would think the first word would not be a good thing. The second word would reflect the reason for the transformation.
   * 1. Streamlined would be a good thing in the business world; it would mean the business is efficient. We are looking for something that would destroy the business, so let’s keep looking.
     2. If business stratagems were mitigated, it would imply that they were tough before, and that they have been eased. This is not something that would destroy a company.
     3. Something that is ossified is resistant to change, which would not be good for a creative business, so the first word is an option. Bureaucratization is derived from bureaucracy, a synonym for serious structure, red tape and lengthy processes that make completing tasks difficult. So, we could say that creative business stratagems were ossified (or made more rigid) by bureaucratization (structuring). This option works well.
     4. Creative business stratagems would not become politicized as a result of innovation. Innovation would help creative business stratagems, so we can eliminate this answer based on the second word choice.
     5. A venerable stratagem would be one that’s admirable. This would not exist as the result of destruction. This answer is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. In this passage, the author is admiring the view at dusk from the top of a mountain, noting its beauty. He mentions that horses nearby pay no attention to the things he finds so wonderful. He then expresses that it feels good to be human, and thus capable of experiencing something that a horse cannot.
   * 1. There is no reference here to human mistakes. Let’s keep looking.
     2. The author does not mention any other beings nearby except for horses. He does not indicate if they enjoy the company of others, so we can eliminate this option.
     3. This passage is taking place in the present; there is no mention of past experiences. Next.
     4. In this passage, the author is enjoying the beauty of nature and notes that the horse does not notice this beauty. This option looks good.
     5. While there may be joy in the “wondrous spectacle,” there is no mention of the simplicity of the scene. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Most of this passage describes the wondrous scene the author is taking in. Each element from the clouds to the stars is described in detail.
   * 1. If the passage appealed to emotion, the author would use more emotive words such as sad or joyous. Emotions do not play a large part here, so let’s keep looking.
     2. Metaphors suggest a likeness between two generally unrelated objects. Note lines such as “like a feathery fishing lure” to describe the comet. The comet is not literally like a fishing lure; this device is used to visualize the comet. This answer looks promising.
     3. This passage is more descriptive than an analogy, or direct comparison between two things. This is not the best answer.
     4. The passage takes place in the present; it does not recall a past time or flashback. Next.
     5. Irony exists when you express something that is opposite to what you literally mean. We don’t have that here, so this is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. This passage introduces the reader to Augusta Ada King, who made important contributions to computer science and also led an otherwise fascinating life.
   * 1. This passage describes King’s contributions to computer science, but not what led her to be interested in the subject. Let’s keep looking.
     2. The author mentions King’s character, but it is not the primary subject of the passage. We can eliminate this option.
     3. This looks good. We can answer the question “Why is Augusta Ada King celebrated?” from most of the points made in this passage.
     4. The passage is about a particular person, not the modern-day computer. Nope.
     5. The passage does not encourage others to have interest in computer science; it is related to one person and her life, not the field of computer science. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This question requires that you understand the author’s points so you can determine which of the answer choices she would disagree with.
   * 1. The author mentions King’s lineage (her father was the flamboyant poet Lord Byron) and part of her history that turned her into an icon. So, it seems likely that the author would disagree that her family history played no part in the public’s fascination with her. This looks like our answer.
     2. This passage notes that King produced the first design for an automatic computer, which would be an original contribution. It seems the author would agree with this statement, so we can eliminate this answer.
     3. The author notes that King’s life has inspired plays, novels and films, so he or she would likely agree with this statement. Next.
     4. Given the influence King had on the field, and the fact that she had a computer language named after her, it seems the author would agree that she was well known after her work was complete. This is not the correct answer.
     5. The author notes that her life and lineage contributed to her fame, so it seems unlikely that the author would think the only thing remarkable about her was her work in computer science. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. This passage is taken from a memoir of a man of mixed African-American heritage. In it, he describes the importance of heritage for Americans of African ancestry.
   * 1. While this passage notes that Africans have looked to black people in the Americas, it also expresses that African-Americans have received much from their African relations, so it seems doubtful that the Black American impact on African societies is the primary purpose. Next.
     2. This passage concerns African heritage in Africa and the Americas, not American culture. Let’s keep looking.
     3. Neither community is described as having ambivalent feelings towards the other. They each have great interest in the other, so we can eliminate this option.
     4. The author notes on line 7, “a people cannot flourish without their life-giving foundations in the past.” This points to the significance of an ongoing relationship between Black Americans and their African roots. This describes the passage well.
     5. This passage primarily concerns heritage, not culture. In fact, particular nations are not mentioned, and Africa covers many different nations. So, this is not the best answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The message referred to here comes from the author’s ancestors and states that “a people cannot flourish without its life-giving foundations in the past.”
   * 1. There is no criticism here. The ancestors are not criticizing their descendants for not following this advice; they are imparting wisdom. Next.
     2. This could be considered cautionary advice. The ancestors are saying that if future generations lose their foundations, they will not flourish. This is a good choice.
     3. This statement is not proposing an idea, it is expressing a definitive message (cannot flourish).
     4. This message is not being recalled from the past. It is being passed down to future generations.
     5. The prediction here would be a grim one—a culture failing to flourish if the past is forgotten. This is not optimistic, so we can eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. This proverb is best explained on line 17: “This … conveys the seemingly instinctive pull of one’s heritage.”
   * 1. This is not meant to describe children’s behavior. It is a metaphor for the importance of one’s heritage. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Again, this passage is not a description of the qualities of children. Next.
     3. The “instinctive pull of one’s heritage” would be tied to an inherent interest in one’s history. It looks as if we’ve found a winner here.
     4. This does not address the complexity of family relations. Nope.
     5. There is no warning here. This proverb describes the importance of one’s heritage. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This line refers to the possible disappointment that can occur when each culture finally meets its counterparts in the other part of the world. The use of the word shadowy contrasts to “the light of real experience.” Which of our options would describe imaginings that may differ from real experience? Each option may be a synonym of shadowy, so we need to pay particular attention to the context.
   * 1. These imaginings are not gloomy; it seems that each person is excited to meet their relatives in other parts of the world. Next.
     2. The author describes these imaginings as quite natural, so there is no indication that they would be secret. Next.
     3. Sinister would imply that the imaginings were evil in intent. This is not correct.
     4. Much like Option B, we have no indication that these imaginings are concealed or secret.
     5. This could work. These imaginings are not based on any real experience; their visions have yet to be substantiated as they have not yet met their relatives.

E is the correct answer.

1. The question asks us to identify the shift in feeling in these lines. Take a look at this section to note the change in feelings. Initially, the author was worried that the ties he had imagined might not exist. Then, he notes that “time and again, we were reminded of what we shared,” so his original concern is diminished.
   * 1. The author is not fearful of what lies ahead, he just wonders whether his experience will match his expectations. We can eliminate this option.
     2. The author does not seem angry, and there is no action mentioned that would require forgiveness on anyone’s part. Let’s keep looking.
     3. At first, this looks good. He is uncertain about what lies ahead. But this uncertainty dissipates toward the end of the passage. He does not demonstrate despair. Next.
     4. Regret does not accurately describe the author’s feelings. He has not yet experienced what he has been imagining, so he cannot regret something that never happened.
     5. The author is uncertain about whether the ties he imagines will truly be there. This shows doubt. His feeling then shifts, noting that Africa has left a mark on all Black Africans through politics, music, etc. There is a sense of pride in this. This looks likes our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. How would you describe this passage? Is it based on facts and research? Is it an opinion piece? Let’s look at our options to see which one best describes the type of passage we have just read.
2. The author does not present hypothetical situations. He does not propose, “What if this happened?” He definitively states, “Black Americans have managed to sustain links,” not that they could sustain links if a hypothetical scenario occurred.
3. The author makes general statements about “Black Americans” or “Africans,” two broad groups of people. This answer looks good.
4. There are not many facts stated in this passage. There is no mention of particular people in history besides the author’s grandmother or specific dates in time. Nope.
5. A few personal anecdotes are noted (for example, the author’s grandmother’s), but they are not used to convey the main point of the passage. Next.
6. Remember that this passage is from a memoir, one’s personal experience; it is not based on scholarly research. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

This part of the reading comprehension section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

1. First, think about the main points in each passage. The first passage notes the enduring popularity of the *Mona Lisa.* It also describes the important painting techniques used in its composition, which makes it so significant. The second passage also notes its enduring popularity and addresses why it’s so renown.
2. Passage 2 pays far less attention to the subject of the painting and her physical attributes than Passage 1. Let’s keep looking.
3. Passage 2 does not identify the subject of the painting. Nope.
4. Both authors note the popular appeal of the painting. The first passage mentions the traffic jams its display has caused, while Passage 2 mentions that it is the best-known painting in the world. This looks like a good choice.
5. While Passage 1 notes the influence on other artists, Passage 2 focuses on the opinion of art historians. We can eliminate this answer.
6. Neither passage mentions the condition of the painting, much less that it is deteriorating. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This section describes the enormous amount of attention that has been showered on the *Mona Lisa*. Given the statement in Passage 2 that “a sequence of events and historical agencies (people, institutions, processes) working in a largely unplanned manner for different ends … turned the *Mona Lisa* into the best-known painting in the world,” we can conclude that the author of Passage 2 would attribute the attention described in Passage 1 as an example of these “events and historical agencies.”
2. This looks like a winner. The author of Passage 2 attributes the painting’s significance to forces outside of its artistic value, which could include the examples in Passage 1.
3. Passage 2 argues that the true importance of the painting stems from events and historical agencies such as those described in Passage 1. These contribute to the painting’s renown, not distort it. This option can be eliminated.
4. We don’t have any indication that art enthusiasts are annoyed by these events. This is not the correct answer.
5. Passage 2 does not include the critics’ responses to these types of events, so we cannot conclude that they would be deemed unworthy. Let’s keep looking.
6. Again, we don’t have an indication of any art historians’ views of the events detailed in Passage 1, so we can’t conclude that they found them inconvenient.

A is the correct answer.

1. In these lines, the author first notes that the subject of the painting was “nobody special” but her portrait “set the standard for High Renaissance painting in many important ways.”
2. The contrast is not between the subject and the portrait’s beauty, but the subject and its significance for art.
3. Does the author make note of the monetary value of the portrait? No. Next.
4. We don’t know anything from this passage about the demise of the portrait’s subject, so this is not correct.
5. The author makes no mention of the subject’s charisma, or what people of her time thought about her. The author only notes that she was “nobody special.” Next.
6. We do know that the subject of the portrait was ordinary, or “nobody special,” yet her portrait sets the standard for art of the period, making it quite significant. This works.

E is the correct answer.

1. This quote explains Leonardo’s technique in his own words. The author then restates the technique as colors ranging “in a continuous gradation of subtle tones, without crisp, separating edges.”
2. While this quote does describe Leonardo’s technique or methodology, it does not defend a methodology. In the entire passage, there is no challenge presented to the methodology; it has not been criticized, so this is not the best answer.
3. This quote does describe the artistic effect of Leonardo’s painting, and it is characterized as being “like smoke.” This option looks good.
4. We have already determined that no one in this passage is described as criticizing the technique, so we can eliminate this option.
5. We don’t get a sense that Leonardo is being humble and downplaying his own accomplishment; he is very descriptively explaining it.
6. This quote is from the artist himself, about his own technique. He could not have been acknowledging an influence. This answer is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. The author of Passage 2 makes note of the subject’s eyes and hands as recognizable aspects of the *Mona Lisa*. The author of Passage 1, however, mentions “that famous smile.” So, this author obviously feels that the smile is the most outstanding feature of the painting. While we could go through all the answer choices to see if each is mentioned in Passage 1, we can look directly at the final sentence of that passage and find our answer. Her smile is famous, which would make the author of Passage 1 believe her mouth was significant as well. This is option A.

A is the correct answer.

1. The author here describes how art historians and admirers have long argued that the value of the painting is something “inside the painting that speaks to us all, that unleashes feelings, emotion, and recognition.” This describes the position many art critics still hold.
2. Rank would be a hierarchy, which is not mentioned in this passage. Next.
3. This passage describes the opinion of many critics, not their role or duty.
4. A policy is usually written down and followed closely by an organization. This is more of an opinion than a policy, so let’s eliminate this option.
5. It is the view of the critics that the value of the painting lies within all of us. This looks good.
6. We’ve already stated that the position is an opinion or view, not a physical location. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Paul Barolsky is an art critic who pointed to Leonardo’s “technique, which creates a sense of texture and depth” to explain the enduring significance of the *Mona Lisa*. Which of our options would be true of this statement as well as the view in expressed Passage 1?
2. Both Paul Barolsky’s and Passage 1’s author allude to the painting “holding us in thrall,” thus it does not tend to elicit idiosyncratic responses. Let’s keep looking.
3. Both Passage 1 and Barolsky seem to feel that the reverence or awe many people feel towards the painting is justified, not unduly. We can eliminate this option.
4. Barolsky makes no mention of Leonardo’s influence on other artists. Next.
5. Passage 1 mentions that the *Mona Lisa* was the first oil painting designed to be framed and hung, but Barolsky’s passage does not. This is not correct.
6. Barolsky mentions the “texture and depth,” while Passage 1 mentions the “illusion of depth” (line 11). This would indicate a three dimensional image, so this looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this paragraph, the author of Passage 2 expresses the opinion that a painting’s popularity stems from historical circumstances, not an innate sense of something that “speaks to us.”
2. This word is used to describe a sense, not a revolutionary movement.
3. The word innate does not refer to any technique in art; it’s the sense that the art speaks to some part of our being. This is not the correct answer.
4. This term is not symbolic; it is describing a natural feeling. Let’s move on.
5. We don’t get the sense that the word innate describes an important finding. Nope.
6. As we can tell from the context, the author of this passage does not believe that this “innate” sense exists. Thus, he or she puts this word in quotation marks to note that the sense is “so-called” or, in the author’s opinion, imaginary. This is a good choice.

E is the correct answer.

1. As we stated before, Passage 1 focuses on the Mona Lisa’s popularity and important painting techniques. Passage 2 is more skeptical and indicates that the significance of the painting is due more to historical outside forces than brilliant artistry.
2. While the first passage does make special note of the subject’s smile, the second passage does not focus on of the subject of the portrait. We can eliminate this option.
3. While the first passage discusses the appearance of the portrait, the second passage does not go into detail on Leonardo’s background. That passage focuses on critics’ reactions to his painting. Let’s keep looking.
4. The first passage does focus on the innovative style; it was the first oil painting designed to be framed and hung, to use perspective, etc. The second passage, in addressing how the painting is considered today and has been considered in the recent past, describes what contributes to its cultural preeminence. This looks like our answer.
5. The first passage notes that the portrait’s subject was “no one special” and is more focused on Leonardo’s technique. The second passage argues the exact opposite of what’s stated in this answer choice; the author feels that the historical interpretations are quite relevant to the painting’s enduring significance. So, this choice is not correct.
6. This answer choice states the characteristics backwards. The first passage, not the second, is more concerned with the artistic merits, while the second alludes to its societal importance. This can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 1**

**Section 5: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. What words would describe someone who eagerly welcomes someone into his or her home? Open, welcoming, hospitable and friendly come to mind. Let’s see if any of our answer choices mean something similar.
2. Opening your home to someone is not cowardly, so we can eliminate this option.
3. Someone that demonstrates prudence would be one who shows great care and caution. If this were correct, Miranda would be more likely to avoid inviting others into her home than welcoming them. Let’s keep looking.
4. Hmm, one of the words we chose to describe Miranda, hospitable, is the adjective form of the noun hospitality. This option looks like a winner.
5. An aloof individual is someone who is distant or indifferent. This doesn’t sound like Miranda. Next.
6. Someone who readily invites others into her home may also be loyal, but that’s not necessarily implied from the description we have of Miranda. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s think about what action the court could take that would disappoint the plan’s supporters. Obviously, it would have to hurt the plan in some way.
2. Applauding a plan would likely make the plan’s supporters happy. This can’t be the right answer.
3. If the court derailed the plan, meaning put it off course, this would disappoint those who were in favor of it. This looks like a good option.
4. There is no information to lead us to believe that the court’s acknowledgement of the plan would disappoint the supporters. Let’s keep looking.
5. If the courts permitted a plan, the folks who supported it would be happy, not disappointed. Next.
6. We can’t tell what effect the court’s anticipation of the plan would have on its supporters, so this is not the best answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Here, we know that playing a musical instrument promotes learning in children because it increases brain activity. So, you could say that the act of playing an instrument is something that arouses activity. Let’s look for a word that would give us a similar meaning.
2. Would a condition be used to promote learning? This doesn’t quite sound right. Let’s keep looking.
3. Think about how *highlight* is typically used. It was the highlight of my evening. A highlight is an event that’s important, not something that would help promote learning. We can eliminate this option.
4. According to this sentence, playing a musical instrument can stimulate, or increase, brain activity, Thus, it would make sense that playing an instrument could be used as a stimulus (noun form of stimulate) for learning. We have a winner.
5. Most likely you know the verb dictate means to pronounce or issue an order. *Dictum* is the noun form of this word; it is the pronouncement of an order. Playing an instrument would not be used to order learning in children, it merely encourages it, so this is not correct.
6. A respite is a break. Could playing a musical instrument be used as a break to promote learning? No. This answer makes no sense.

C is the correct answer.

1. Here, we are asked to fill in two missing words. The sentence describes two different attitudes that are related but will have a subtle but important difference.
2. If a country is willing to negotiate, it would imply that it is open to make concessions. Negotiations can lead to concessions; negotiations, though, don’t necessarily mean giving everything up. This fits the bill as a sentence reflecting attitudes with a subtle, but important difference. This looks like a good answer.
3. A country willing to antagonize is quite different from one wanting to make friends. Not exactly a subtle difference in attitudes, so let’s eliminate this option.
4. A country willing to surrender would not likely show a readiness to make enemies; it would want to make friends instead. This is not correct.
5. A country willing to dominate has little to do with one ready to make inquiries. This answer makes no sense.
6. A country willing to equivocate, or one that is willing to mislead, would be quite different from one denouncing or condemning others. Being misleading would mean be confusing; denouncing is straightforward. The differences are not subtle, so we can eliminate this option, too.

A is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence we have clues as to the meaning of the missing words: “each move taken from another artist” and “poorly executed.” So, the missing words would describe each of these attributes.
2. *Rousing* and *memorable* are not attributes of a performance that is taken from another artist and poorly executed. This is not correct.
3. *Pedestrian*, or unimaginative, could describe the performance because the moves were borrowed from another artist, but *evolving* would not describe a poorly executed performance. Let’s keep looking.
4. *Chaotic* could describe a poor dance performance, but not one taken from another artist. Furthermore, a dance performance could not be unprecedented, or new, if each move was taken from another artist. Next.
5. Derivative means taken from another source, so this word fits well for our first missing word. An inept performance is not a good one, so this word could stand in for “poorly executed.” This looks like a good option.
6. Do we have any clues that this performance was spontaneous, or impulsive? This word does not fit in the context of this sentence, so we can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. What do we know up front? An inexpensive method of producing carbon filaments has done something for the nascent electric industry that has had a commercial effect on electric lamps. So, we know the method is inexpensive and the final effect was commercial. We also know that the industry is nascent, or newly formed. Perhaps our answer has something to do with positive growth.
2. If the method of producing filaments cheapened the industry, it would likely have a negative effect on electric lamps and not make them affordable. Let’s find a better answer.
3. A very new, or nascent, industry would likely be transformed by a new method making lamps more viable, or capable of growing. This looks right.
4. An inexpensive method could revolutionize a new industry, but not by making lamps commercially prohibitive, or preventing their use. We can eliminate this option.
5. Was the industry provoked by a new method of producing filaments? Provoked to do what? This is not the correct answer.
6. An inexpensive method could stimulate a new industry, but not by making the products inaccessible, or difficult to obtain. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. We know that Phillip acted haughty, or arrogant, after winning an award. Which of these words would describe this behavior?
2. Cryptic behavior is mysterious and secretive, not arrogant. Let’s keep looking.
3. Phillip did not show sound judgment by acting in this manner. We can eliminate this option.
4. Phillip may be jubilant about winning the award, but this does not describe his haughty behavior. This is not correct.
5. Supercilious means patronizing and is a synonym for haughty, so this word would describe his behavior well. This looks like a good option.
6. Phillip is not being pugnacious, or combative, just arrogant. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. We have a great clue here. We are looking for a word that is a synonym for disloyalty. Let’s take a look at our options.
2. If the general were belligerent, he would likely be described as mean, not disloyal. Next.
3. Indigent, or impoverished, is not a synonym for disloyalty. We can eliminate this option.
4. Perfidy and disloyalty are synonyms, so this looks like our answer.
5. Aspersion is the act of defaming, which could imply an element of disloyalty, but we don’t know the details surrounding what the general did, so this is not the best answer.
6. A tenacious general would keep working until reaching his or her goal, so this word is out of place in this sentence. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. In Passage 1, we are told that teachers assign this book to demonstrate the protest against of “the intrusion into pastoral harmony.” Passage 2 reflects an opposite viewpoint that, “At Walden Pond, industrialization … no longer seemed threatening.” Which of our options would show this difference in viewpoint?
2. This looks good. We know that Passage 2 presents industrialization as no longer being threatening, while the teachers referenced in Passage 1 feel that industrialization is an “intrusion.”
3. Passage 2 does not make mention of Thoreau’s solitary living, so we do not know if the author would agree or disagree with the author of Passage 1 on this point. Let’s keep looking.
4. Both passages recognize Walden as an important work of literature; neither argues against this. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. Both passages r*ecognize* the spread of industrialization; what differ are the authors’ *opinions* on the matter, not their recognition of it. This is not the correct answer.
6. Passage 1 does not mention the power of the machine, so we don’t know what the author of this passage would say about it as a theme central to the book. This is not the answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The author of Passage 2 thinks that power of the machine can be a good thing. Most likely the author of Passage 1 will disagree. Let’s look at our choices.
2. Passage 1 is more skeptical about machines and urbanization. The author feels that the power of the machine ruined nature. Thus, the power was not kept in check by it. Let’s move on.
3. In Passage 2 we get the sense that this power no longer threatens nature. In Passage 1 we feel that this power intrudes on nature (lines 8-9). So, this answer looks good.
4. Passage 1 only mentions that industrialization is an intrusive power. It does not address the feelings of those who do not seek nature. As such, we cannot say that Thoreau would agree that this power is exaggerated by others. We can eliminate this option.
5. Again, this is an argument Passage 2 may make, and one the author of Passage 1 would disagree with. Next.
6. In Passage 1 we understand that those who are close to nature protest the intrusive powers of the machine, so we would think this power would be *more* threatening to those close to nature, not less threatening. This answer is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. Passage 1 characterizes Thoreau as protesting (line 8) mechanization, while Passage 2 indicates that he’s enthusiastic about it. We are looking for a statement that reflects Passage 1’s opinion about the enthusiastic viewpoint.
2. Thoreau’s enthusiasm is toward the railroad and industrialization. He would not regret something he was enthusiastic about. This answer is not correct.
3. Passage 1 states that nineteenth century Americans protested industrialization, so they would not be enthusiastic about it. Let’s keep looking.
4. Enthusiasm over mechanization is not a characterization emphasized by teachers; they use Thoreau’s work to illustrate the protests against industrialization. This one is not right either.
5. Thoreau’s enthusiasm for industrialization would not have come from his experiment in solitary living. Let’s eliminate this option.
6. In Passage 1, Thoreau expresses his regret over industrialization, so we can conclude that the author of this passage would say that the enthusiasm for industrialization expressed in Passage 2 was atypical of someone who expressed regret over it. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Most of the previous questions focused on the contrasts between the two passages. Here, we’re asked to select a statement that represents Passage 1’s agreement with a Passage 2 interpretation. Remember that Passage 2 has a much more positive spin on Thoreau’s reaction to industrialization.
   * 1. Passage 1 is more concerned with the destructive nature of the machine than Passage 2 is. So, we can’t conclude that the first author would think this was exaggerated in Passage 2. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Again, the worship of nature is mentioned in Passage 1 while not so much in Passage 2. Since this statement does not reflect an interpretation of Passage 2, the author of Passage 1 would not agree with it. Next.
     3. In Passage 1, remember how teachers use of the book as an example of protests against industrialization? As we mentioned, Passage 2 has a more positive outlook on industrialization, so this outlook does not represent how the book is taught. This looks like a good option.
     4. Passage 2 certainly mentions Thoreau’s enthusiasm for the railroad, so the author of Passage 1 would not agree that it’s overlooked. This is not correct.
     5. Neither passage addresses a difference in the understanding of Walden between Thoreau’s time and today, so the author of Passage 1 could not be in a position to agree with this. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, the “vision” is likened to a notion. So, this gives us a clue that our answer has little to do with the traditional (sight) definition of vision. Let’s look for an option that is similar in meaning to notion.
2. There is no fantasy here. The vision described is one that is actually held by people; it is not imaginary. Next.
3. While the author may not agree with this vision, he or she concedes that it is actually held by others, so it would not be an illusion. We can eliminate this answer.
4. A prophecy is a prediction of something to come. This vision currently exists, so let’s keep looking.
5. Another word for notion would be *concept*. It is a concept that cities are unnatural, so this option is a good one.
6. An apparition is an unexpected sight, and we’ve already established that our vision has nothing to do with something that can be physically seen. This can’t be the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. In this paragraph, the author is describing an argument made by those he or she disagrees with. The author does not agree with what they would characterize as a “happier time.” So, let’s look for an answer that would explain this disagreement.
2. The author does not see this as a happy state, so a satisfactory solution would not describe the author’s opinion. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. No luck is mentioned or implied here, so this option makes little sense.
4. The author would not find the “happier state” to be a complicated arrangement; it is referred to in conjunction with “abandoning technology” and “fewer human beings.” Let’s keep looking.
5. We know the author feels that a happier, natural state is a false one. So the author would describe this state as a false supposition, or an assumption that’s not true. This looks like a winner.
6. Those the author disagrees with are not remembering these natural times, so it does not make sense that this “happier time” represents an actual memory. This answer is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Per the author, “those who think this way” are those who seek a more natural, pre-industrial state. They feel that the Industrial Revolution represents “wrong turning.” Let’s find another description that would reflect a similar feeling.
2. An important human achievement would not be described as a “wrong turning.” Next.
3. Technology’s double-edged potential would have both good and bad elements. Since “those who think this way” feel that industrialization destroys the balance of nature, they would only see the bad that would come with it. This is not the best answer.
4. “Those who think this way” characterize the Industrial Revolution as an era when cities helped destroy the balance of nature, not a time when cities became successfully self-sufficient. Nope.
5. Little attention is made to the social distinctions that came about as a result of industrialization, so we can’t conclude that this statement would reflect the opinion of “those who think this way.” Let’s keep looking.
6. “Those who think this way” would feel that the Industrial Revolution represented a wrong turn, or harmful trend in human history. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Pay attention to the beginning of the paragraph. The author is bothered by the “thinkers” point of view. “Nature” is in quotation marks, indicating that their definition of the term is questionable.
2. It would be hard to be bothered by a carefully reasoned argument. Nope.
3. While the author certainly has thoughts on the viewpoints of these “thinkers,” he or she finds them bothersome rather than ones that would stimulate interest (thought provoking). This is not correct.
4. The author understands the viewpoint of the thinkers but does not agree with it. So, we can’t conclude that their thoughts are unintelligible, or impossible to comprehend. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. The “thinkers’” conclusion is clear. We need to return to a more “natural” state. This option is not correct.
6. The author feels that the views of the thinkers are erroneous, or wrong. This is a good option.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this section, the author is responding to the argument that cities are not natural. He or she indicates that the structures built by animals are as similar to the cities built by humans, showing how natural this process is.
2. This passage is a defense of cities, not an explanation of ecosystems. This is not the right answer.
3. In responding to the argument that cities are unnatural, the author notes that many beings, including humans, create structures in order to live. This looks like a good option.
4. The author notes that beaver dams and anthills are natural, so he certainly does not think these are detrimental to nature. And, going back to the main point of the passage, we know that the author feels that cities are not detrimental to nature. So, we can eliminate this option.
5. Again, the point of this section is not to describe ecosystems, but rather to defend a city’s place in nature. Let’s keep looking.
6. Beaver dams and anthills aren’t described here as being obstacles faced by cities, so this answer is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. Here, the author is describing a downtown area as a unique ecosystem that includes such natural things as sunlight and food sources for wildlife. The author takes a decidedly sunny approach to this ecosystem.
2. The author paints a positive picture of this ecosystem with sun and abundant food. There is no regret to be found here. Next.
3. If the author were frustrated by this picture, the description would reflect more troubling aspects than sun and food. Let’s keep looking.
4. Ambivalence would indicate that the author didn’t have strong feelings one way or the other about the situation. We can tell, however, that he or she feels this downtown ecosystem provides a healthy and natural atmosphere. This is not the best answer.
5. Unconcerned would indicate no strong interest. We’ve already established that the author has great interest in portraying cities as downtown ecosystems. We can eliminate this option.
6. The author seems to appreciate this ecosystem. He enthusiastically describes various energy sources such as sunshine and food. This is a good option.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this section of the passage, the author describes the three ways in which the city can be seen as a natural system. Which of these answers best sums up this description?
2. The fundamental claim here is that cities are natural. Each of the three “levels” supports that claim. It looks like we’ve found a winner.
3. Despite the fact that some levels are deeper than others, there is no indication that one is more important than the next, so we can eliminate this option.
4. The levels do not build upon one another. Each individually supports the claim that cities are natural. We don’t have an initial assertion that leads to an ultimate conclusion. Next.
5. Each level supports the same claim; there are no opposing principles presented. This is not the correct answer.
6. The scientific community is only mentioned for its creation of a new subfield of science. There are no alternative theories proposed by the scientific community. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. *Peculiar* is used to describe the flora and fauna that can be found in a city. Notice the use of “its own” here. This indicates that it unique to the area, so this may help us determine how the word peculiar is used in this sentence.
2. There’s no indication here that the flora and fauna found in cities are odd or eccentric. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. The flora and fauna may be particular to an area, but that doesn’t mean that they are abnormal. They are just specific to that area. Next.
4. We also have no clues that the flora and fauna found in cities are rare, so let’s keep looking.
5. The city has its own, distinctive flora and fauna. We wanted word that would convey “special to the area,” and we’ve found it. This looks like a winner.
6. No attention is given to the significance of the flora and fauna. We only know that these are unique to a city ecosystem. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The new subfield of science called urban ecology recognizes cities as part of an ecosystem, worthy of being studied. We can assume that the author has a positive view on this new area of study; it would support his or her argument about cities.
2. Approval would be a good choice. The author agrees that urban settings have a unique ecology, so he or she feels that this new area of science makes sense.
3. We don’t have any clues that would show a curiosity about the new subfield of science. This is not the best answer.
4. The author uses this as an example to support his or her argument, so he or she is not uncertain about this subfield. Next.
5. There is nothing here that would indicate that the author is surprised about the creation of this subfield. Since the author feels that cities are ecosystems, he or she would find the existence of this subfield quite natural. This is not correct.
6. Dismay would indicate that the author has a negative view of this subfield, so this is not correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. This section addresses the characteristics of a natural ecosystem (forest) and an urban ecosystem. Notice that we are talking about both ecosystems and likening aspects of them.
2. This particular section is not defending the forest ecosystem. It discusses cities and forests as two examples of ecosystems. This is not the best answer.
3. The purpose of the discussion of the forest ecosystem is to relate it to a city’s ecosystem; the author does not discuss it to make concessions, or concede, to any viewpoints that may differ from his or her own. Let’s keep looking.
4. The author compares the city ecosystem to the more traditional ecosystem of a forest. Looks like a winner.
5. This paragraph is used to further the author’s primary argument, not to make an exception to it. Next.
6. The author clearly contends that both forests and cities are ecosystems in their own rights. He or she is not alluding to, or hinting about, anything. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This section discusses the fact that cities are governed by the rules of nature, just like any other ecosystem. Which of our possible answers best sums up this statement?
2. Cities are not described here as changing, only that they are operated by the laws of nature. This is not the best answer.
3. We have nothing to indicate that the author feels that cities are larger than they need to be. Let’s keep looking.
4. We are not discussing what cities need to survive, but rather the natural rules that govern cities. Next.
5. This passage discusses natural forces and their limits on cities, not human efforts. This is not the correct answer.
6. The author notes that natural principles affect cities, which are creations of human endeavor. For example, just as there are natural limits to the height of trees, there are similar forces that limit the height of city buildings. This looks like a good option.

E is the correct answer.

1. The author makes a very direct point with his statement, “Let me state this explicitly: a city is a natural system.” Let’s take a look at our options to find the one that best describes this statement.
2. The author has not presented a dilemma, just a very strong opinion. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. This one sentence does not summarize the points the author has made in this passage. This would require quite a few more words than we have here. It is restating the hypothesis rather than summing up the evidence. This is not the best answer.
4. To illicit an emotional impact, the author would need to appeal to human emotions such as happy, sad, angry or hopeful. Can you find any emotion in this paragraph? Nope.
5. The author does mention that urban ecology can be studied in much the same way as other natural systems, but does not specifically suggest a focus for further research. This is not the correct answer.
6. The author explicitly restates the point that he or she wants to be understood: a city is a natural system. This paragraph emphasizes the author’s position, so this looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 1**

**Section 6: WRITING**

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. This sentence has a problem connecting thoughts in the underlined section. When you hear it aloud, there is an awkward pause between *year* and *they.* Let’s see if any of the other answer choices will improve this.  
   * 1. While the ‘and’ in this option does improve the flow of the thoughts, it still presents a question. Does the falling asleep at the wheel have anything to do with the accidents? This answer choice does not explain this, so we need to find a better option.
     2. This option does a good job of showing a causal relationship. The accidents are caused by drivers who fall asleep at the wheel. This looks like a winner.
     3. This does not show the causal relationship that we noticed in Option C. You’d have to replace “and falling” with “by falling” to achieve that. This is not correct.
     4. There is no connection here. Drivers caused accidents last year, they were falling asleep at the wheel. This does not sound right.

C is the correct answer.

1. We have an extraneous word here. “the icy surface is being difficult to penetrate.” We would use “is being” only to describe a current state or condition as opposed to a general characteristic. For example, “The child is being whiny” has a different meaning than “The child is whiny.” In the first case, the child is currently acting whiny, while in the second, the child is generally a whiny kid. In this statement, the surface is *generally* difficult to penetrate, which makes it hard to study to the ocean below.
   * 1. This sentence sounds pretty awkward. The rearranging of the words does not help the sentence, and we still have that pesky “is being” in there, so we can eliminate this option.
     2. This option eliminates the word ‘being,’ which we first said was a problem. The verb “is” also matches in tense with the verb “are” in the first part of the sentence. We now clearly understand that the icy surface is generally more difficult to penetrate. So, this is a good choice.
     3. “The depths are hard to studying?” The form of the verb ‘to study’ is not correct here. Next.
     4. This option also uses the incorrect form of the verb ‘to study,’ and uses ‘resulting from,” when ‘because” worked nicely. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s substitute ‘they’ for the subject (several of the forest fires that occurred last summer). “They which were because people are careless.” That doesn’t sound right. We would say, “They occurred because people were careless.” Let’s look at the other answers to determine which will correct this sentence.
   * 1. “They were caused by human carelessness.” That sounds about right. Let’s keep this as an option.
     2. “They because people are careless.” We have no verb here. Let’s keep looking.
     3. “They are because of human carelessness.” These fires occurred last summer, in the past. “Are” is in the present tense. This is not the best answer.
     4. When we want to describe a cause and effect, we’d use “because of,” “due to,” or “caused by,” NOT “ happened from.” Let’s eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. Let’s use pronouns in place of the subjects to make the structure clearer. “She has disproved it when she showed that…” This sentence starts with the verb ‘has disproved.’ This would indicate that the action (disproving the theory) began in the past but is continuing in the present. The action, however, occurred when she showed that identical nuclear particles do not always act alike. It was a fixed, past point in time. So this sentence is not correct as is. Let’s see which other answer choice will give us the correct past tense of the verb.
   * 1. Read the sentence carefully with this choice, and you will see that not only does it not fix our “past tense” problem, it does not give us a complete sentence. Next.
     2. “She disproved it when she showed that…” Ahh, the simple past tense is used throughout. This works well. With this structure, it is clear that the approval of the theory occurred when Dr. Wu showed that the particles do not always act alike. This is what we’re looking for.
     3. This is present tense, not the past tense which we’ve already said we need. This is not correct.
     4. “She disproving it …” Here, we would need it to say “She *is* disproving it …” but only if the action was current, which is not the case here. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. These two thoughts do not seem to be connected properly. We think of Canada as the northern neighbor of the U.S. More than half of the states extend farther north than Canada’s southernmost point. We need to find an option that shows the relationship between these two thoughts.
   * 1. This also does not show a relationship between the two thoughts. It only adds the words “it is the case that,” which do not clarify the sentence. Next.
     2. The problem here is the word “extending.” If you use that, you lose the verb in the second part of the sentence; you have an incomplete sentence. So, let’s eliminate this option.
     3. ‘Whereas’ makes note of the relationship between the two thoughts, but the two thoughts are not total opposites, which would be implied by this word. This is not the best answer.
     4. We have already established that these are two separate thoughts. And a semicolon joins two clauses that could stand alone as separate sentences. The word ‘however’ connects the two thoughts well in that we have an element of surprise. We think one thing (Canada is our northern neighbor); however, this is not entirely true (surprise - many of our states extend farther north than Canada’s southernmost point). And the verb “extend” is perfect for the second sentence. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. This one looks good as is. Simplified, it says “They (the volumes of memoirs) begin with his childhood and culminate in his years at the university.” This is a current description of the volumes, so the present tense use of ‘begin’ and ‘culminate’ is appropriate, even though the events that are contained in them occurred in the past. Let’s take a look at the other answer choices just to be sure we’ve picked the best.
   * 1. Read the full sentence carefully. “The … volumes … that begin with his childhood.” is not a complete sentence, so we can eliminate this option.
     2. The verbs don’t match in tense. Next.
     3. If we used pronouns, this would say “They beginning with his childhood.” This does not sound right, so we can eliminate this option.
     4. Here, again, the two actions do not match in tense. “They are begun” and “they culminate.” Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. This sentence repeats the subject (the uniform) with the pronoun ‘it’ unnecessarily. We would not say “The uniform, it reflected”; we already know the uniform is what is reflecting her manner. Let’s looks for a better answer.
   * 1. It seems as if the efficient manner were dressed in a crisp, clean uniform. This can’t be right.
     2. Even though it is clear that the uniform is what reflected the efficient manner, this sentence is still clumsy. What’s the subject? The thought’s not complete, so let’s keep looking.
     3. This one is promising. “It reflected her efficient manner as she distributed maps.” Simplified, this sounds good, and it’s clear which subject the actions are referring to.
     4. Here’s an answer choice that leaves us with no verb. We would need to say “The … uniform *was* a reflection of her efficient manner.” This cannot be the answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. This looks good as is. The words “scientists believe” is an independent clause. It gives us a little more information about how we know that a cure for some types of cancer may be found in the next decade. If the clause is taken out, the meaning of the sentence is still clear.(“A cure for some types of cancer may be found in the next decade.”) Let’s take a quick look through the other answer choices just to be sure.
   * 1. This makes it seem as if the scientists are a cure for some types of cancer. This can’t be right.
     2. “Being maybe?” This option is very clumsy and leaves us without a complete thought. Next.
     3. This would only be correct without the introductory clause.This is not the right answer.
     4. This sentence is all introduction; there is no conclusion. What about this thing that scientists believe could be found within the next decade? Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. The symphony is confusing, as is this sentence. We often use ‘and’ to join two similar things. For example, “I like cake and pie.” Here, the sentence says “The symphony is confusing because of its unusual structure, *and* its melodious final movement makes it elegant. These two thoughts, “its unusual structure” and “the final movement makes it elegant” are not similar. Let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. The problem here is “by having,” which describes why symphony is elegant. We need words that express why the symphony is confusing. Let’s keep looking.
     2. We are still using ‘and’ to join two unrelated thoughts here. Next.

D. Here, it seems as if the review had a melodious final movement, not the symphony, so we can eliminate this option.

E. The word ‘but’ does a much better job connecting two thoughts that contrast with each other. Simplifying this sentence would give us, “It was confusing, but elegant.” This looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. This sentence explains a cause and effect. What is the effect? Consumptions of fossil fuels are reduced and carbon dioxide emissions are kept out of the air. What is the cause of this? Building new windmill farms. The problem here is that when you start the sentence with “by building new windmill farms,” you’d have to make it clear who is building them. Who would that be? Consumption of fossil fuels? This is not clear, so let’s look for a better answer to explain this thought.
2. This has roughly the same structure as the original sentence. The only change is adding the pronoun ‘it’ unnecessarily. Next.
3. Simplifying this sentence comes out to “It (building windmill farms) reduces it (fossil fuel consumption) and keeps it (carbon dioxide emissions) out of the atmosphere. This looks good.
4. Starting the sentence with “when” makes it sound as if the effects occur only when the new farms are built. We know that the effects are more lasting than what is implied by this sentence. Furthermore, we already said the subject of this sentence should be *the building* of the farms. Here, the farms themselves are the subject. What do the farms do? “They reduce.” That verb is correct. But “it keeps” is incorrect. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. In this sentence, we have a mixture of the active voice (“farms reduce consumption”) and the passive voice (“emissions are kept”). This is not the right answer choice.

C is the correct answer.

1. This question is similar to question 9 in that two thoughts are joined by ‘and.’ What do the assumptions that the battle occurred in Scotland have to do with the fact that it occurred in Northern England? With this structure, we don’t quite know, so we need to find a better option.
   * 1. “…many people assuming the Scottish Highlands”. What about the people assuming? This is an incomplete thought, so we can eliminate this option.
     2. This is getting warmer, but the phrase “assume it to be” is incorrect. The *battle* is not the Scottish Highlands; it *took place* in the Scottish Highlands. Let’s keep looking.
     3. In this sentence, the people assume the Scottish Highlands. Aren’t they assuming *that the location is* the Scottish Highlands, not assuming the Highlands themselves? This is not correct.
     4. If we take out the clause ‘as many people assume,’ we still have a very clear sentence. “It took place in Northern England, not the Scottish Highlands.” The clause is inserted to provide additional information. This sentence makes its point very clearly, so this looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

This section tests your ability to identify grammar mistakes. In each sentence, 4 word(s) are underlined. You are to determine if any of the underlined words reflect incorrect grammar or usage errors. You also have an option to indicate that there are no errors in the sentence.

First, read the whole sentence. Does anything stick out to you? The more you read, the more you may pick up when something in the sentence just doesn’t sound right. Since it helps to know why an answer is right or wrong, we’ll explain all the answers.

1. The sentence should read: “Interested in studying insects and their effects on agriculture, Larissa and Tariq plan to become ***entomologists***, and then return to help the farmers in their small town.”

Both Larissa and Tariq are in on this plan, so we need the plural of ‘entomologist.’ We are talking about two entomologists, not just one.

C is the correct answer

1. The sentence should read: “From about A.D. 700 to 1600, sculptors created nearly 1,000 colossal rock statues on the remote and tiny Easter Island.”

Yes, this is the same as it appears in your book. There are no errors (which would make your answer Option E). The sentence gives us the time frame when the action occurred (past). Option A tells us the action generally occurred *from* 700 to 1600 A.D. This means the past tense of the verb ‘create’ is correct (Option B). Option C gives us a good idea about the number of statues created, while Option D uses an acceptable adjective to describe Easter Island.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Because our casserole was smelling ***surprisingly bad*** as it baked, the food science teacher came over to ask us what we had put in it.”

To help us understand the error in the sentence, let’s remove the adverb ‘surprisingly’ for a moment. “Our casserole was smelling badly.” What has the bad smell? The casserole. We know that’s a noun. What do we call words that modify nouns? Adjectives. Bad is an adjective (as opposed to badly, which is an adverb).

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Jerome often referred to art history textbooks while he was sculpting; whenever he learned a new method in art class, he ***sought out*** the work of sculptors who had used it in the past.”

Think about when the action is occurring. He *‘referred’* to textbooks ‘while he *was* studying.’ He ‘*learned*’ new methods. What do all of these verbs have in common? They are in the past tense, so it would make sense that ”seeks”should also be in the past tense.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “As he eagerly awaited the interview for the job, Miguel thought it wise ***to suppress*** his nervousness and to display a calm he did not feel.”

Miguel is doing two things in this sentence. He is suppressing his nervousness and displaying calm. In this example, the two verbs describing this action are ‘suppressing’ and ‘to display.’ Hmm, those don’t have the same form. Since we want the verb forms to match, we need to use ‘to suppress’ and ‘to display.’

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “According to educational statistics, the average age of college students has risen ***quite noticeably*** over the past 25 years.”

Let’s look at the word *noticeable*. What is it describing? The *rise* of the average age; we are looking for an adverb, as our modifier describes a verb. *Noticeable* is an adjective. Examples: The spot on his shirt is noticeable (adjective). He looked noticeably concerned at the spot (adverb).

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Neither the koala bear ***nor*** the red panda belongs to the bear family; the koala is a marsupial, and the red panda is thought to be related to the raccoon.”

We have a major clue in the use of the word *neither*. This shows a negative relationship in the sentence. When comparing, we use either/or when one or the other applies in our message. But, when both do not apply, we must use neither and pair it with nor.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Before boarding, passengers must purchase ***their*** tickets in the main concourse of the bus terminal because tickets are not sold on the bus.”

The subject of our sentence, *passengers*, is plural; the tickets are for the passengers. If we said “each passenger,” then “his or her ticket” would be correct, as *passenger* is singular.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “According to some demographers, the number of United States citizens aged 65 or older is likely to rise to 87 million by 2050.”

Yep, this one is correct as written. Option A clarifies the source of our statistic (*according to* demographers). The finding applies to those 65 *or* older (Option B), as you can’t be two ages at once (65 *and* older). ‘*Is’* (Option C) refers to the number, which is a singular object, so the verb tense is correct. The phrase ‘likely to rise’ properly describes an action that may occur in the future, so the use of ‘*to rise’* (Option D) is correct.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “When they were asked to compare Norman Rockwell’s paintings to ***the paintings of Robert Rauschenberg,*** the students entered into a prolonged discussion about the representation of reality in art.”

We need to clarify what is being compared here. It would not make sense to compare *the paintings* of one painter *to another painter*. Wouldn’t we want to compare *their paintings*? You bet!

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Contrary to what many people believe, heat lightning is not lightning caused by heat; it is ordinary lightning that occurs at too great a distance for its accompanying thunder to be audible.”

We have another sentence that is already correct! The word *contrary* (Option A) gives us a clue that the general belief is wrong, and that heat lightning i*s not* lightning caused by heat (Option B). Heat lightning occurs at a distance that is too great (same as “at too great a distance” – Option C) for thunder *to be audible* (Option D).

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “The grooved and barbed spears of the box jellyfish, each trailed by a poison thread, ***are released*** when the animal is threatened.”

What is it that it being released? Spears, which is a plural noun. We would not say, “Spears is released.” We need the plural form of the verb, which is “are released.”

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “The derelict old house across from the warehouses and the even more decrepit one just beside them have been placed on the list of historic landmarks.”

This sentence is correct as written. One house is *across from* (Option A) the warehouses, while the other is *just beside* (Option C) the warehouses. This details where the houses are located. One house is described as ‘derelict,’ or decrepit, while the other is *even more decrepit* (Option B). The houses (they) *have been placed* (Option D) on the list; this is an action that has already occurred, so the verb is correct.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “As their brains mature neurologically, infants become more capable ***of distinguishing*** the shapes and textures of the objects around them.”

This is something you just have to know. Standard English uses many expressions that require certain prepositions. With “capable,” you simply must use “of.”

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Home of the world’s largest chocolate-manufacturing plant, Hershey, Pennsylvania was originally known as Derry Church, but its name was changed in 1906 to honor one of ***its*** most famous residents.”

What is this sentence describing? Characteristics of a town in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Even though the town may be made up of many people, *it is still a singular subject*. For example, we would say, “Hershey is a famous town,” not “Hershey are a famous town.” Similarly, we need to say “one of *its* famous residents,” not ‘one of *their* famous residents.”

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “The valuable stringed instruments in this display, all more than 300 years old, were carefully crafted by artisans famous in their day but long since forgotten.”

This sentence is correct as is. The display contains the instruments, so it is correct to say the instruments are *in* the display (Option A). Each instrument is more than 300 years old, meaning they are *all more than* 300 years old (Option B). The instruments were crafted by artisans who were famous in their day (‘who were’ is implied)(Option C). And the artisans were (again, ‘were’ is implied) *long since forgotten* (Option D).

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “The regularly scheduled conference between my tutor and me is set for Friday, but my low grades in chemistry ***require*** me to arrange an earlier meeting.”

What is the subject that is causing the requirement to arrange an earlier meeting? Low grades. *Grades* is a plural noun. Let’s substitute the pronoun *they* for *low grades*. Which is correct, “They require” or “They requires”? We want the plural form of the verb, which is *require*.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “There is probably no story more dramatic ***than that of baseball’s*** great hitter and right fielder, Hank Aaron.”

The story is not baseball’s, it’s Hank Aaron’s. We need to clarify that it is the story of baseball’s great hitter, not the story of baseball.

D is the correct answer.

This next section tests your writing skills in a different way than the previous section. Whereas the last section asked you to find errors in grammar & usage, this section asks you to improve sentence structure or word choice, or how the passage is organized or developed. So, as you read the passage, think about whether it makes sense or it could be written better.

Keep in mind that while the SAT *reading* sections may require you to fully understand the point of a passage, this section tests *writing*. You are not going to be inferring answers from the passage, just looking for ways a sentence or section could be improved. So, take a look at the questions first to get a sense of what you’ll be asked. Then, quickly read the passage. Don’t too spend too much time reading as you’ll likely have to re-read portions more closely in order to determine the best answer.

1. The first sentence of this passage looks to be the thesis statement. It states that “a castle is not the same thing as a palace.” The next sentences proceed to describe several aspects of castles. Let’s see which of our options will best improve the first paragraph.
2. While the passage mentions that castles have their origin in medieval times, it does include additional references to history. Knowing more about general history would not help prove the thesis statement. Let’s keep looking.
3. Knowing the origin of the word is not likely to improve our understanding of why castles and palaces are different. Next.
4. Our thesis statement mentions both castles and palaces, yet only in sentence (6) is there mention of what palaces are like. If we knew more about what a palace was like, it would certainly help us understand why they are different from castles. This looks like our answer.
5. This would not work as we would not know if the pronoun *these* referred to castles or palaces. This is not correct.
6. Deleting this sentence would still not help us better understand why palaces and castles are different. We can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. Sentence 3 describes physical attributes of castles that were used in defense. Sentence 4 discusses windows that allowed arrows to be shot safely. Which of our answer choices would link these two ideas?
2. Knowing who built the walls does not have anything to do with the windows located within them. This is not the correct answer.
3. Knowing how long drawbridges were in place does not serve to link us to the use of castle windows. Next.
4. This could work. First, we explain the features that were used in defense (sentence 3). Then, we state that anyone who went past these obstacles would face peril. And that peril appears in the form of archers shooting arrows through small windows (sentence 4). This is a logical answer.
5. This paragraph does not discuss land ownership at all, so let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Knowing the intentions of visitors to the castle does not link two sentences that both discuss physical attributes used in defense of the castle. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. These two sentences show some differences between the features found in castles and those found in palaces. Which option would combine these differences in a single sentence?
2. The palaces did not offer many comfortsbecausethe castles had dark dungeons. There is no causal relationship here. Let’s keep looking.
3. This option also implies that the castles offered dark dungeons *because* they lacked many comforts. Next.
4. The point of this sentence is that many comforts are to be found in royal palaces. The use of the word *while* does indicate that there are differences here, but, this sentence is primarily describing castles, not palaces. We should look for a better option.
5. The use of the word *unlike* also shows a contrast between the two settings, but the contrast is incomplete. The comforts referred to are not described; this sentence only says they are not found “in dark dungeons.” This is not the best answer.
6. This option describes castles, while also noting that they offered few of the comforts found in palaces. This answer combines the two sentences the best.

E is the correct answer.

1. First, look at sentence 8. That notes that although castles are now obsolete in function, many still survive as relics. In sentence 9, the author notes that structures originally meant to keep people out now attract visitors. Their current function is the opposite of their original purpose. Which of these words would better introduce this new, unexpected purpose?
2. *Actually* would be used if the second sentence introduced a thought contrary to the one presented in the previous sentence. The first sentence already introduces the fact that castles now attract visitors. The second sentence restates that point; it does not contradict it. We can eliminate this option.
3. *Basically* could be used to restate a point made in the previous statement, but it does not convey the unexpected purpose that we are looking for. So, let’s keep looking.
4. Something is ‘ironic’ if it is the opposite of what is expected. We would not expect a structure that was designed to keep people out to now attract them. So, this word does a good job of pointing out this unexpected result. This looks like a winner.
5. Sentence 8 does not contrast with sentence 9. Both describe castles as they were in the past and as they are today. Next.
6. Sentence 9 does not look back at earlier times, it is referring to the present day. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Sentence 11 describes some European castles that are well-maintained, while sentence 12 describes one that is decaying and sits on an ordinary street. We are talking about two examples of castles that met different fates. Which sentence best links these thoughts?
2. Sentence 12 describes a castle that is pretty much obsolete and decaying. It would not make sense to preface this by pointing out that not all are obsolete. This is not the correct answer.
3. We don’t have any indication of the factors contributing to the state of either the well-maintained castles or the castle in Wales. Next.
4. Sentence 12 does not mention that tourists are visiting the Welsh castle remnants at all, let alone in order to avoid tourist traps. This can’t be correct.
5. This nicely links the contrast between of disrepair of the Welsh castle and the well maintained castles. This looks like our answer.
6. Sentence 12 does not explain what would be misleading about these appearances. This answer does not make sense.

D is the correct answer.

1. We are looking for a sentence that would flow well after sentence 12, which mentions a Welsh castle decaying amidst modern homes. Which of these sentences would add to the discussion and transition nicely from the previous sentence?
2. While this may tie in with our original thesis statement, it does not flow well after sentence 12. That sentence makes no mention of the difference between castles and palaces. This is not the best answer.
3. This option refers back to the castle set amidst modern homes. It uses that example to describe the contrast between medieval and modern times. This answer fits well.
4. Sentence 12 expresses the state of a present day castle. It would be awkward to bounce back to a commentary on medieval times. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. Sentence 11 and 12 describe examples of castles in good and bad shape. This sentence references a castle that is not really a castle, introducing a totally new thought. This does not flow with the discussion of the condition of the castles in Europe. This is not correct.
6. The point of this paragraph is that many castles remain, although they vary in their state of upkeep. So, we wouldn’t want to end the paragraph with an explanation of the history of one particular castle. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 1**

**Section 9: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. What words would describe prose that is free of stylistic tricks or evasiveness? Direct and frank come to mind. Let’s see if any of our answer choices mean something similar.
2. Imprecise would refer to something that is sloppy or not exact. This does not seem very similar to *direct* or to *frank*. Let’s keep looking.
3. Straightforward is a synonym of *frank* and could describe writing that is not evasive. Looks like a winner.
4. Deficient writing has little to do with its directness or lack of stylistic tricks. Next.
5. Something that is *obtrusive* stands out. Think of a spy trying not to be obtrusive. So, it seems unlikely that prose would be described as obtrusive or interfering. This is not the best answer.
6. Think of words similar to elliptical that you may know. For example, if I want to shorten a quote, I would leave words out and use an ellipsis (…) to note the shortening. So, if we used the word elliptical here, it would mean short prose. We have no indication of the length of the prose, so let’s eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. Both of the words we are looking for in this sentence help to explain the team’s resurgence of popularity. How would you describe the crowd at a sporting event for a team that is gaining popularity? Large, perhaps. What types of cheers might we hear from this crowd? They would likely be rather loud. Let’s see if one of our options describes this large crowd with loud cheers.
2. Vast does describe something large, but more sprawling than we would expect a crowd at a sporting event to be. Plus, we wouldn’t expect hollow cheers from a large crowd gathered to support a popular team. This is not the correct answer.
3. A sparse crowd would not really signal a popular team; quite the opposite, really. Next.
4. Enormous is a synonym for large, and could describe a crowd for a popular team. Deafening cheers would certainly be loud and would indicate the crowd’s support for the team. This is a good answer.
5. A popular team would not likely attract an unimpressive crowd or muted cheers. Next.
6. It would be difficult to tell the team was popular with negligible, or slight, crowds. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. Here, we may need to check *both* words to see which option works best in the sentence. It is difficult to determine the meaning without both missing words. The first missing word explains what effect the evidence has had on our perception of the cosmos. The second missing word is the result of this effect.
2. If this evidence advanced our perception of the cosmos, would it cause a setback in astronomical thinking? We would think that an advance would have an effect opposite to a setback, so let’s eliminate this option.
3. The evidence altered our perception, which caused a revolution in astronomical thinking. A new, improved perception could be described as revolutionary, so this looks like a winner.
4. Let’s jump to the second word on this one. How would one call a truce, or cease-fire, in thinking? This answer makes no sense.
5. If the evidence reinforced our thinking, how exactly would this cause a crisis? We would think the same thing we always have; there’s no crisis here. Next.
6. How would one halt, or stop, a perception? And would this cause a breakthrough? Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. The introductory word *although* gives us a clue that the words that are missing will give us two contradictory thoughts. For instance, although the theory gained support, the evidence was still thin. Let’s keep this in mind when evaluating the answers.
2. The theory gained credence (think credibility), although the evidence was irrefutable (or unquestionably correct). These two ideas are not opposites, so let’s move on.
3. The theory gained disrepute (or a bad reputation) although the evidence was dubious, or questionable. A disreputable theory would likely be based on dubious evidence, so again, these thoughts do not differ either. Next.
4. The theory gained acceptance although the evidence was convincing. A theory with convincing evidence would likely gain acceptance, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. The theory gained momentum although the evidence was systematic. While these words may not be similar, they have little to do with each other, so they cannot give us the contradicting thoughts we’re looking for. This option does not work.
6. The theory gained currency (or acceptance) although the evidence was inconclusive. Here’s a contrast. The theory gained acceptance in spite of the inconclusive evidence. This is a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The missing word in this sentence describes fabric that is virtually transparent, or perhaps, thin. Let’s look for an option that could be used to describe something like that.
2. Something that is palpable is easily felt or apparent. This would not quite describe a transparent fabric. Let’s keep looking.
3. This word may not be familiar to you. If so, try to eliminate other words you know to be incorrect. We will be able to easily eliminate the others answers, which makes this a good choice. It ends up being the perfect choice, since diaphanous describes a delicate or thin texture.
4. *Variegated* looks similar to the word *varied*, which describes something that is diverse, not something that is thin or transparent. We can eliminate this option.
5. *Luxurious* describes something fancy or plush, not something transparent. This is not correct.
6. An *anomaly* is something that’s odd (compared to what’s normal), so would we describe this transparent fabric like that? Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. The missing word in this question describes Dr. Williams, who hated both tradition and cherished beliefs. What types of words would describe such a person? A nonconformist perhaps? Let’s look for a similar word among our answers.
2. *Egalitarian* is similar to *equal*, so this type of person would promote equality, not challenge beliefs. We can eliminate this option.
3. This is not a very common word; it refers to an elderly widow. If we know this definition, we can eliminate this option, but you may need to run through the other options first.
4. A dilettante is person who has interest in the arts. This would not describe someone who is against tradition or beliefs. This is not the best answer.
5. An iconoclast is something who attacks established beliefs, so this one looks like a winner.
6. Think of a purveyor (supplier) of fine goods. This does not describe Dr. Williams as she is portrayed here.

D is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first, to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. This passage comes from a nineteenth century novel and concerns a young woman and her uncle, who was her guardian. The two have never gotten along. The uncle tries to convince the young woman to marry a man he has chosen so that he will no longer have to care for her. The woman refuses to marry this man as she finds him unintelligent and hopes to marry for love, not money. Let’s see which of the answer choices mesh with our summary.
2. The first line states that their characters “never had harmonized,” so we cannot conclude that their relationship had been warm. Next.
3. While the young woman in this passage does seem ambitious, her attitude is more defiant than disappointed. If she had agreed to a marriage she did not want, that would be characterized as a disappointment, but she is refusing to be disappointed. Let’s keep looking.
4. This is a confrontation. The uncle wants the woman to marry the man he has chosen, and she has refused. And, the first few lines discuss how the two never ‘harmonized,’ so we could conclude that their differences are irreconcilable. This is a good choice.
5. The goals of the two characters in this passage are not at all similar. Nope.
6. Hmm, there is nothing indicating a need for harmony in the family. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The uncle is described as irritable, despotic and worldly. The young girl is described as spirited and enjoying freedom. What would the mention of the young woman’s romanticism say about her?
2. None of the words used to describe her mention physical attributes, so we can’t conclude that others would find her attractive. Let’s move on.
3. A woman who enjoys her freedom would not be overly concerned with finding a husband, and the rest of the passage makes this pretty clear. We can eliminate this option.
4. Romantic notions tend to be passionate, and the passage notes her unconventional ideas that she should marry for love, not money. This looks like a winner.
5. There is nothing to suggest the woman’s preference for books and poetry. Next.
6. We don’t have anything that would indicate that there are exaggerated stories about this young woman. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. These lines go over the duties that the uncle feels he has to his niece. His list of tasks concludes with the ultimate goal, to “wash his hands of her,” so she would no longer be his responsibility.
2. There does not seem to be much collaboration between these two. Nope.
3. Washing your hands of someone would not be done to help that person realize his or her goals. Let’s keep looking.
4. The uncle does not want the niece to find a suitable husband for his family’s reputation, rather for his own gain. We can eliminate this option.
5. He is certainly frustrated, but at this point in the story we don’t know if her options are limited. We later learn that his frustration comes from his niece refusing to marry the suitor he chooses. This is not the correct answer.
6. Freeing himself of this responsibility is another way of saying washing his hands of her. This looks like a good choice.

E is the correct answer.

1. Mr. Sympson is describing the reasons why the suitor he has chosen for his niece is a fine choice for a husband, which include a fine estate home and good connections. From this sentence, Mr. Sympson seems to feel that wealth and connections are what make a good suitor.
2. Nothing emotional here; just a big house and powerful connections. Next.
3. There is no mention made of the benefit to the community that a suitable marriage might bring. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. While Mr. Sympson certainly feels his approval is necessary, he is more concerned with material wealth and connections than family approval. This is not the correct answer.
5. Mr. Sympson does not mention ceremonies or celebrations. Nope.
6. The estate that is mentioned points to the importance of financial advantages, while the connections of his chosen suitor highlight social advantages. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Miss Keeldar’s first objection to Mr. Wynne is his “despicable, commonplace profligacy.” Profligacy refers to a reckless, extravagant lifestyle. Even if you don’t know this word, the descriptions of it as despicable and commonplace provide some good clues. We know she is disgusted by his behavior in some way, so this may help us eliminate some answer choices.
2. Since reckless and profligacy are related, this answer is a good guess. Mr. Wynne’s behavior is described as despicable, which could imply that Miss Keeldar would find it reckless and undignified.
3. We have no indication that Mr. Wynne caused damage to others. We can eliminate this answer.
4. This line does not mention anyone other than Mr. Wynne, so we cannot conclude that she is referring to how he treats others. Let’s move on.
5. Being dependent on family for financial support is not Miss Keeldar’s first objection. This is not correct.
6. A lack of imagination and sensitivity would not be described as despicable. We can eliminate this answer as well.

A is the correct answer.

1. Mr. Sympson, angry over Miss Keeldar’s refusal to accept his suitor, asks if she intends to marry or plans to remain celibate. Her reaction is to tell him he is out of line in even asking such a question.
2. No accusation has been made that Miss Keeldar is secretly engaged. This can’t be right.
3. She denies Mr. Sympson’s right to have an answer to this question. In other words she challenges the idea that she must address the question. We have a winner.
4. There is no correction here. She has declined to answer. Next.
5. Her refusal to answer is characteristic of her independence, not contradicting it. This is not correct.
6. She does not even address the question at all, so we can’t conclude that she is asserting her right to live without marrying. Later, we see that she would like to marry, but only for love. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Here, we know that Mr. Sympson threatens his niece, indicating that he is not a person she should attempt to defy. We need to pay attention to what we know from the passage overall to interpret the threat.
2. We may believe from their exchange that Miss Keeldar can outwit her uncle, but this argument is not one of wits; it is one of whether this young woman will or must do as her uncle says. Let’s see if there is a better option.
3. Miss Keeldar has defied her uncle’s wishes before with no major consequence. So, we can’t conclude that this threat is serious, especially as she continues to argue with him after the threat is made. Let’s keep looking.
4. We certainly can’t conclude that Mr. Sympson is genuinely concerned about his niece’s happiness since he insists she marry a wealthy man that she does not want to marry. Next.
5. Miss Keeldar’s retort after this threat supports this option. She asked what could her uncle possibly do if she did something that he disapproved of. We get the sense that Mr. Sympson does not have any real power over his niece. This threat carrys no weight. This is a good choice.
6. Miss Keeldar seems more concerned with getting her uncle to stop pestering her than trying to intimidate him. We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. In this exchange the young woman continues to fight back against her uncle’s increasing, frustrated threats. She continues to defy his authority to the point where he asks her to “take care” or tread lightly so as not to provoke him. Her response is what we might say in modern times, “Oh, I will take care … to marry for the right reasons.”
2. Here, Mr. Sympson says to “take care,” meaning not to provoke him. Miss Keeldar responds that she *will* take care, and that care will be in choosing a suitable husband, one she loves. She does this in a mocking way, deliberately misconstruing his comment to brush off the threat. This looks like our answer.
3. Neither Mr. Sympson’s comment nor Miss Keeldar’s retort assign blame, so this can’t be correct.
4. The author of the passage would need to provide some clue in the writing to note a childish, mocking tone. There is no such indication in this passage, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. Miss Keeldar is confidently defiant. She does not lament her uncle’s lack of sympathy. Let’s move on.
6. Miss Keeldar is not justifying her behavior. She feels her uncle is unreasonable, and she does not feel that she needs to listen to him. This is not correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. When Miss Keeldar talks about speaking in an “unknown tongue,” she is referring to her notion that love is required for marriage and insinuating that love is not a language her uncle understands.
2. Mr. Sympson is not angered because the notion of love is new to him; it is because he sees more value in marrying for wealth and status. Let’s keep looking.
3. This exchange refers to marrying for love, not Mr. Wynne’s reputation. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. The notion of an unknown tongue is a metaphor for a difference in understanding, not ways of speaking. Next.
5. As love is not a language Miss Keeldar feels her uncle is capable of understanding, this looks like our answer.
6. We do not know much about the family beyond these two characters, so there is no basis for any family mistakes. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Mr. Sympson is dismayed by his niece’s unladylike language and is concerned about what will become of a woman with such a mouth. Which of our options best describes this action?
2. The description of unladylike language has little to do with financial wealth. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. Mr. Sympson seems to feel his niece is doomed to a life of disappointment with her foul language and defiance. This looks like a good answer.
4. His niece’s foul language is not likely to make Mr. Sympson relieved. Let’s keep looking.
5. Mr. Sympson is not making a plea for diversion. His question expresses uncertainty about her future if she continues behaving as she does. This is not correct.
6. There is no condemnation of conventional lifestyles in this passage. One could say that Mr. Sympson wants a conventional lifestyle for his niece. This is not the best answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Miss Keeldar has a characteristically clever retort to her uncle’s exclamation as to what could possibly be ahead for her. She answers that she knows what the future holds for her, and it is not a marriage to Mr. Wynne.
2. Miss Keeldar clearly answers her uncle’s question; she does not respond as if it is an unreasonable request. Let’s keep looking.
3. The exchange between this uncle and niece does not have much to do with fair play. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. Miss Keeldar’s retort is quite literal. She answers her uncle’s exclamation as if it were a simple inquiry and states that her future will have nothing to do with Mr. Wynne. This looks like a winner.
5. Miss Keeldar’s reponse is an expression of what she is certain about concerning marriage. This is not correct.
6. Miss Keeldar’s response makes no mention of family history. This, too, is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. In regards to marriage, Miss Keeldar uses words such as *esteem, admire* and *love*. She equates these qualities with what she seeks in a marriage.
2. Miss Keeldar does not see love as something that comes about because you’ve spent enough time with someone. There needs to be high esteem and admiration. Let’s move on.
3. She emphatically states to her uncle that she needs love as well as esteem and admiration in order to agree to a marriage. This looks like a good answer.
4. We do not know much about Miss Keeldar’s daily life or if she has found love. So, there is no evidence to support this answer.
5. She sees love as something that is necessary to agree to a marriage, not a happy accident that results from a marriage. Let’s eliminate this option.
6. She holds love in high esteem, so we can’t conclude that she would find it a delusion that may be harmful. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. Taking this passage as a whole, it seems unlikely that these two would agree on any points, but there is one section in which some concession is made. When Mr. Sympson asks if she would marry a beggar for love, Miss Keeldar states, “On a beggar it would never fall. Mendicancy is not estimable.” She also says she has no taste for “the scrubby, shabby, whining.” We know that Mr. Sympson would like her to have a wealthy husband with good social connections. So, here they somewhat agree to a level of standard in a suitable mate.
2. Mr. Sympson would like her to marry an aristocrat such as Mr. Wynne. We know that Miss Keeldar wants to marry for love and does not feel that this entails marrying an aristocrat (e.g., she states that she would gladly marry a writer or artist). This is not correct.
3. She holds little regard for the attentions of the Wynne family. Let’s eliminate this answer.
4. Miss Keeldar never states that she feels too immature to marry, only that she would only marry a man that meets her standards. Let’s keep looking.
5. In this passage, Mr. Sympson spends a good deal of time trying to convince his niece to go against what she states are her deeply held beliefs on marriage. So, there is no agreement here, and this answer can’t be right.
6. Miss Keeldar states that poor and undignified men (those who are scrubby, shabby, and whining) would not make suitable mates for her. Mr. Sympson had challenged her on this point and she conceded. So, we have agreement here. This looks like a fine choice.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 1**

**Section 10: WRITING**

Congrats, you’re in the final stretch. You’ve now reached the final section of the test. You can see the end. But don’t be tempted to race through. Yes, you’re tired. You’re ready to be done. But still, take a deep breath and try to concentrate for these final 10 minutes. You’ve worked hard to get this far; don’t blow it by getting lazy at the end.

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. Does this sound right to you? Nope, so let’s look at the underlined section. What is the subject of this sentence? Challenges. This is plural, but the verb used is singular (is). Let’s look for answer choices that use a plural verb. This eliminates Options A-C as each of those uses the singular verb.
   * 1. We’ve already identified that this option uses the plural form of the verb (are). If we were to simplify the sentence, we would say, “Challenges are associated . . . . ” which would also be correct. This looks like our answer.
     2. While this option uses the plural verb *are*, it still doesn’t work. We can’t use “which associate” when we refer to things (challenges). Only people associate with each other. You could change this to “that are associated” but it’s more wordy than what we found in Option D. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. When reading this sentence, the first thing that sticks out is the use of the word *it* without knowing what *it* refers to. What has the watercolors on display? We can guess it is the museum, but why use *it* before we even know this? Let’s look for a better answer.
   * 1. There is no need to restate where the watercolors are on display (the museum). *It* replaces that noun. We can eliminate this answer.
     2. This looks good. It clearly states that the watercolors are on display at the museum. The verb *represent* refers to the watercolors and is correctly used with a plural noun.
     3. While this option eliminates our original issue with the pronoun *it*, it presents us with another problem. Stating that “the watercolors … representing the era” would create an incomplete sentence. This is not the correct answer.
     4. This option also uses the incorrect form of the verb (“they represents”); this would be appropriate for a single watercolor, but we have many. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson were not president all at once. Thus, we are talking about multiple presidencies, not one single presidency. We need to make this noun plural. This eliminates Options A, C and E.
   * 1. This option changes the noun ‘presidency’ to its plural form. Simplified, this sentence could be written as “They (origins) can be traced to them (the presidencies),” which is correct. This looks like a winner.
     2. We eliminated this option because it uses the singular form of the noun, presidency.
     3. This option does not give us a complete sentence. What about the origins of the Teapot Dome scandal that happened during these presidencies? It’s not expressed in this sentence, so we can eliminate this answer.
     4. As we have already noted, this is not correct because it uses the singular form of the noun, presidency.

B is the correct answer.

1. In this underlined section, do we know who *she* refers to? Is it Sheila or Lucy? Or is it both of them? Let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. We still don’t know who *she* is in this sentence. Next.
     2. Here, we know that Sheila is the one who noticed the change in menu. We know this visit happened in the past (”visited the restaurant“). The verb “notices,” however, is not in the past tense. Let’s keep looking.
     3. This option makes it clear that Sheila is the one who noticed the change in menu, and that this action happened in the past. The menu, though, is not in the process of changing. That changed in the past, too, so we need the past tense of this verb as well. This is not the correct answer.
     4. This option tells us who noticed that the menu had changed (Sheila) and that she noticed that when they visited the restaurant. It’s all in the past tense, so this option looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. What is carried by the winds of the stratosphere? This sentence would make you believe that it is the eruption that is carried, which can’t be correct. Let’s look for a better worded sentence.
   * 1. This option still makes it seem as if the eruption was carried by the winds. Nope.
     2. It makes a lot more sense that the dust would be what was carried by the winds. The dust came from the eruption, and the dust is also what crossed the United States. This looks like a winner.
     3. In this sentence, it is the dust that was carried by the wind, but the eruption is the one that crossed the United States. Nope, that can’t be right.
     4. This option does not make it clear what was carried by the winds or what crossed the United States. We can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. When read aloud, the sentence sounds rather awkward. Here the word *so* is used to emphasize an extreme, and it’s followed by a result. In this case, it was so complicated that it resulted in no one being eager to take on the task. Let’s use a different example: “He was so tired that he took a long nap.” This emphasizes the cause (how tired he was) and explains the result. We need to same thing here. We would not say, “He was so tired to where he took a long nap.” So, we need to find a better option.
   * 1. *Therefore* indicates a consequence will follow but it really only explains *why*. To use this correctly in our example, we would say “He was tired, therefore he took a long nap.” With this, we know that he took a long nap because he was tired. It doesn’t properly emphasize just *how tired* he was. Our sentence includes the word *so*, and it won’t work with *therefore*. This is not the best answer.
     2. “The new regulations have so complicated the process, even no one is eager . . . .” Does this sound like it’s explaining a cause and effect here? Nope. Let’s keep looking.
     3. This option makes it sounds as if the regulations became complicated due to the fact that no one on the board was eager to undertake the task. The relationship is the other way around. Let’s eliminate this option.
     4. This looks very much like our example. He was so tired that he took a long nap. The regulations are so complicated *that* no one was eager to undertake the task. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Simplified, this sentence would say “The shift is because . . . .” That doesn’t quite sound right. We need a verb that explains the shift.” Let’s look for an option to correct this issue.
   * 1. We still don’t have a verb that explains the shift. Next,
     2. First, we would normally say something is “caused by,” not “caused from.” There is also the problem of the verb tenses not matching (“getting” vs. “become”). We can eliminate this option.
     3. Here, we know what the shift is doing. It is *occurring*. We also know why it is occurring. Because adults are getting fewer cavities and becoming more vain. This looks good.
     4. Again, the verbs *occurs* and *getting* do not match in tense. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Who is being asked to name a musical group? This sentence makes it look as if it were the Beatles. This sentence is about people who are asked the name a musical group with vast appeal. The Beatles would be their choice, no matter what kinds of music they prefer. This sentence does not make this thought clear. Let’s look for a better option among our remaining answer choices.
   * 1. We have the same problem here that we had in the original sentence. It sounds like the Beatles are being asked to name a group. Let’s keep looking.
     2. This is similar to the first two options only now it’s “the choice” that’s being asked to name a musical group. Let’s look for a better answer.
     3. “If asked, many people choose the Beatles . . . .” In this simplified version of the sentence, we can see that the verbs *asked* and *choose* do not match in tense. Next.

E. If we simplify this sentence, it would read, ”If asked, many people would choose the Beatles.” The subject is clear, and the verb ‘would choose’ is appropriate in tense. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. This action occurred in 1972, a fixed time in the past. We need a verb to indicate that the limits were set at this particular time.
   * 1. What did setting limits do? This sentence does not tell us. It’s incomplete. Let’s eliminate this option.
     2. This also does not clearly indicate when the limits were set. You would not say, “I have been to New York in 1972.” You would say, “I went to New York in 1972.” This option is not correct.
     3. The verb “have set” is not appropriate for an event that took place at a specific point in the past. Let’s keep looking.
     4. Simply re-stated, this sentence would be, “In 1972, they set limits.” That works. The past tense accurately expresses what was done to reduce pollution. This looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. This sentence looks good just the way it is. There are no extra words to make the sentence clumsy, and the grammar is correct. Ruben, who was a lawyer in Panama, supported himself by singing salsa while he pursued an advanced degree at Harvard. No mistakes here.

A is the correct answer.

1. This sentence seems awfully clumsy as written. What do we need to express in this sentence? We know the newspaper business faces a challenge. Why? *Because* they must reconcile two goals. One is the high-minded goal of informing readers. The other is the commercial goal of making money. How could we better express these ideas in one, clear sentence?
   * 1. The pronoun *it* is unnecessary here. We already know it’s the business that needs to reconcile its goals. This is not the correct answer.
     2. The challenge of the newspaper business exists because of the need to reconcile two goals. “As such” just refers back to the newspaper business and does not properly give us the cause and effect relationship that we have here. This is not the best answer.
     3. This option shows the causal relationship. The challenges exist because of the need to reconcile the two goals. This would be a good choice.
     4. The words that follow a semi-colon should be a complete sentence. “Since it has the high-minded goal … with the commercial one … being reconciled.” does not make sense on its own. We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. Turtles are endangered for three reasons: 1) overharvesting, 2) eggs being disturbed, and 3) destruction. Which of these is not like the others? Number 2. We want to use the same structure to describe each cause. We need a better answer.
   * 1. Here, our reasons are stated as: 1) being overharvested, 2) eggs being disturbed, and 3) destroying nests. Here, number 3 does not match. Next.
     2. 1) overharvesting 2) disturbance 3) destruction. If we look only at these words, this could work. But the problem is that the word *of* is left out after *because* (i.e., *because of* the overharvesting). Let’s continue to look for a better answer.
     3. Here, the reasons are stated as: 1) adults are overharvested, 2) eggs are disturbed, and 3) habitats are destroyed. This explains the activities using consistent verb tense throughout the sentence. This looks good.
     4. Again, the reasons do not match in sentence structure. This is not a correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. What contributes to the cause of type 2 diabetes? Improper diet *and* lack of exercise. There are two things, so we need to use the plural form of *to contribute*.
   * 1. This answer also uses the singular form and unnecessarily adds the pronoun *they*. This is not correct.
     2. This looks good. The two things both *contribute* to the onset of disease.
     3. The experts would say these things contribute to disease, not “they contributing*”* to disease. This gives us an incomplete sentence. Next.
     4. Again, the verb “has been contributing” is singular, not plural. We could say they “have been contributing,” but not “has been” when referring to these two things. We can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence describes two things about Alexei. He is annoying and he is delightful. He is annoying because he is unpredictable, and he is delightful because of his imagination. This sentence says “His imagination is still a delight,” which seems like Alexei’s *imagination* is a delight, as opposed Alexei himself. Let’s look for an option that accurately describes Alexei.
   * 1. The sentence describes Alexei as imaginative, and uses *delightful* to describe his imagination. This is similar to the problem we had in Option A. Next.
     2. By saying “he is delightful in his imagination, too.” implies that he’s delightful in some other way. We know that his other characteristic is that he’s annoying. So, this can’t be right.
     3. We’ve already established that delightful is a word used to describe *Alexei*, not how his acquaintances feel. This is not the correct answer.
     4. This looks good. He is annoying because of his unpredictability. He is delightful because of his imagination. Alexei’s characteristics are clearly stated in this answer choice.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 2**

# Section 4: READING

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. When you read the sentence, try to fill in the blanks mentally with your own words before looking at the answer choices. This will give you an idea of the sentence’s meaning and help determine the correct choices. How about “The movie’s plot was *boring****;*** once you knew what befell the hero, you could *predict* the fate of the villain.” Let’s see if we can find an answer choice that gives us a similar meaning.
   * 1. We can eliminate Option A because *convincing* doesn’t make sense in the context of the sentence: “The movie’s plot was *convincing****;*** once you knew what befell the hero, you could \_\_\_ the fate of the villain.” Note that we’re only working with the first word in the pairing; this allows us to easily and quickly eliminate choices. Option A doesn’t make sense; a convincing movie plot has nothing to do with the villain’s fate.
     2. Ditto. If a plot was misleading, then the villain’s fate wouldn’t be predictable.
     3. Looks promising, since the first word is a synonym for boring. Review the sentence, but now with both of the words substituted: “The movie’s plot was*predictable****;*** once you knew what befell the hero, you could *foresee* the fate of the villain.” *Foresee* is also a synonym for the second word we chose, *predict*. Both words in this choice make sense within the sentence. This looks like it is the correct answer. Quickly check D and E, but C fits the best. Go with your gut (not blind guessing) if it feels right.

C is the correct answer.

1. Again, we’ll fill in the blanks mentally with words of our own: “A certain additive put in gasoline to reduce air pollution is actually *harming* groundwater, a finding that shows that even the most well-intentioned fixes can sometimes *go wrong*.”
   * 1. *Liquefying* doesn’t make sense, since groundwater is already liquid.
     2. *Contaminating* is a good choice for our first word. Something that contaminates would harm. And *backfire* certainly describes an action that has gone wrong. Looks like we have a winner.
     3. *Purifying* groundwater would be a good thing. We’re looking for a word that would describe something harmful. Since our first word choice doesn’t work, we can move on.
     4. This choice looks promising at first. An additive could fill the groundwater so *saturating* appears to work. Let’s try the second word: “A certain additive put in gasoline to reduce air pollution is actually *saturating* groundwater, a finding that shows that even the most well-intentioned fixes can sometimes *reciprocate*.” Reciprocate, or give in return, doesn’t seem to make sense; what do these fixes reciprocate? This answer doesn’t work.
     5. This choice looks promising because polluting would be harmful to groundwater. But, to say this well intended fix prevailed would not be correct. The intention was to reduce pollution, not create pollution.

B is the correct answer.

1. The second half of the sentence gives us clues as to what the missing word should mean – “devoid of any emotion or personal prejudice.” So, we’re looking for a meaning similar to: “The biologist’s description of the wolf pack was truly *impartial*, devoid of any emotion or personal prejudice.”
   * 1. *Dispassionate* means unemotional, which could work. Let’s keep answer choice A in mind.
     2. *Insubstantial* this doesn’t fit within the context of the sentence.
     3. *Esoteric* means understood only by small group, which doesn’t fit in this sentence.
     4. *Capricious* means changeable or unreliable. If the biologist was unreliable, then the second half of the sentence wouldn’t make any sense.
     5. *Indignant,* or angry*,* doesn’t jive with the overall meaning of the sentence either.

A is the correct answer.

1. “No longer considered *correct*, the belief that all of Puerto Rico’s indigenous Taino people perished centuries ago appears to be a *mistake* now that modern Taino descendants have come forward.”
   * 1. *Conclusive* could fit here; a belief could be conclusive. Let’s look at the second word. Hmm, *reality* is actually the opposite of what we’ve substituted (*mistake*). And it doesn’t make sense when we see that the first half of the sentence starts with “No longer,” which implies that the belief is now incorrect. Option A won’t work.
     2. If you don’t know the meaning of the first word, then go ahead and skip to the second word to see if that agrees with your own substitution. *Misconception* fits well, so let’s keep this choice. If you’re short on time and feel good about this answer, go ahead to the next question. (*Untenable* means not defendable or unbelievable.) If you guess at this point, you’ve got ¼ chance of being correct. You might want to check a couple others to increase your chances, but go with your gut.
     3. *Mythical* seems like it could fit, but once we try the second word, *possibility*, the sentence no longer makes sense.
     4. *Erroneous* is the opposite of what we substituted on our own (*correct*). This isn’t the right choice.
     5. *Hypothetical* doesn’t fit in with our own choice. Option E is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

**TIP**: If the mystery word ends up being a contender after all, try to determine the meaning by breaking the word down into parts. Many words will have either a suffix or prefix (or both), which can be used as clues. Some common prefixes and suffixes (Scholastic, Inc.):

dis- : not, opposite of (e.g., *disagree*)

in-, im-, il-, ir-: not (e.g., *irrepressible*, *impossible*)

inter-: between (e.g., *intermission*)

re-: again (e.g., repeat)

un-: not

-est: comparative (e.g., *fullest*)

-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition: act, process (e.g., *indignation*)

Prepare for the test by reviewing suffixes and prefixes. A great site is: <http://grammar.about.com/od/words/a/comprefix07.htm>.

1. Here, a word in the sentence gives us a valuable clue. *Although* tells us that the second clause (the part of the sentence after the comma) will actually contradict the first. Use this clue when evaluating the choices. The first clause says that the author’s mother was “easily angered,” so we can infer that the second half—and the missing word—will be the opposite of anger. So, we’re looking for something like “Although easily angered by our mischievous behavior, our mother could immediately be *calmed* by our expressions of remorse.”
   * 1. *Substantiated* doesn’t make sense in this sentence. It’s out.
     2. *Impugned* - if you’re not sure what this word means, just move on and see if another choice works. (Impugned means to cast doubt.)
     3. *Protected* doesn’t make sense either. How would the author’s mother be *protected* by apologies? This isn’t the right choice.
     4. *United* is not the answer. Having one person be *united* is nonsensical. This option is out as well.
     5. *Mollified*, happily, is the opposite of anger, which we inferred in the beginning. This is the correct answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. “Scientists wonder what to do with the dead satellites, jettisoned rockets, drifting paint flecks, and other *junk* orbiting Earth.”
   * 1. *Flotsam* is another word for trash or junk. This looks like a good choice.
     2. *Reconnaissance* doesn’t make sense when used in the sentence.
     3. *Decimation* also doesn’t make any sense in this sentence. This represents a destroyed condition (the decimation after a bomb attack) rather than an item that could be found floating in space.
     4. *Raiment* means clothing, so this choice is just plain absurd.
     5. *Sustenance* is not a good fit for this sentence, since it means food or supplies. Dead satellites and the like are not sustenance.

A is the correct answer.

1. “Although aging brings about profound physiological changes, it does not often alter an individual’s *personality*; an irascible thirty year old will still be *cranky* at seventy.”
   1. We chose words related to personality or temperament rather than words of a physical nature because of two major clues. The sentence began with the acknowledgement that aging does have physical changes, but it hints that those physical changes won’t be the focus of the sentence by beginning the sentence with *although*. The author also provides a major clue word: irascible, which means cantankerous.
   2. If there are several options that match the first word in the pair, we’ll need to evaluate the second word. To do so in this example, we’ll work with the clue word provided, irascible. We’re looking for a synonym or word that is similar in meaning to irascible, since the author uses another clue word, still, next to the blank.
      1. *Disposition* is a synonym for mood or personality, which is the word we chose on our own. This is promising; let’s look at the second word, cantankerous. Happily, it means the same as our own word *cranky*, which makes this the correct choice.
      2. *Anatomy* is nonsensical because the sentence discusses a person’s attitude or personality, not body. This choice is out.
      3. *Outlook* is promising. But the second word, *benevolent*, contradicts the irascible characterization given.
      4. *Personality* is also promising; it’s the very word we chose. In looking at the second word, however, we can eliminate this choice. Why? *Laconic*, which means terse or succinct, does not fit with the irascible characterization either.
      5. We can eliminate this choice immediately because it refers to physical attributes.

A is the correct answer.

1. The author provides clues to the missing word in the second clause by explaining why: “it was unpredictable and given to constantly shifting moods.” Therefore, the word we choose should mean unpredictable. So, think “The commentator characterized the electorate as *erratic* because it was unpredictable and given to constantly shifting moods.”
   * 1. *Mercurial* is a synonym for erratic or unpredictable. This could be the answer.
     2. *Corrosive* doesn’t mean erratic, nor does it jive with the overall meaning of the sentence.
     3. *Disingenuous* means fake or untruthful, so it is not the correct answer.
     4. *Implacable* means impossible to appease, not something that is erratic or changeable in the least. This won’t work.
     5. *Phlegmatic* means unemotional, which is the opposite of “constantly shifting moods.”

A is the correct answer.

**TIP**: Feel free to “judge” the answers – that is, after all, what you’re being asked to do when you take the SAT™. Calling an answer “stupid” may be a little immature, but it does help determine your gut reaction to a question. And let’s be honest; it makes a long morning of test-taking go a little faster.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. As you read the passages, make a note of the writer’s opinion or point of view. Typically, introductory or concluding sentences summarize a given paragraph. If you’re pressed for time, focus on those sentences and skim through the rest of the passage. As you read/skim, keep an eye out for words that indicate a contradiction, such as *however*, *in contrast*, etc.
   * 1. The author of Passage 2 critiques the methodology, not the data itself. This choice is incorrect.
     2. The author of Passage 2 doesn’t argue for or against overpopulation. Let’s move on.
     3. Neither passage recommends a course of action. This is incorrect.
     4. Looks good so far. The author of Passage 1 discusses “population relative to the land available.” As you read the question, recall that the first sentence of Passage 2 seemed to directly challenge the idea presented in Passage 1 (i.e., people per square mile as a key determinant of population pressure). The author in this first sentence proposes that using that measurement is wrong.
     5. Neither passage seems to make personal statements. This is also incorrect.

D is the correct answer.

1. Option C is the correct answer because we can infer the tone by key words used by the author. For each characterization, try imagining how you would have written the sentence in that way.
   * 1. Passage 2 is not wistful. The author does not use vocabulary or phrases characteristic of hopefulness. Something like “I hope one day . . . .” would have indicated a wistful tone.
     2. The author is not dismayed, or disheartened. He or she expresses clear disagreement with the idea (“it is wrong”).
     3. *Emphatic* is a better choice because the author strongly affirms that the idea is as widespread as it is wrong. This definitely has an emphatic tone.
     4. The first sentence is most certainly not ambivalent; the author flat out states that this idea is wrong.
     5. The first sentence is also not apologetic; the author is very straightforward about his or her opinion. “I regret that . . . . ” would have indicted an apologetic tone.

C is the correct answer.

1. Typically, quotation marks in an opinion piece indicate that the words in quotation marks are not the author’s own. The author uses the quotes almost sarcastically; he or she disagrees with the characterization of land as “empty.” The quotation marks emphasize the author’s disdain for the way the land is characterized.

C is the correct answer.

1. Read each option and determine if the answer provides new information that is not included in either passage.
   * 1. This could be the correct answer. Passage 1 states “Certainly the world is filled with empty spaces.” Passage 2 merely argues that there are other factors to consider, but does not dispute that there is unoccupied land.
     2. The main point of each passage is not how many people are in the world, but how much land is needed for the population. That eliminates this answer.
     3. Neither passage mentions technology, so we know this is not the answer.
     4. The passages do not debate scientists versus nonscientists, so we can eliminate Option D.
2. On this point, the authors disagree. Passage 1 argues there is plenty of land available for the world’s population, while Passage 2 argues that overpopulation could use up resources. So, only Passage 2 acknowledges this point, eliminating this option.

A is the correct answer.

1. Review the questions before reading the provided passage. Keeping the questions in mind as you read will allow you to skim more quickly. Evaluate each of the choices.

A. The author makes no mention of the value of the map.

B. The map is described almost as if it is alive. The description of it curling and snapping back gives it a life of its own. This makes Option B a good choice as the map feels somewhat alive.

C. The map isn’t described as cryptic or mysterious. Option C is out.

D. No mention is made of the map’s age. Nope.

E. The author does not make any comment on the accuracy of the map. Option D is gone.

B is the correct answer.

1. In this section of the passage, the author pays more attention to the character of Lewis than the action he is taking in marking the map. Read each option to determine which answer describes this.

A. An anecdote recalls an incident in the past. This is told in the present tense and does not recall a story. Let’s move on.

B. There is nothing to indicate what this passage would be an example of, so this answer does not seem likely.

C. This passage describes Lewis’ actions as the narrator sees them. The words “it seemed to” are a strong indicator here that this section describes an impression. This looks like our answer.

D. There is no indication that the actions described here would predict any future action, so Option D is not correct.

E. There is no theory proposed earlier in the passage, so this answer won’t work.

C is the correct answer.

1. For this question, run through each possible answer, and try to imagine an action that would be described with this word. Is that action similar to the description of Lewis’ hand?

A. If the hand was deft, it would be doing something with skill and precision. There is no mention of any skill, so that eliminates this answer.

B. *Languid* would indicate that the hand was weak or sluggish. The author mentions its power, so this doesn’t seem right.

C. The hand is not described as bouncing back or recovering , so *resilient* does not work.

D. Again, look at the words “power over the terrain” in describing Lewis’ hand. This would seem to indicate a rather strong influence for a hand to control land. This points to *omnipotent* as our answer.

E. The hand is not expressing any sort of emotion or meaning, so this does not work.

D is the correct answer.

1. Keep in mind that the author is imaginingthis scene and not describing something he is actually seeing or experiencing. Therefore, the answer relates to the author’s imagination as opposed to reality. The streams have *stopped running*, eliminating A) flowing, B) drooping, and C) inclining as these would indicate movement. *Unfinished* does not make sense in describing water, so that leaves us with Option E. *Suspended* fits with the description of water that has stopped running.

E is the correct answer.

1. In the phrase, “it looks like something up in Alaska,” what does *it* refer to? Backing up a few sentences, you’ll find that the pronoun *it* refers to the valley. The valley is then described with the adjective *wild*. Which of the answer choices would describe Lewis’ impression of wild?

A. We’re not sure how far in distance the narrator is from Alaska. So, we’ll eliminate Option A.

B. There is no mention of size of the valley, so *immense* does not work.

C. The narrator does not use any words describing the scenery, so this does not make sense,

D. No mention of temperature. Nope.

E. Undeveloped land could be described as wild. Even though the other options may describe Alaska, this option best represents *Lewis’ characterization* of how wild the terrain is. We have a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. First ask yourself a simple question. Does Lewis like the real estate people? The sentence conveys an anxious need to get to the land before them; it implies that Lewis doesn’t like what they do with property. Now that you have a basic idea about the author’s opinion of these people, which option fits with those feelings?

A. Contemptuous is a good choice. Lewis does not agree with the real estate people’s intentions for the land, so he shows contempt for them. Sometimes it helps to shorten the answer to its root word, contempt, which describes the author’s feelings here.

B. Lewis does not indicate that he wants something the real estate people have, so envious does not make sense.

C. While Lewis does not seem to like these people, he does not seem extremely angry, so that eliminates this option.

D. The author does not seem confused, so this answer does not work.

E. If the author were intrigued, he would be more likely to have a positive opinion of the real estate people, but this is not the case here.

A is the correct answer.

19. Refer back to question #18 where we had determined Lewis’ view of the real estate people is negative. He wants to arrive first in order to prevent them from turning the land into “one of their heavens.” So, we can infer that Lewis does not feel that “their heavens” would be a good thing. Let’s go through each possible answer to see which answer would describe such a place.

A. As Lewis’ ideas of what to do with the land differ from what he perceives of the “heavens,” we can’t conclude that he is appreciative of this idea.

B. Lewis is not trying to give a false impression or mislead anyone, so deceitful is not correct.

C. There is no indication that Lewis is hesitant at all. Not the answer.

D. Lewis does not agree with the real estate people’s idea of heaven, so it does not make sense that he would defend this idea.

E. The sarcastic tone and desire to prevent these “heavens” point to irony. Normally, one would not want to prevent a heavenly state. That would generally be thought of in a positive way. So, to describe an unwanted outcome as heaven goes against what would normally be expected, pointing to irony. You have found your answer.

E is the correct answer.

20. First read the possible answers, and then revisit the passage. It may also help to skim the preceding lines as this section is a reaction to the previous statement from Lewis.

A. No mention is made as to how likely the scenario proposed by Lewis is. Let’s move on.

B. The last line points to this answer. First, the author describes the land as developed and littered, and then its current state as “unvisited and free.” This describes two very different scenes, so Option B is our answer.

C. Neither a problem nor a solution is posed in this section. Nope.

D. No one course of action is presented. The two different scenes are not the result of one action, so this is not a description of the pros and cons of a specific action.

E. The action described has not yet occurred, so it is not reflecting.

B is the correct answer.

21. Think back to the main theme of the passage. A man has been presented with an adventure and is envisioning it. In the sentence, he indicates he is ready for the adventure, so we are looking for something that indicates his readiness.

A. This makes a lot of sense. The narrator states he is “ready,” which would indicate he is in anticipation of things to come. The reference to parts of the body needed for physical labor would indicate physical anticipation. Option A is our answer.

B. Readiness would not point to insecurity. Nope.

C. Again, his body feels ready, not discomfort. This is not the answer.

D. No reference is made to appearance, only feelings, so this doesn’t fit.

E. The passage refers to readiness for the future, not past experiences, nor is any mention made of strength. Option E is out.

A is the correct answer.

22. This question is looking for a synonym for “picking up” in the context of the sentence. Try replacing the words “picking up” with each answer to determine which one sounds best.

A. “Locating the river where we would enter it.” This sounds good. To locate something would be to find where it is, so this is the correct answer.

B. “Acquiring the river . . . .” It is hard to possess a river, especially on a map. We can eliminate Option B.

C. “Learning the river . . . .” This would more sense if it referred to a specific aspect of the river (its depth, color), but this is not something that can be learned. Let’s move on.

D. “Claiming the river . . . .” Again, the river at this point only exists on the map. It would be difficult to claim ownership of a spot on a map. This is not correct.

E. “Gathering the river . . . .” Imagine trying to gather a river in your arms. This one does not work.

A is the correct answer.

23. Read the passage and come up with your own adjective to describe Lewis as he is portrayed in this sentence. We get the impression that Lewis likes to preach or give lessons. Let’s see if any of the possible answers fit with this impression.

A. Nope. If he were whimsical, he would be described as making decisions without great thought.

B. This passage makes no mention of feeling, so there is no impression that he is unfeeling, or callous. This eliminates Option B.

C. Lewis is portrayed as paying particular attention to this issue, so he is not neglectful or remiss. Let’s move on.

D. One key word to pay attention to here is moral. He is turning the situation into an opportunity to hand down a moral lesson, which points to didactic as the answer.

E. There is no indication that Lewis is impulsive, or impetuous.

D is the correct answer.

24. Skim the designated section looking for words describing the sports Lewis prefers: “Extremely specialized,” “Difficult,” “Could do by himself.” Now determine which of the answers best fit with this description.

A. The description of “extremely specialized” eliminates this option.

B. Competitive would infer that there were others involved, whereas Lewis likes sports he can do by himself. So, this won’t work.

C. This one is right. The passage states that Lewis created a “personal approach to it,” which would indicate a need for room for individual expression. This is the correct answer.

D. No mention is made of strength or skill, so that eliminates Option D.

E. No mention is made of risk or how long he had been doing the activity, so Option E is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

25. This question requires you to assess the tone of the speaker. It may also help to skim the preceding paragraph to infer the narrator’s impression of Bobby. The narrator describes Bobby as “cynical” and someone who doesn’t take Lewis too seriously. So, this gives us a clue that the selected section further demonstrates these qualities in Bobby’s remarks.

A. While Bobby does not agree with Lewis, he is not criticizing him or stating that he is wrong. Let’s move on.

B. Malice would indicate that Bobby does not like Lewis, which does not seem to be the case from the description of his as “pleasantly cynical.” He is not expressing displeasure, so this option does not work.

C. Refer back to the fact that Bobby does not take Lewis seriously. Bobby’s statement seems to be an exaggeration. For example, who are the “they” he refers to? He compares Lewis’ ideas to a sickness that could be cured by lying down. This would indicate that he is making fun of Lewis, but in a subtle way. Dry humor is the best description.

D. His exaggerations would not indicate he is being frank or open, and he is not confessing a truth. This is not our answer.

E. Bobby does not take Lewis seriously, so he is not stating facts. The “they” is not indentified, which would be expected for a factual statement. That eliminates Option E.

C is the correct answer.

**TIP:** As you complete the practice tests and read this book, pay attention to the vocabulary you see. Many answers require that you know the meaning of the words involved. It may not always be possible to know the meaning of each word, but if you can define at least some of the options, that improves your chances of finding the correct answer. As you study, keep a dictionary handy and look up any words that are unfamiliar to you. Try to put the words in the context of a familiar sentence or situation so that you can remember a basic use of the word.

**Practice Test 2**

**Section 6: WRITING**

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

Read the sentence in your head using each of the options. Try to picture how it would sound if you heard it spoken out loud, and look for anything that just doesn’t sound right.

1. “Confident that she was fully prepared, Ellen decided to spend the night before the recital reading and relaxing but not be practicing.” Hmm, something sounds fishy here. The verbs in the first part of the sentence, *reading* and *relaxing*, are not preceded by the word *be*. So, it would not makes sense to have the word *be* in front of *practicing*. Option A is not the answer.
2. “... Ellen decided to spend the night before the recital reading and relaxing and not for practicing.” Here, the word *for* is not needed. We are not describing what the night is for, but how Ellen will spend it. She would not spend the night *for practicing*. Let’s move to another answer.
3. “... Ellen decided to spend the night before the recital reading and relaxing more than to practice.” This doesn’t sound right, either. “To practice” does not match the other verbs.
4. “... Ellen decided to spend the night before the recital reading and relaxing rather than practicing.” We might be on to something here. The verb tense of *practicing* matches the verb tense of *reading* and *relaxing*. This is a good fit.
5. “... Ellen decided to spend the night before the recital reading and relaxing rather than having practiced.” Nope. This is similar to Option A; the verb phrases don’t match. This one’s not right, either.

D is the correct answer.

In this case, notice that there is an independent clause that does not affect the rest of the sentence, “winner of the Nobel Prize.” The sentence would make sense grammatically without these words, so try taking them out to determine the best answer.

1. “Sir Ronald Ross ... and who identified.” Nope, that doesn’t sound right. Incomplete thought.
2. “Sir Ronald Ross ... he has identified.” We don’t need two subjects here, so this won’t work.
3. “Sir Ronald Ross ... and he has identified.” The “and” is not joining anything, and we have two nouns referring to the same thing. Let’s eliminate this choice.
4. “Sir Ronald Ross ... and who is identifying.” He is not in the process of identifying the mosquito; that action has already occurred. Nope.
5. “Sir Ronald Ross ... identified.” So far, so good. Let’s spell out the whole sentence. “Sir Ronald Ross, winner of the 1902 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, identified the Anopheles mosquito as the transmitter of human malaria.” Sounds good. You have a subject (Sir Ross), a verb (identified), and we know what he identified (the mosquito). This is our answer.

E is the correct answer.

**TIP:** As this section is testing sentence structure and grammar, try shortening the sentences to their most basic state. Eliminating any extra descriptive words or clauses that have no effect on the meaning of the sentence may simplify it and make it easier to determine the correct sentence structure. In its most basic state, a sentence needs a subject (usually a noun) and a predicate (which describes the subject and contains a verb).

1. First, read the sentence. Does it sound right to you? No? Why not? Think about the author’s point in writing the sentence. The author wants to tell us about the beautiful scenery he or she photographed. Which of the options best conveys that message?
2. We already determined this doesn’t sound right. It seems as if the scenery is traveling.
3. Same problem as in Option A, only now the waterfalls and granite peaks are traveling. Are “the waterfalls and scenery” what performed the action *photographed*? Nope. Let’s move on.
4. Looks promising. We have the subject (we), verb (photographed), and what was photographed (waterfalls and peaks). This sounds right.
5. This one is close; it has the correct subject and predicate, but the phrase “being beautiful” just sounds awkward. Wouldn’t it be better just to say “photographed the beautiful scenery”? Let’s eliminate D.
6. It looks like we have some unnecessary words here. Adding “what” and “was” makes the sentence stumble, and it sounds much better without them.

C is the correct answer.

1. Again, a simple sentence is a good sentence. Watch out for words you don’t need. Can you simplify this sentence so it’s easier to understand? Here, we can take out “with his purpose being.” The meaning of the sentence remains the same and becomes clear. “The poet Firdawski composed the Iranian national epic *Shah-nameh* in 1010 to recount the history of the Persian kings.” Looking at the possible answers, this is Option C.

C is the correct answer.

1. This reads more like two sentences than one; we have two separate thoughts. First, she has enriched the world of dance; second, her inspiration came from African-American culture. There is no need to state the subject twice (i.e., “Judith has”; “she uses”). Looks like A is not going to be our answer.

B. This sounds good when read aloud. The subject is stated just once. The two thoughts are combined into one sentence with the second thought (the source of her inspiration) better describing the main subject (the enrichment of the world of dance). This looks like our answer.

C. We don’t need to state *who* after identifying Jamison; it adds one long description of Jamison and creates an incomplete thought. Let’s move on.

D. Pay attention to verb tense here. Simplify this option to “As a choreographer, Jamison enriching ...” Sounds funny, right? You’d need to say “is enriching.” D is not correct.

E. Again, very wordy. “That had the inspiration of . . . .” It’s much easier to say “inspired by,” right? Scratch out this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. Let’s simplify. When this sentence is read aloud, it sounds awful wordy, right? Option A does not look like the best answer. Let’s check out our other options.

B. “Silko has said that her writing, powerfully influenced by family storytellers but that ... her childhood . . . .” This is an incomplete thought. We can eliminate this option.

C. “Silko has said that family storytellers powerfully influenced her writing but that ... her childhood also shaped her vision.” Are there any unnecessary words here? Nope. Are all of the tenses OK? Yep. Does the content of the sentence refer properly to the influence on the author’s writing? Check. This choice is a good one.

D. “Silko has said that storytellers in the family being powerful influences on her writing but that the landscape of her childhood shaped . . . .” Hmm, that doesn’t sound quite right. Again, we have an incomplete thought. Next.

E. “Silko has said that powerfully influential in her writing was family storytellers . . . .” What was powerfully influential in her writing? Storytellers, which is plural noun. So the verb should be *were*. Let’s eliminate this one.

C is the correct answer.  
  
**TIP:** Some incorrect answers in this section use the passive voice, so it may be helpful to know how to identify it. In passive voice, the *subject* of the sentence is *receiving* the action. For example, “I was taught by my teacher”. The subject of the sentence (I) is receiving the action (taught). Usually the subject of the sentence is the *doer* of the action, not the receiver. So, if we want to write this same sentence in the active voice, we would write, “My teacher taught me.” If you can recognize passive voice where it does not belong, it will help you eliminate answers.

1. This question is a classic example of the passive voice explained above. More simply, this sentence says, “It was explored by Antonio,” which is passive voice. We are looking for an option more along the lines of “Antonio explored it.” Let’s see which one works.

1. This could work as two separate sentences, so not a good sign. We know the subject is Antonio, yet the sentence then repeats the subject by saying, “*he* thoroughly explored” Let’s eliminate Option B.
2. Beyond the introductory clause, this sentence basically says that Antonio explored it (i.e., all there was to see). This is what we’re looking for.
3. Again, the point the author is making is that Antonio explored the waterfront. In this sentence, the main emphasis is on “the waterfront is fascinating.” This one does not convey the same meaning, so we’ll move on.
4. Same as Option D above, this sentence structure changes the author’s intent. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. As you’ve done before, read the sentence and try to hear it in your head. Does it sound correct? In this case, yes. It’s got everything we’re looking for, so we can stop here and choose Option A. Quickly skim the other options just to be sure, but there is no need to improve on this sentence.

A is the correct answer.

1. This question is actually quite comical. As written, it sounds as if the people have an ability to eat large numbers of insects. While this could be true, it seems more likely this action should be attributed to the bats. Let’s look for a clearer option.
2. Here, we have the same problem. It sounds like the people are eating the insects. Let’s keep looking.
3. In this option, it is clear that the bats are the ones eating the insects, so we’re getting warmer. But, reading this carefully, it looks like the bats have backyards. This can’t be right.
4. Who is building the houses? Some people are building them. So, that’s clear. It’s also clear that it’s the bats, not the people, who can eat large numbers of insects, and that’s why the houses are being built. We have a winner.
5. “Because of this” is not the best choice to link these two thoughts. Option D is much clearer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Can you find anything at fault with the original sentence? Can you tell what the author is trying to convey? Does it sound wordy or disjointed? Nope? Take a quick look through the other options. Do any seem to improve on the original? Again, nope. It looks like there is nothing wrong with the original sentence, so let’s go with Option A.

A is the correct answer.

1. Let’s go back to sentence structure here. What is the subject? The survival of many species of marine life. What is the action? May depend on. What does the action describe? Two things: a) the enforcement of waste-disposal regulations, and b) the education of the public. So, we want the structure of the two predicates to match, which they do in this case. There are also no unnecessary words or awkward phrases. This sentence looks correct as is, but let’s take a look at the other options.

B. Let’s look at the two predicates: a) enforcement of regulations, and b) educating the public. If the structure of the sentence matched, it would say “enforcing of regulations.” This is not our answer.

C. Again, to match “the public being educated,” the first predicate would need to be “the regulations being enforced.” So, this answer isn’t right, either.

D. “Along with” and “In combination with” (see Option E) are redundant with the word *both* that precedes the two predicates. Neither works with the rest of the sentence. So, we can eliminate both Options D and E.

A is the correct answer.  
  
This section tests your ability to identify grammar mistakes. In each sentence, 4 word(s) are underlined. You are to determine if any of the underlined words reflect incorrect grammar or usage errors. You also have an option to indicate that there are no errors in the sentence.

First, read the whole sentence. Does anything stick out to you? The more you read, the more you may pick up when something in the sentence just doesn’t sound right. Since it helps to know why an answer is right or wrong, we’ll explain all the answers.

1. The sentence should read: “Hearing the unexpected loud noise, Cindy, Leroy, and ***I*** were so startled that we almost jumped out of our seats.”

When choosing between I/me, he/him, etc., try simplifying the sentence. You wouldn’t say “Me was so startled,” just as you would not say, “Cindy, Leroy and me were so startled.”

B is the correct answer.

**TIP:** It will help to understand verb tense, which indicates when the action took place. For example, in the past, it’s “I wrote,” but in the present, it’s “I write.” Also, the verb may change depending on the subject of the sentence and whether it is singular or plural. For example, “she writes” for a singular subject, but “they wrote” for a plural subject. In many cases, the subject may not be the noun immediately preceding the verb, so after you identify the verb, you need to ask yourself who or what is performing the action.

1. The sentence should read: “Many admire Louisa May Alcott for her detailed descriptions of nineteenth century domestic life in novels such as *Little Women*, but few have read the lurid thrillers ***she wrote*** early in her career.”  
     
   The key phrase here is “early in her career.” *Write* is the present tense of the verb “to write,” but Ms. Alcott is not currently writing the novels; this needs to be the past tense, *wrote*.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “According to some critics, the title character of the Greek tragedy *Oedipus Rex* saw himself as the savior of his people and ***believed*** erroneously that he could do no wrong.”  
     
   This is another verb tense issue. Pay attention to the first verb in the sentence, *saw*; this is the past tense. As his seeing was in the past, it would make sense his believing would be as well, so we need the past tense of the verb *to believe.*

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Unlike Thomas, neither Leslie ***nor*** her younger brother Philip has an interest in a career in law.”  
     
   When using *neither* in a sentence that negates two parts, *nor* (not *or*) must be used in the second clause. So, when the word *neither* leads the first part of the sentence, *nor* leads the second. (Similarly *either* and *or* go together.) If these companions are swapped, it should raise a red flag that something is not right.

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “One subject of Felipe Alfau’s second novel, published more than 40 years after it ***was*** written, is the illusory nature of the passage of time.”  
     
   Another verb tense issue. In our sentence above, the novel was written a long time ago, 40 years to be exact. “Has been written” is not the right tense; it’s a form of the present tense, indicating that the action continues to this day. We need a tense that reflects that the action has past.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Joining a grassroots movement against inhumane working conditions, some consumers in the United States have stopped buying products from countries in which workers are essentially ***slave laborers***.”  
     
   Let’s isolate the last few words here: “workers are essentially a slave laborer.” That definitely doesn’t sound right; *workers* is plural and *laborer* is singular. So, we need to use *laborers*.

D is the correct answer.

**TIP:** Try isolating smaller sections of the sentence if you’re stumped. If you can identify a section of the sentence that makes sense on its own, this may help you determine if that particular section is correct or not. It’s always less daunting to work with smaller, more manageable pieces, so try this when evaluating the sentences in this section.

For example, “Tom’s favorite restaurant, La Cucina, specializes in fresh Italian dishes typical of his homeland.” This could be simplified as “It (the restaurant) specializes in dishes.” Just that information alone can help you determine if the verb and other parts of speech are correct.

1. The sentence should read: “As the mayor was evaluating the proposed tax, he was less interested in the revenue it would generate than in whether ***it*** would disproportionately affect income groups.”  
     
   Pronouns such as it, they, she and he replace a noun. So, when you see one of these words, find the noun that the pronoun replaces. In the original sentence, *they* is referring to the proposed tax. Notice that tax is singular. *They* refers to something plural, so this is not correct in this sentence.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Eating garlic has long been regarded as a means of warding off malaise, and scientific research has shown that it does have therapeutic value.”  
     
   Notice this is the same as the original sentence--there are no mistakes (which would make your choice Option E--no errors). We can tell that the research started in the past and continues, thus the past tense verbs, “has been regarded” (Option A) and ‘has shown’ (Option C) match, and these options are correct. Option B is a factual statement; it is a means to ward off malaise. Option D refers to garlic’s ongoing therapeutic value, so the past tense would not make sense here; “does have” correctly expresses that the action is current.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Although the night shift is fully staffed, the managers ***always hold us*** responsible for that shift’s work if it is not finished when we arrive in the morning.   
     
   The verb must match the subject. Let’s use the same verb in a new, simpler sentence to demonstrate. “They holds the book.” or “They hold the book.” The second one, right? The word *they* is plural, much like *managers* is plural, so the verb would be *hold* in this case as well.

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Members of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company have once again shown how the combination of strength and **agility** can produce beautiful movements.   
     
   Look at the two descriptive words here. *Strength* and *being agile*. These words are both used to describe abilities in dance. But strength is a noun, while being agile is a verb and adjective phrase. In order for the sentence to make sense, they should be the same part of speech.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Anne Tyler’s novel *The Accidental Tourist* features a character whose obsession with saving time and money ***is*** absurd, yet somehow plausible.”  
     
   What is absurd? The obsession is. Here, we have a singular noun, but the plural version of “to be” (are). These do not match. Don’t be fooled by the fact that we’re saving time AND money. The verb refers to the obsession, not time and money.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “At the conclusion of *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway, a young Midwesterner recently ***arrived in*** New York, moodily watches the blinking green light at the tip of Long Island.”  
     
   Let’s simplify the middle clause to “He recently arrived to New York.” It doesn’t sound right. The preposition *to* is wrong. When we’re talking about a city, we need to use *in*.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Despite the efforts of the publicity subcommittee, hardly anyone attended the workshop that had been planned so painstakingly.”  
     
   This one is already correct. The use of the word *despite* (Option A) is correct because the efforts of the committee did not result in their desired outcome of people attending the workshop. Option B is correct as “hardly anyone” indicates only a few people came, which would have been contrary to the efforts of the publicity committee. Option C is correct as the actions of the committee are in the past; they had been planned. Option D is correct as *painstakingly* is an adverb describing the action of *planning*.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Peter’s seemingly effortless flights, achieved through the use of sophisticated technical equipment, ***continue*** to delight those who see the play *Peter Pan*.”  
     
   Let’s first ask what the verb *continues* refers to. What is continuing? The equipment? Nope, it’s Peter’s effortless *flights*. So, our subject is plural, but our verb would match a singular subject. We need to say “flights continue” to have the correct verb agreement.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Mediators were standing by, prepared to intervene in the labor dispute even though both sides had refused earlier offers ***of*** assistance.”  
     
   “Offer for” is only used when the one who is offering wants something. For example, “He made an offer for the car.” Here, the mediators don’t want the assistance. They’re offering it to the parties in the labor dispute.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “According to some theorists, what any particular bird can eat could change with even the slightest variation in the shape of its beak.”  
     
   This one is already correct. It clearly states that of the many types of birds, each one’s diet may change based on small variations in beak shape. The message is clear and grammatically correct.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Neither Ms. Perez nor Ms. Tanaka believes that watching as much television as ***our*** son Sam does will lead to anything productive.”  
     
   This one is pretty tricky. As we’ve said before, pronouns such as he, she and it take the place of nouns (such as Ms. Tanaka). Pronouns can also show possession. “The book is hers.” takes the place of “The book is Julie’s.” Take a look at the word *her* (Option C). Who does that refer to? Ms. Perez? Ms. Tanaka? We don’t quite know. This leads us to believe that this possessive pronoun is incorrect. Several options might work, such as “our son” or “my son” or “Ms. Tanaka’s son,” but the pronoun *her* does not properly refer to anyone in this sentence.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “An amateur potter herself, the accountant offered to help the artist with his business accounts, complicated as they were by his unusual system of record keeping.”

This one looks good. The use of *herself* serves to explain that the accountant was also an artist. The second part of the sentence, starting with *complicated*, explains that the artist made his records more difficult to understand by his system of record keeping. The sentence clearly conveys the intended message, so it is correct.

E is the correct answer.

This next section tests your writing skills in a different way than the previous section. Whereas the last section asked you to find errors in grammar & usage, this section asks you to improve sentence structure or word choice, or how the passage is organized or developed. So, as you read the passage, think about whether it makes sense or it could be written better.

Keep in mind that while the SAT *reading* sections may require you to fully understand the point of a passage, this section tests *writing*. You are not going to be inferring answers from the passage, just looking for ways a sentence or section could be improved. So, take a look at the questions first to get a sense of what you’ll be asked. Then, quickly read the passage. Don’t too spend too much time reading as you’ll likely have to re-read portions more closely in order to determine the best answer.

1. This is a simple grammar question, so we can answer it without reading the whole passage. Let’s look at a simplified version of the same sentence structure. For example would you say, “Doctors, they are people who practice medicine”? No, that doesn’t sound right. There is no need to say *they* right after doctors; we know the sentence refers to doctors. So, let’s look for a better answer choice.
2. Again, even with the semi-colon, there is no need to add a pronoun directly after the noun it represents. It’s clear *they* refers to purists, so this answer is not correct.
3. Let’s shorten this sentence: “drew harsh reviews from purists in expecting filmmakers” This might sound right, but if you look back, the past tense of the verb drew is used. It does not match the present tense of the verb form, expecting. This one is not right either.
4. Let’s look just at the second sentence here. “These expected filmmakers to follow the original text exactly.” What does *these* refer to exactly? It’s not clear, so this can’t be it.
5. “drew harsh reviews from purists, those who expect filmmakers to follow the original text exactly.” This looks good. This clarifies who purists are and combines thoughts well, so this looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. First, re-read the sentence prior to sentence 3 to get an idea of the context. Summarize that sentence in as few words as possible. It refers to harsh reviews from purists. Then, sentence 3 mentions “the only positive ones.” *Positive* would be a contradiction to *harsh*, so it seems they would be referring to the same thing; one is positive and the other is harsh. *Reviews*, Option C, looks good. The only other option that is mentioned anywhere in the context of the passage is *remakes* (Option D), but it does not seem likely that remakes would express relief (though reviews could).

C is the correct answer.

1. This is not a complete sentence. There is no verb; what about *Clueless*? Pay attention to the mention of “in context” in the question and think about what we know so far. We’re talking about remakes of classical works. Now, let’s look at the options.
2. “*Clueless* is a remake of Jane Austen’s 1815 novel *Emma*.” OK, now we have a verb and the sentence is grammatically correct. But, does it progress the passage? Does it flow well with the critiques mentioned before it? Not so much. Let’s keep looking.
3. This looks promising. Like the option above, we now have a verb, and the sentence is grammatically correct. In addition, the introductory clause about *Clueless* being a “supposed outrage” fits logically with the sentence that comes before it.
4. While this may seem to fit within the context, the use of *we* seems out of place. At this point in the passage, the author is addressing the view of purists, not claiming to be among these purists. So, the use of *we* disqualifies this option.
5. *Yet* would mean a contrast from the preceding idea. *Clueless* is being compared to the prior examples as similar, not contrasting, so this won’t work.

C is the correct answer.

1. This question asks you to identify a tool used by the author *in the first paragraph* to get his or her point across. In that paragraph, the author discusses modern remakes of classical works and how they are viewed by critics. In the second paragraph, he or she argues against their views. Let’s look over each answer to determine which one best describes the author’s approach.
2. This looks promising. In paragraph 1, the author presents a viewpoint that he or she ends up disagreeing with. So, paragraph 1 contrasts with the essay’s argument. Let’s keep this one in mind.
3. The author is describing the views of others in the first paragraph, so this is obviously not a description of a personal experience. Let’s eliminate this one.
4. There is no analysis in paragraph 1. That starts in paragraph 2. This is not correct.
5. The paragraph is has little to do with writing approaches. Nope.
6. Nothing about this paragraph implies playfulness. This is not our answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. This one can be answered without the context of the passage; it is a sentence structure question. Let’s look at the options.
2. Think about what commas are used for—to create pause in the flow of the sentence. They are not used to join separate thoughts. In this sentence, “he would recognize the swaggering teenagers in the movie” and “they would be distance relatives” are two separate thoughts. They both state the subject (teenagers or they). So, we need something that will join the two thoughts; the comma is not cutting it. Option A is not correct.
3. This option also uses a comma to join the two options, so this is also not correct.
4. A semi-colon can be used to separate two independent but related thoughts, so this looks good at first. But look at the verbs in both thoughts. “He would recognize . . . .” does not match with “they were.” We need a better way to state the two thoughts. Let’s keep looking.
5. Let’s simplify this sentence. He would recognize them for being relatives. This doesn’t sound quite right. They are not being recognized *for* something. There is a better word to express this thought, and you’ll find it in Option E.
6. Let’s simplify this one as we did above. He would recognize them *as* relatives. This sounds right.

E is the correct answer.

1. Skim the lines around this sentence to get an idea of the context in which it’s written. In the sentences prior, the author notes that many classical authors, including Shakespeare, borrowed themes from writers who came before them.
2. This option does not sync nicely with the context. In the preceding sentence, the author says “No doubt Shakespeare would have . . . .” So, to be consistent, “would have” would be a better choice of verb than “could have” in describing Austen’s reaction. This is not our answer.
3. This option uses the same strong language found in the rest of the paragraph, “Austen would have,” *and* notes that Austen’s reaction would have been similar to Shakespeare’s. This looks good.
4. The author believes that Austen would have felt similarly to Shakespeare. So *however*, which notes a contrast, does not make sense. Next.
5. *In addition to* would refer to another example related to the Shakespeare remake. This is not correct.
6. While the author seems pretty sure how Shakespeare and Austen would react, there is no way to know this for sure, as the word *can* would indicate. This is not our answer.

B is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 2**

**Section 7: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. “Geoffrey’s corrupt dealings earned him such disgrace that any possibility of his being reelected to the city council was completely *gone*.”

Given the use of the word *disgrace*, we can infer that this person is not likely to be reelected. Let’s see which options might make this point.

1. We concluded that this person would not be reelected, so that outcome would certainly not be *ensured*. Next.
2. *Approved* would also assume the outcome was a good one. Nope.
3. *Belittled* would infer that the possibility was criticized, which doesn’t quite make sense. This is not correct.
4. *Eliminated* makes sense. This is similar to *gone*, the word we guessed, and corrupt dealing would certainly eliminate one’s chances of being reelected. This one looks good.
5. Possibilities usually are not *defended*, so we can eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. “Although the editors were reputed to be very *good*, the uneven quality of the material they put into the anthology suggests they were too *lenient*.”

The use of the word *although* is a big clue that the two words we are choosing will be opposite. In this statement, it’s easier to pick the second word first. What word would suggest uneven quality for an editor? Lenient works. For the first word, we want something that would be contrary to the uneven result. Let’s make a guess of *good* and see how this works with the possible answers.

1. *Amateurish* would be considered the opposite of *good*, and an uneven quality would not imply a *professional* manner. This is not correct.
2. *Lax* is similar to lazy. It seems the editors had a good reputation, so this answer won’t work.
3. The first word, *selective*, is promising, as editors doing a good job would be selective. It’s also the opposite of the word we chose earlier, *lenient*. The second word, *inclusive*, is the opposite of *selective*, and uneven editorial work could be too inclusive. This looks like our answer.
4. While the first word, *judgmental,* would be a good attribute for an editor, the second word, *discriminating*, would be too similar. We need two words that mean different things, so this is not a good choice.
5. *Sensitive* is not an attribute we would think would be good for an editor, so let’s eliminate this one.

C is the correct answer.

1. “The professor’s presentation was both *short* and *helpful*: though brief, it was instructive.”

The part of this sentence after the colon gives us a clue about the types of words we are looking for as this is just a reiteration of the first part of the sentence. *Brief* and *short* mean similar things, while *instructive* and *helpful* are related. Let’s look for similar words in the given options.

1. *Verbose* means lengthy. This is the opposite of what we are looking for, so we can eliminate this answer right away. If you do not know the meaning of one of the words, check the second word to see if that word could work. In this case, we can also eliminate the second word, *mundane*, a synonym for *boring* as well.
2. *Concise* is a synonym for brief and short; so far, so good. *Elaborate*, however, implies that the presentation was more was complicated than instructive, so this is not our answer.
3. Something that is *comprehensive* covers a large amount of material, so this does not fit with *brief* or *short*. Let’s keep looking.
4. *Succinct* is a synonym for *brief*, so we are looking good so far. *Enlightening* is similar to *instructive*, so this looks like our answer.
5. *Provocative* means something that elicits a strong reaction, not something that is brief. Let’s eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. “With its large circulation, Essence magazine has enjoyed *unmatched success* only recently challenged by new publications aggressively seeking female African-American readers.”

A large circulation for a magazine would note success, and the fact that this publication has only recently seen major competition would imply that its success was unmatched in its field. Let’s look for a word that might mean ‘unmatched success.’

1. If you’re not sure what an aggregation is, think about another form of the word you may recognize. Does the term *aggregate* look familiar? It is a combination of things. This does not look related to unmatched success, so let’s move on.
2. An *inclination* would refer to a likelihood of something occurring, as in “I am inclined to believe . . . .” This doesn’t quite fit with success, so we can eliminate this option.
3. A *prognosis* would be the prediction of a future outcome. This is not related to success, so this is not correct.
4. Think about what trenches are used for—hiding. The magazine did not enjoy going into hiding, so this, too, is not correct.
5. *Preeminence* means to be the best in one’s field, so this looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. “The judge’s published opinions, though sophisticated and subtle, were undeniably *clear*: they left no doubt of her intentions.”

We have a good clue in the words after the colon; it is restating the point. So, we are looking for a word that would reflect “no doubt.” One word that would fit the bill is *clear*. Let’s use these clues to find the best answer.

1. *Unequivocal* is a synonym for *clear*; it leaves no doubt and is not subtle. This looks like a good choice.
2. *Effusive* would be wordy and lengthy. It does not imply that the judge’s intentions were clear. Let’s keep looking.
3. *Incorrigible* would describe someone whose behavior is uncontrollable. This does not fit with clear, so this is not our answer.
4. *Tenuous* would be more the opposite of clear; it is flimsy and shaky. This is not correct.
5. *Ineffable*, or indescribable, would be the opposite of clear, so we can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. The passage starts out with “a movement is” and then goes on to provide an example. Let’s look for an option that best describes this.
2. An opinion would start with “I think” or otherwise state the author’s feelings, which is not the case here.
3. The author is not questioning anything here. It’s a rather authoritative statement, so this is not correct.
4. An abstract idea would be hard to define, which would contradict the line, “a movement is” so this option does not make sense.
5. *Define*—this is what the author is doing by stating “a movement is” He or she is defining what a movement is. This looks like our answer.
6. No problem is stated here, so this couldn’t be a proposed solution. Next.

D is the correct answer.

1. Skim the passage and look for a section that would point to why black artists and writers were important to the freedom struggle. Take a look at lines 9-10: “Black writers and artists, as a vital sector of the movement . . . .” This gives us a clue that the answer to our question would come in the next line: “… sought to transform the manner in which Black American were represented or portrayed in literature and the arts.” So, now we just need to find the answer that best states this.
2. There is no mention made of freedom of expression, so this seems unlikely.
3. “Altering the way Black people are depicted”is different way to state “transforming how they are portrayed” in the arts. So, this looks like a winner.
4. There is no mention made of protest art, so we can eliminate this option.
5. There is no indication that the Black writers and artists were opposed excessive individualism, so this is not correct.
6. The artists did not prescribe any course of action; they just changed the way Black people were represented in the arts. This is not our answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. First, state what you think is the main point of the passage. “Cool is a slang word that has stayed in fashion.” Now let’s look for an option that states something similar.
2. A pressing question? Slang words? Not so much.
3. The passage does define cool, but that is not the primary purpose of the passage. The main purpose is to note the term’s longevity. This is not quite right.
4. Durability implies that the term has been in fashion for a long time, which we had determined is the primary purpose of the passage. Looks good.
5. The passage does not provide any personal opinions, so the author neither opposes nor supports a particular statement. This is not our answer.
6. There is no challenge or opinion stated, so we can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s look at the line containing the words “fashion designs”: “but slang terms, like fashion designs, are rarely ‘in’ for long.” So, “fashion designs” are fleeting; they quickly come and go. So, we’re looking for a word that describes this trend.
2. Fashion designs can be provocative. In this sentence, however, they are not trying to excite; they are fleeting. We can eliminate this answer.
3. Something that is ephemeral lasts for only a short time. This looks like a winner.
4. Pretentious would describe someone snobby or pompous. It’s a word more associated with people than fashion. Regardless, it certainly doesn’t mean fleeting. Next.
5. This would refer to something intended for or understood by a small group. This word is also not similar to fleeting. We can eliminate this answer.
6. There is no mention of how exotic or fanciful the designs are. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

**TIP**: Pay attention to the verbs at the beginning of the answers to questions 10-12. Ask yourself if the passage is conveying these actions; they are big clues that can help you eliminate options.

1. Ask yourself what you think the primary purpose of this passage is. This passage describes the scientific efforts made to better understand Venus’ atmosphere and surface. Now, let’s see if any of the options gel with our summary.
2. There is nothing critical here—just a straightforward summary of theories. Next.
3. The author points to several theories that were based on research. The researchers may have done some speculating as their research evolved, but this is not the primary purpose of the passage. Next.
4. The author does not lament, or express sorrow, over any one theory. He or she does not show any personal feelings toward the subject, so we can eliminate this option.
5. Not much attention is paid here to illustrating the principles of planetary research. The purpose is to present the theories about Venus that came about as a result. This is not correct.
6. The author discusses several theories, which are attempts to understand an astronomical enigma (something that is unknown). This is our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Much like we summarized the primary purpose of the passage in the last question, we can also summarize the primary purpose of just a few lines. These lines indicate that Venus is physically similar to Earth, so one would think its atmosphere might be like Earth’s as well. This, though, is not the case.
2. A dismissal of sorts has taken place; the author presents the idea that Venus and Earth have similarities, but then points to an area where that is not true. In other words, “You would think it could be so, but it is not.” This looks promising.
3. The author does not mock any information in the passage; it is presented as plausible, though false. This is not correct.
4. The author does not bolster or endorse a particular idea. He or she is explaining an early assumption that turned out to be false.
5. The author’s primary purpose here is to present a theory that proved to be incorrect. No particular experiment is detailed or summarized, so let’s move on.
6. The key to eliminating this option is word *controversial*. The theory that was proven wrong was presented as plausible rather than controversial. We can eliminate this option.

A is the correct answer.

1. What would be your summary of this paragraph? The answer can be found in the first sentence: “Yet opinions differed.” So, we are looking at different theories here. Let’s see which answer best sums this up.
2. As several theories are presented here, there is no support assumed for any one of them. This is not correct.
3. This paragraph takes no sides, so it does not present any challenge.
4. Again, no stance is taken by the author; there is no evidence that a particular hypothesis was misguided.
5. The author makes no suggestions. Nor is there any support that Venus has been romanticized. Next.
6. This paragraph makes note of two differing theories. This option fits as the summary of the paragraph, so we have a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. The hypothesis presented in these lines could be summarized as “Venus would have a rich variety of life.” This question asks us what would *prevent* the hypothesis from being true. Since the next paragraph debunks the theory of Venus having this rich variety of life, our answer likely lies within it.
2. A warm and humid environment would not prevent things like vegetation. This is not correct.
3. An atmosphere of pure carbon dioxide could prevent a planet from having plant and animal life like Earth. Indeed, the next paragraph that serves to explain why Venus does not have this life mentions an atmosphere of pure carbon dioxide. This option looks good.
4. The passage makes no mention of evolution, and it seems unlikely that evolution would prevent life from occurring on Venus. Let’s eliminate this answer.
5. While a lack of light for photosynthesis would make it difficult for plant life to thrive, this is not mentioned at all in the passage, so this answer is unlikely.
6. Being able to fly with ease would indicate that a planet could sustain life. This has little to do with our topic; this answer makes no sense.

B is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, we learn that the first reliable information about Venus was collected in 1962. What can we infer from this? Let’s take a look at our options.
2. There is no mention of surprise—especially regarding the quality of the information. Let’s keep looking.
3. Noting that the information collected in 1962 was the *first* *reliable* information would imply that the information that came before was unreliable. In other words, untrustworthy, so this answer is looking good.
4. The scientists did not rediscover old records; they received new information. This answer is incorrect.
5. This new information may have formulated a new theory, but we cannot know this from this sentence alone. We only know that this new information was reliable. As far as we know, it could have proved an existing theory. This is not the correct answer.
6. Again, we don’t know from this sentence what theory came about from this new evidence, only that it was reliable. Let’s eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. “The answer can be only be . . . .” means the author is pretty sure about the answer to this question about why Venus is so unlike Earth. Let’s take a look and see which option best describes this tone.
2. The author does not express regret for any past happenings, so this answer seems unlikely.
3. The author neither protects a stance nor seems guarded; he or she seems quite sure. This is not the correct answer.
4. Questioning something would reflect a skeptical tone. The author does not question the conclusion; he or she is sure of it. We can eliminate this answer.
5. *Decisive* is another word for *sure*. If the answer *can only be* one thing, the author sounds quite decisive. This is promising.
6. The author is not amused; there is little emotion shown here, so this is incorrect.

D is the correct answer.

1. What is *regular* used to describe in this sentence? The “aggressive two-dimensionality of Brooklyn.” Also note that this contrasts with the “sensual curves of Puerto Rico.” So, we can take a guess that *regular* refers to something uninteresting and mundane.
2. *Customary* refers to something that is common practice. This does not seem to contrast with “sensual curves,” so let’s keep looking.
3. We get the impression the narrator does not like Brooklyn so far, so it seems unlikely she would find it agreeable. Next.
4. *Unvarying* is akin to two-dimensional; it is boring. This looks promising.
5. There is no mention of a recurring action, so we can eliminate this answer.
6. While *average* and *regular* are similar, *regular* is used here to describe a scene that contrasts with what is ordinary to the narrator. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s look at some of the descriptive words in this sentence*: pounded the hard streets, dim silver glow, glistening sparks, tiny ephemeral jewels.* This does not seem like a literal description of what the narrator sees. It rather compares the raindrops to jewels; it is more descriptive than informative. Keep this in mind as you look at the possible answers.
2. Words like “glistening sparks” and “ephemeral jewels” do not describe a despairing mood. Let’s move on.
3. The words used are quite vivid—*dim silver glow, jewels*. The author uses imagery to present the scene. This option looks like a winner.
4. There’s not much of anything funny here, so let’s eliminate this option.
5. Nostalgic would describe a fond look at the past. This is not what we have here. Next.
6. The language is quite the opposite of abstract; it is quite clear and vivid. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The key word here is *disillusioned*. The narrator expected the streets of Brooklyn to be “paved with gold.” So, we’re looking for an answer that expresses this disillusionment.
2. The reference to “streets paved with gold” is an expression. It is not literally related to money or economics. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. The narrator’s disillusionment is not related to her ambitions; she merely expected to enjoy herself more. This is not the correct answer.
4. There is no transformation referred to in this statement. A transformation would imply that Brooklyn had somehow changed, but this is the narrator’s first impression. Let’s keep looking.
5. Hmm, no mention of greed here. This option also misinterprets the “paved with gold” expression. Next.
6. The narrator’s disillusionment was caused by her expectations that Brooklyn would have streets paved with gold. Needless to say, these would be unrealistic expectations, and so this option looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. What are some key words in this sentence that would point to how the narrator feels about Brooklyn? *No horizon, vertical maze, gray, brown, sharp corners, deep shadows.* We definitely get the impression that she is not enjoying Brooklyn, so that gives us a start.
2. *Mysterious* would imply puzzling. This does not match the descriptive words we picked out. In addition, the narrator, with her negative comments, seems to think she already knows Brooklyn, so *unknowing* also seems unlikely. Let’s keep looking.
3. *Uniform* fits with the descriptions of sharp corners, and oppressive fits with the deep shadows. This looks like a winner.
4. The narrator may describe Brooklyn as “orderly,” but certainly not appealing. We can eliminate this answer.
5. “Drab *yet* multifaceted.” Drab certainly fits with the gray and brown descriptions, but the narrator doesn’t include any other sides of Brooklyn so we can’t say her experience is multifaceted. Next.
6. *Alluring* would suggest the narrator finds something attractive in the area, which is not the case here. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take a look at some key words that describe this interaction. *Shyly* is a good clue, as is “pretended to ignore her.” We can guess they weren’t fast friends, but they were curious about each other. Let’s see which answer makes sense based on this impression.
2. If they didn’t want to meet each other, the narrator would not have pretended to ignore the other girl and the other girl would not have “appraised her.” Next.
3. This could be true, but there is no clue here that would point to fear on the part of either girl, so this does not look like the best answer.
4. If they acted like they already knew each other, we would expect them to be more open and not pretend to ignore each other. This is not the correct answer.
5. While this could be the case, there are no clues that they were suspicious. Also, it would be hard for the narrator to study the other girl while pretending to ignore her. Let’s see if there is a better answer.
6. Cautious would be a good way to describe their shy interaction, and they obviously took note of each other, so this one looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s summarize what is happening in this exchange. The narrator is surprised at the new girl’s use of the term Hispanic to describe her and asks for more information about what this means.
2. Would you characterize this as a debate? Not so much. The narrator seems to accept the new girl’s opinions while questioning them herself. And there’s no discussion of personality. Let’s keep looking.
3. There is a discussion going on, but not necessarily regarding the *value* of the term. It’s more about how to define the term, so this option does not work.
4. Hmm, no strategies are discussed here. In that case, there would be ideas presented in what each could do, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. This looks promising. Once the term Hispanic is introduced, a discussion ensues on what makes one Hispanic. Thus, we have an attempt to identify the criteria that makes one Hispanic.
6. The narrator is not confused. She never identified with any group before, and now she’s been presented with a new group that she could identify with. There’s no mention of any effort toward personal independence or autonomy from any group at all, so this is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, the narrator states that she never put much thought into her ethnic identity. She was Puerto Rican and didn’t think that would change by moving to Brooklyn.
2. This section has more to do with ethnic identity than the end of childhood innocence. We can eliminate this option.
3. This looks good. She makes reference to the only identity she has ever known, Puerto Rican, and is confused that this might no longer be her identity. This option sums up the passage quite nicely.
4. There is no mention of this being a restriction. It’s a new concept she’s trying to understand, not overcome. Let’s move on.
5. The narrator does not see this new label as an opportunity. She does not seem to know what to think about it; she is confused. This is not the correct answer.
6. Although this new identity is attributed to her immigration to Brooklyn, there are no clues that would point to the narrator feeling this was unavoidable. This option doesn’t quite work.

B is the correct answer.

1. In this passage, the mother is angry with her daughter for venturing out of the home. She insinuates that the sidewalks are not safe here as they were in Puerto Rico.
2. Nostalgia would indicate that the mother was missing Puerto Rico, which is not the point here. The point is that Brooklyn is not as safe as Puerto Rico. Let’s move on.
3. This conversation is not about cultural differences or attitudes of New Yorkers. Let’s keep looking.
4. The mother does not embrace New York with her statement. She is angry with her daughter for not being more cautious. This is not our answer.
5. This option states the opposite of what’s going on in the passage. The mother’s anger at her daughter venturing onto the sidewalk suggests life needs to be more restricted in New York. Next.
6. The emphasis on this not being Puerto Rico suggests that this is the answer; the narrator should act differently in New York. The rules are different here. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. So, let’s sum up what has happened so far. The narrator has been transplanted to this new place that she doesn’t like. She has been confronted with new ideas regarding her ethnic identity. In addition, she’s been given a new set of rules for behavior, and told that New York is a dangerous place. The last paragraph gives us some clues about how she might be feeling: *downcast eyes, I quaked, greater dangers lie ahead.*
2. *Apathy* would imply that the narrator does not actually care much about what is going on. If this were true, she would likely not quake over the dangers that lie ahead. We can eliminate this option.
3. Downcast eyes would signal sadness rather than anger. She is upset that she is facing these changes. Let’s keep looking.
4. While she does seem defeated by the fact that her life has changed for the worse, she has not fully resigned to this fact. This would be more along the lines of *apathy* (Option A); it would show a lack of caring. That is not indicated here, so this is not the best answer.
5. The narrator’s quaking and imagining the dangers ahead point to fearfulness. She is scared of what is to come. And the concern over what lies ahead conveys the feeling that she is uncertain of what the future in Brooklyn holds for her. We have a winner.
6. *Resentment* and *defiance* - We would have more angry words to indicate these feelings. And we’ve already established that she is more sad than angry, so this doesn’t look right.

D is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 2**

**Section 9: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. “Many paintings of the American Southwest convey a feeling of isolation and loneliness that mirrors the *empty* landscape they depict.”

The word mirrors tells us that the missing word will be similar to the isolation and loneliness that are mentioned. Also, if you know that the American Southwest is a desert landscape, you can also look for a word that would describe such a setting.

1. *Lush* is pretty much the opposite of the Southwest landscape; there’s not much plant life. Next.
2. *Sprawling* usually refers to an area with lots of growth (e.g., a sprawling neighborhood) which is the opposite of isolated. This is not our answer.
3. Something that is *desolate* is isolated and bare, much like the desert. It matches our guess of *empty* fairly well. This answer looks good.
4. *Gaudy* describes something elaborately decorated and tacky. This does not mesh with isolation and loneliness. Let’s keep looking.
5. *Monumental* does not describe something empty, so this is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. “Only recently created, this orchid is a *cross-breed*, a plant produced by deliberately crossbreeding two different varieties of flowers.”

The second part of this sentence (“a plant produced . . . .”) actually defines the missing word, so we are looking for a word with a meaning similar to cross-breed.

1. A misnomer is a word that gives a false impression of something, not something that is combined or crossed. Let’s keep looking.
2. Think about other situations in which you’ve seen the word *hybrid.* A hybrid car is a cross between a gas-powered and electric car, much like this orchid is a cross between two different flower varieties. This looks like a winner.
3. A vector is usually depicted as a line traveling in a particular direction. This doesn’t work as another word for cross-breed, so this is not correct.
4. The orchid is not described as having curative or healing powers, so we can eliminate this option.
5. This particular orchid is not a precursor, or one that precedes something else; it is a unique, new type, created from two other flowers.

B is the correct answer.

1. “The pharmaceutical company insisted that its testing of new drugs was quite *strict*, more rigorous than the industry standard.”

We are looking for a word that would describe testing that is very rigorous. Strict would be one option, so let’s see if one of our answer choices may be similar.

1. Testing can be described as *stringent*, and this word is a synonym for strict or rigorous, so this looks promising.
2. *Dispersive* comes from *disperse*, or to scatter. This does not have much to do with rigorous testing, so we can eliminate this answer.
3. The testing does not rely on certain factors or conditions, so there is nothing *conditional* here. Nope.
4. The testing is not receding, or backing off. This option makes no sense.
5. We don’t get the sense that the testing is obtrusive, or standing out, so let’s eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. “Freedom of expression is not necessarily a *threatening* force: communities that encourage it often feel less threatened by social unrest than do those in which dissent is *discouraged*.”

For the first missing word, we are looking for something that would contrast with feeling less threatened, thus we’ll guess our word is along the lines of *threatened*. For the second missing word, we are talking about the opposite of encouraging freedom of expression, so we’ll be looking for something that would *discourage* it.

1. *Revolutionary* could be described as threatening but the second word, *promoted*, is the opposite of *discouraged*, so we can eliminate this option. Next.
2. *Positive* is not at all similar to our chosen word, *threatening*, so let’s keep looking.
3. If freedom of expression were not a successful force, you would think that communities that encouraged it would feel *more* threatened. Let’s go no further with this one.
4. A *divisive* force could be threatening. This looks promising, so on to the next word. Communities that encourage freedom of expression are less threatened by dissent than those where it is *restricted* (similar to discouraged). This looks like our answer.
5. *Militant* could describe something that is threatening. The word *fostered,* however, is not similar to our guess, *discouraged*, so we can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. Thomas Hardy’s novels are described as *rustic* because of their preoccupation with daily life in rural and agricultural settings.”

The novels are described based on their depiction of rural life. So, how would you describe rural or agricultural life? Rustic is one word that comes to mind, but let’s see how the answer choices describe it.

1. Have you ever heard the term *bucolic setting*? It would describe a farm-like, rural setting. So, this option looks like a winner.
2. *Prolific* typically describes someone that is highly productive (e.g., a prolific writer is someone who writes many books). This would not describe Hardy’s *novels.* This is not the correct answer.
3. *Lugubrious* means mournful or gloomy. This does not sound like a description of rural life. Next.
4. *Sundry*, or various, would not really describe novels since they consistently deal with one subject, agricultural life, so this is not correct..
5. For Harvey’s novels would not be describedas *metaphorical* simply because they are about rural life. They would need to be compared to something else, which is not the case here.

A is the correct answer.

1. “Some skeptics consider the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) to be *stupid*, even foolish; others go so far as to accuse SETI scientists of outright *deception* in applying skewed data.”

The first missing word would be a synonym for foolish, so perhaps *stupid*. The second word describes the use of data that has been manipulated. It sounds like the scientists engaged in deceptive practices, so *deception* would be a good choice here.

1. *Misguided* is a synonym for foolish. So far, so good. *Remonstrance* means to prove your case. Since this would not mesh with our guess, *deception,* let’s keep looking.
2. *Absurd* is also a synonym for foolish, but the second word, *erudition* would imply the data was correct and based on hard, erudite facts, which is not likely with skewed data. Next.
3. If something is plausible, it could be true, which would not work as another word for foolish, so this option is not correct.
4. Something that is painstaking requires a lot of hard work, not something foolish, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. Something that is *wrongheaded* could be stupid or foolish, so we are on the right track. *Chicanery* means trickery or deception, which matches our guess for the second missing word, so it looks like we have a winner.

E is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. In Passage 1 comic books are described as non-educational junk and a waste of time. Passage 2 argues that while comic books may not be very educational, they provide kids some fun to help escape the pressures of school. Given the summary of each passage, it does not seem that the authors agree very much, except for comic books not being educational. We need to find the answer that reflects this one point of agreement.
2. The author of Passage 2 gives examples of comic books helping social development by offering kids relief from pressures, so this is not the best answer.
3. The author of Passage 1 does not advocate self-regulation; he or she thinks comic books should not be read at all. Let’s keep looking.
4. The author of Passage 1 clearly thinks that comic books have no educational value. The author of Passage 2 refers to comic books as junk, and that junk has no education value. So, this is a good choice.
5. Neither author makes any mention of how available comic books are to kids, so we can eliminate this option.
6. The author of Passage 1 certainly does not find comic books amusing, so this is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. The author refers to “Education is not merely a question of learning.” We often associate the word *question* with a statement that makes an inquiry, but there are different uses for the word, such as *issue*. So, let’s look for a word with similar meaning. You can also replace the word *question* with each answer choice to see which makes sense.
2. “Education is not merely a *matter* of learning.” This keeps the intent of the sentence, so this one looks promising.
3. There is no request being made here; the author is not asking; he or she is making a statement. So, this option is not correct.
4. “An *objection* of learning”? There is no protest here, so we can eliminate this option.
5. “Education is not merely a *possibility* of learning.” This word is neither similar to *issue*, which we first liked nor to *matter*, which we liked in Option A. This one is out.
6. “A doubt of learning”? It does not make sense to describe education as a doubt. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. Let’s read the question carefully. The author criticizes those who would make a sharp distinction between entertainment and learning. So, we can infer that the author does not think there is a clear distinction between the two.
2. The focus of this answer is on educators. The author focuses on the children, not those who teach them. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author does not argue that entertainment is the only path to learning. He or she feels that entertainment should also be educational. Next.
4. If the author feels that there is no distinction between the two, we could say the two are interrelated. This answer looks promising.
5. Remember that the author is not fond of comic books, so he or she wouldn’t think they would inspire kids. Nope.
6. There is no mention of textbooks or humor, so we can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. These lines follow the statement “Children spend an enormous amount of time on comic books, but their gain is nil.” So, we should keep this in mind when determining the primary purposes of the lines that follow.
2. The primary purpose of the author’s statement is to show the lack of gain from comic books, not the students’ lack of interest in learning. Let’s keep looking.
3. These lines do not condemn those who may profit from comic books, so we can eliminate this option.
4. Hmm, there’s no mention of any failings on the part of the educational system; the failings are those of comic books. Next.
5. The author’s examples of the children’s lack of gain indicates how they are short-changed by comic books. This looks like a good option.
6. These lines do not serve to specify how comic books might be improved.

D is the correct answer.

1. The author of Passage 1 states that he has never seen an adult keep a comic book for any reason. The author of Passage 2 mentions a different experience (lines 38 & 39). So, which statement best expresses author #2’s thoughts on this?
2. This claim is about adults, so the author of Passage 2 would not assert anything regarding adolescents here. Next.
3. The author of Passage 2 actually argues that comic book do have lifelong value, so let’s keep looking.
4. The author of Passage 2 does not address comic books as pop culture museum items, so this is not correct.
5. The author of Passage 2 sees the logic in the sentimental value of comic books, so we can eliminate this option.
6. The author of Passage 2 mentions “old comic book fans” who save, buy and trade them. And, considering that this statement refutes the Passage 1 assertion that comic books have no value for adults, this is a statement that the author of Passage 2 would most likely assert. This one looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. Passage 1 claims that children have nothing to show for the time and money spent on comic books. We have to find an argument made in Passage 2 that would reject that claim.
2. Passage 2 makes no mention of the comparable costs of comic books, so let’s keep looking.
3. Neither passage argues that comic books should openly acknowledge their true purpose. Next.
4. Passage 2’s argument that comic books are not a waste of time and money is that they give children a break from stress, so this looks like a good option.
5. This argument is not addressed in Passage 2, so we can eliminate this option.
6. Passage 2 never mentions that comic books have never been proven to be a potential distraction from homework, so this is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. The quotation marks around the word ‘fanzines’ are followed by a description of the term, “strange little publications.” Which option best describes the purpose of the quotation marks here?
2. The traditional definition of a word would be found in a dictionary. Does “strange little publications” sound like a definition you’d find in a dictionary? Of course not. Next.
3. This makes sense. The quotation marks indicate an alternative definition to explain a term that may be unfamiliar. This looks like a winner.
4. The quotes wouldn’t indicate that fanzines are a concept. Let’s keep looking.
5. There is no hypothesis stated. This option is not correct.
6. There is no assertion being declared, so we can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The latter refers to “there is no such thing as … educational junk.” The author claims that attempts at “educational junk” have, from time to time, been foisted upon us. With the choice of words, “foisted upon us,” it seems these attempts were not wanted, and with “from time to time,” we get the impression that these attempts were not long-lasting.
2. The author’s point is that attempts to turn junk into an educational experience were forced upon children, not that they were of particular poor quality. Let’s keep looking.
3. These attempts may have been unpopular, but they were not actual changes—just attempts to change the nature of comic books. Let’s look for a better option.
4. There is nothing to show that these attempts were misunderstood creations; they were new concepts forced upon children from time to time. This is not correct.
5. Failure is inferred by the mention that these attempts happened from time to time. And, they were ill-conceived because children did not gain any value from them. This option makes sense.
6. We don’t have any indication that these attempts were any type of imitations. Nope.

D is the correct answer.

1. “Junk is there to entertain at the basest, most compromised of levels.” We can infer that *compromised* is used to reiterate the basest, or primal, levels. This entertainment is not of high quality; it is unsophisticated. Let’s look for an option that describes these most basic of levels.
2. *Settled* could also mean comfortable, but this does not describe a basic level of entertainment. Next.
3. What would the “most endangered levels” refer to? This makes no sense, so let’s keep looking.
4. A compromise could represent what results when you combine different viewpoints, but this is clearly not how it is used in this sentence. Next.
5. Does *reconciled* convey the same meaning as base level? Nope.
6. This looks like a good choice. Something that is *degraded* is at a low level. It has been reduced to the most basic level, which matches the intent in this sentence.

E is the correct answer.

1. As this is a longer part of the passage, let’s skim and summarize it. The author claims that kids have little freedom and strict schedules during their school days, and comic books provide relief from these pressures. Let’s see which option best fits with our assessment of comic books.
2. The author does not mention fears, only pressures. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author argues against the critical scrutiny, so this does not make sense. Next.
4. This particular part of the passage focuses on children, no adults, so this cannot be the right answer.
5. This one looks good. Kids get relief from pressures and that is therapeutic, or comforting.
6. No mention is made that kids who read comic books learn how to write well, so we can’t describe the books as ‘inspiring writing.’

D is the correct answer.

1. These lines seem to refer to kids acting out scenes from a comic book (think Batman or Superman). Given that the author of Passage 1 argues against any value in reading comic books, which option would describe how he/she would feel about kids acting in this way?
2. These lines refer to kids’ behavior, not their ability to read. Next.
3. While the author of Passage 1 may feel that the schools should keep students from acting this way, he or she is fighting against comic books, not critiquing the school system. This answer is not correct.
4. The act of roaming free in costume has little to do with education, so let’s keep looking.
5. These lines are about children behaving like their superheroes. It is doubtful that the author of Passage 1 would regard this behavior as evidence of the commonplace narratives found in comic books. Let’s eliminate this option.
6. The author of Passage 1 is concerned about comic books influencing kids’ behavior for the worse. He or she clearly states, “they do suggest many things that are harmful.” This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. How would you describe the tones of each passage? The first author seems critical and almost outraged by comic books. The second author takes a more laid-back approach, and would likely think the first author is no fun. So, when evaluating these choices, we are looking for a description of the first author’s tone that would contrast with that of the second author.
2. The first passage is not conversational. It’s taken from a study so it has more of a lecturing tone. This doesn’t work.
3. If Passage 1 had a facetious tone, it would seem like the author was not taking the subject seriously; it would have a joking nature. We don’t see that here, so let’s move on.
4. The author of Passage 1 takes a very strong stand, which could be described as severe. The second author has a much more laid-back approach. We have the contrast we are looking for, so this option looks like a winner.
5. The first passage is written with a very straight forward tone. The author does not inject bitterness (i.e., sarcasm) when presenting the case against comic books. We can eliminate this option.
6. Both passages state a point of view followed by support for that view, but neither is overwhelmingly analytical. This is not the best answer choice.

C is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 2**

**Section 10: WRITING**

Congrats, you’re in the final stretch. You’ve now reached the final section of the test. You can see the end. But don’t be tempted to race through. Yes, you’re tired. You’re ready to be done. But still, take a deep breath and try to concentrate for these final 10 minutes. You’ve worked hard to get this far; don’t blow it by getting lazy at the end.

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. Does this sound right to you? Nope, so let’s look closely at the underlined section. This looks like a verb tense issue. Mr. Lee and his grandchildren practiced an art so that the children might be able to perform it in the future. The verb in the underlined section is “to know,” but the form *knowing* implies that the action is ongoing. We want a verb that indicates that their knowing may occur in the future.  
   * 1. “So that they would know an art . . . .” Sounds pretty good. In this sentence, “would know” implies the action may occur in the future. This looks good.
     2. “Will know” is future tense, implying something definite. In our sentence, Mr. Lee practices with his grandchildren *hoping that* someday they *may know* this art. *Would* is the better word in this case, so Option C is not the answer.
     3. *Were* is past tense, so this is not correct.
     4. We have already established that *knowing* implies that the action is ongoing, not in the future, so we can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. This entire sentence is underlined, so this may signal an overall structure issue rather than a simple grammar or verb tense mistake. This sentence is rather clumsy as written. Let’s take a look at the other options to see which one is clearer.
   * 1. Wouldn’t it sound better to say “was born in Peru” rather than “being born in Peru”? After all, this happened in the past. This is not much better than our original sentence.
     2. This looks good. Simplified, it says, “She now resides in California.” The timeline of the thoughts flows better, and the grammar is correct.
     3. Here we have two complete thoughts separated by only a comma. This is not correct.
     4. This introduces *she* before we even know who *she* is. This is not our answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s substitute *it* for the subject in the underlined section (suffrage for women throughout the United States). “It not being established.” That doesn’t sound quite right. We would say, “It was established.” Let’s look at the possible answers to determine which one corrects this issue.
   * 1. “It which had not been established.” Still not right. Let’s move on.
     2. “It was not established.” That’s more like it. It also sounds good in the context of the sentence. It looks as if we have a winner.
     3. As we know, *it* is a pronoun standing in for a noun. What does *it* in this option stand in for? Yep, not clear. This is not our answer.
     4. Once again substituting *it* for the subject, we get “It was not being established.” This is a past action; *being* implies that the action was continuing over time. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This sentence has two separate thoughts (i.e., “Bees must leave the hive.” and “They are risking being eaten.”), but they are not connected correctly. Let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. This option does a good job of making this one single thought as opposed to two. They must leave the hive at the risk of being eaten. The subject is stated only once. This looks like a good option.
     2. Just look at the grammar in this option “risking them to be eaten.” We know that’s not right, so we don’t even need to go any further with this. Next.
     3. A semicolon does join two separate thoughts, but the overall thought is not clear. “It (the risk) is to be eaten.” Do the bees intend to be eaten? This is not our answer.
     4. *Likewise* would indicate that the two thoughts are similar. But in this case, one thought is the consequence of the other, so this won’t work.

B is the correct answer.

1. The author is trying to convey that acquiring the Picasso collection was a result of the museum’s creative and persistent effort. It is written as two separate, but related, thoughts. Let’s see if any of our other answers better convey this thought.
   * 1. It is usually a good practice to simplify sentences, so let’s write this as “It (the museum) took effort before their collection being acquired.” Looks as if we have some grammar issues here. Let’s move on.
     2. This does not convey the causal relationship between the hard work and what went into getting the Picasso collection. Next.
     3. *Finally* and *at last* are redundant. This is not the best answer.
     4. Let’s substitute pronouns. “It took it (the museum) years of effort to acquire it (the collection).” Looks good, right?

E is the correct answer.

1. This sentence makes it sound as if the art is the artist. What is the author’s intention in this sentence? To describe Maria Elena. We need a better description, so let’s check out the other options.
   * 1. This sentence implies that Maria Elena needed to explore Mexican themes in order to be world-renowned. This doesn’t make sense. Let’s move on.
     2. It seems as if Mexican cultural themes are world-renowned. Nope.
     3. This is a little better, but it places emphasis on the art as renowned rather than Maria Elena herself. Let’s keep looking.
     4. Now we’re talking. Maria Elena is the subject of the sentence. She is a world renowned artist whose art explores Mexican cultural themes. Looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. This one looks good as is. Simplified, it says “They (the schools) should teach nothing that would discredit it (religion or authority).” Let’s take a quick look at the other answers just to make sure.
   * 1. They should teach nothing that will discredit it. *Will* implies the future, yet we’re describing an attitude from the past. This is not correct.
     2. This is similar to Option B, only *are* refers to the present. This is not better; let’s move on.
     3. An awful lot of unnecessary words here; this is definitely not an improvement on the original. Next.
     4. We already eliminated Option B that contains *that will*, so let’s eliminate this one as well.

A is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, Pravika’s teacher tells her parents she is especially good at two subjects: math and foreign languages. She has incredible ability *in math*. She has incredible ability *to learn foreign languages*. Hmm, something is not quite right in that second sentence.
   * 1. This one is not quite right. It sounds clumsy; I think we can do better.
     2. Another clumsy answer. You wouldn’t say “She has an ability in learning.” Next.
     3. She has incredible ability in math. She has incredible ability in foreign languages. Or, in other words, “She demonstrated considerable ability in math and in foreign languages. This one looks good.
     4. She has incredible ability *to learn math*. She has incredible ability *in foreign languages*. These don’t sound right; we’ve got the same problem as in the original sentence, only reversed. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. This one looks good. The phrase “through his novels” describes how he reveals the pain and beauty of his childhood. Pain and beauty are both nouns, and the flow of the sentence sounds good. A quick look at the other options shows that each includes inappropriate phrases (*by means of, not only, to us, as a novelist)* and none improves on the original sentence.

A is the correct answer.

1. It seems as if we have some unnecessary words here: “without there having to be interruptions.” Wouldn’t it be better to say “without interruptions”? So, let’s look at an option that is more concise.
   * 1. This is what we’re looking for. It clarifies the sentence and eliminates the unnecessary words “there having to be.”
     2. Grammar alert! *Being that* shouldn’t be used when you mean *because*. We need to eliminate this option.
     3. This option paints the two parts of the sentence as separate and related as opposed to a “cause and effect.” Because we know that cooking without interruption is a reason for measuring ingredients in advance, this option does not make sense.
     4. This option seems clumsy and includes more words than necessary. This is not the best answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. We would use the underlined section as written if the subject were Gershwin himself. For example, he is more influential than most of his contemporaries. But, in this case, we are referring to Gershwin’s *music* in comparison to the music of his contemporaries, and that needs to be clear. Let’s take a look at some of the other options to see which one makes the thought clear.
   * 1. This doesn’t really clarify that it is the contemporaries’ *music* that we’re comparing. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Same as Option B, this does not indicate that it’s the music of the contemporaries that we’re comparing. Next.
     3. The use of the words *that of* makes it clear that we’re referring to the music of Gershwin’s contemporaries. This looks like a winner.
     4. This does make it clearer that we’re referring to the music of Gershwin’s contemporaries, but we don’t need the whole clause dangling at the end to make that clear. Option D does a much better job.

D is the correct answer.

1. This sentence is trying to explain a relationship between the reading of a poem and two new things. Seems as if one led to another, but it’s not clear here. Let’s look at the other answer choices.
   * 1. *Both* would refer to two things inaugurating a new style of poetry, but it’s only one action (the reading of the poem). This is not correct.
     2. Here we have two separate thoughts; linking them only with a comma is not correct. Let’s keep looking.
     3. This option does not give us an action after the subject. The reading’s inauguration did what exactly? We don’t know, so let’s eliminate this answer.
     4. “[He read his poem], thus inaugurating both a new style of poetry and the Beat movement.” We have the cause and effect we were looking for as well as a verb phrase (“thus inaugurating”) that applies to Ginsberg. This one looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s simplify the underlined section: They elected her as Prime Minister in 1993. We know that *her* refers to Kim Campbell, and that she was a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. We’re looking good so far.
   * 1. Simplified, this would say “Their election was Kim Campbell.” Kim is not an election, but she was elected. This is not correct.
     2. Don’t forget to pay attention to the part of the sentence that’s before the underlined section. While this option is grammatically correct on its own, the first part indicates ‘their’ desire to extend free enterprise. This option states that Kim Campbell is who *they* are, so this is not our answer.
     3. Same as Option C, the *they* referred to in the first part of the sentence is Canadians, not the Progressive Conservative Party’s Kim Campbell, so this can’t be right.
     4. See the two options above. This one also does not refer to Canadians as *they*, so this also is not correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. This is an example of passive voice and does not clearly indicate who shows kindness. Given that we know this sentence is about researchers, how could you re-phrase “It is rare for kindness to be shown to contrary theories”? How about “It is rare for them to show kindness”? This option clears up who is performing the action; *them* refers back to the researchers. Let’s look for an option that corrects these grammatical problems in a similar way.
   * 1. This does not identify who is not showing kindness, so we can eliminate it
     2. This answer choice includes a correction similar to what we came up with above. It joins the two thoughts with the word *and*, and *they* refers to those who are showing kindness. This looks like our answer.
     3. This uses only a comma to separate two different, but related thoughts; they are not joined in an appropriate way. This eliminates this option.
     4. Just like Option B, this does not identify who is not showing kindness.

C is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 3**

**Section 4: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. What type of perspective might be afforded by extensive travel? Perhaps a worldly perspective. Also, how might the area of Harlem have affected the creativity of Hughes’ writing?
2. World travel could lend itself to a cosmopolitan or sophisticated perspective, but how could Harlem serve as a creative defense for Hughes’ writing? Let’s look for a better answer.
3. Worldly is the word we guessed above, so looks good so far. And Harlem could have inspired Hughes’ writing despite his worldly perspective. This looks promising.
4. There’s nothing about travel that would promote a moral perspective, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. Travel would not likely stunt, or hinder, one’s perspective. Let’s move on.
6. Travel is also not likely to limit one’s perspective. The more things you see, the more perspective you will have. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. So we already know that timeless art should not merely confirm what we already know. How would you describe such art? Perhaps it would heighten our awareness. Let’s take look.
2. Art that does more than confirm what we already know would not hinder, or hold back, our awareness. Let’s move on.
3. If art reconciled our awareness, it would help us accept something, not deepen our awareness of it. This is not the best answer.
4. Controlling awareness does not deepen or heighten it. Next.
5. What would soothing awareness be like? This doesn’t make very much sense.
6. We would be extending our awareness if we went beyond what we already knew. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. If a board did not feel his performance would ever improve, a decisive action to correct that would be to fire him. Let’s look for a similar action.
2. If the board was coddling the executive, they would be babying or overly supporting him. This is not something you would do if you were unhappy with someone’s performance. Next.
3. Taunting or teasing the executive would just be mean; it would not be decisive. Let’s move on.
4. It would make sense to prod someone in order to improve their performance, but as the board does not see any way for his performance to improve, this is not quite the decisive move we’re looking for. Next.
5. If someone is ousted, they are removed from office, or fired. This looks like our answer.
6. Chiding, or scolding, can be a way to handle someone with unsatisfactory performance, but it is not quite decisive. This is not the best answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Both missing words describe the discovery of the fossil. The first describes it as surprising scientists, while the second describes how the discovery undermined the accepted theories.
   * 1. Something that is surprising can also be exhilarating, though this is a somewhat strong word. Banal describes something boring, not something would undermine existing theories. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Shocking is also a strong word to describe a surprising discovery, and is possible. The discovery, however, was not prophetic because it did not foresee anything. Next.
     3. A surprising discovery could be described as startling. It would also be revolutionary if it disproved current theories. This option has promise.
     4. It seems the scientists were pleasantly surprised, not appalled by their discovery. We can eliminate this option.
     5. While a surprising discovery could be unanticipated, it would be quite relevant, not irrelevant, if it undermined currently accepted theories. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. One thing we know from this sentence is that the Asian-Americans are the region’s fastest growing minority population. What word would best describe this increase in size?
   * 1. Digression would imply turning away. The scholar would not cite turning away as an explanation for the growth in population. This is not right.
     2. Proximity would note the population’s closeness to something else, not its size. Let’s move on.
     3. An expansion of the community would describe its status as the fastest growing minority population. This looks like a winner.
     4. A stabilized community would stay the same, not be the fastest growing. We can eliminate this answer.
     5. What would the community be correlated, or compared, to? It’s not clear from this sentence, so this cannot be correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. Since the first missing word depends on the meaning of the rest of the sentence, let’s look at the end of the sentence first. Visitors to the parks should be cautious when approaching bears that may appear *tame*. If the bears appear tame, that would mean they are *far from* being *angry,* perhaps. Let’s see which of the options match our guesses.
   * 1. Let’s start with the end of the sentence on this one. If the bears were cantankerous or irritable when approached by humans, it would go without saying that visitors should use caution. In that case, this last phrase would not make sense. Let’s look for a better answer.
     2. If the bears were far from reticent, meaning that they were noisy, would they be *surprisingly* bellicose (prone to fighting)? Not much, so let’s keep looking.
     3. If the bears were far from complacent, what would that say about them? Perhaps that they were not content or calm. If they were not calm, would they be *surprisingly* docile, or tame, when visitors approached them? Nope; that’s what most people expect of bears.
     4. Let’s say the bears at the park are far from aggressive (similar to *far from angry* that we chose), or peaceful. The visitors might consider them surprisingly placid (similar to *tame* that chose). That might lead them to believe that the bears were safe, and would be a reason why they would be urged to exercise caution. This option makes sense.
     5. If the bears were far from being playful, they would not likely be surprisingly frisky. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Our missing word is a term for someone who provides insights beyond ordinary human perception. Perhaps a fortuneteller.
   * 1. A mentor provides a good example to others, and does not provide insights beyond regular human awareness. Next.
     2. A profiteer is adept at making unreasonable profits, not at making insights. Let’s keep looking.
     3. A counterfeiter makes fake items, not insights. Nope.
     4. A clairvoyant sees things most people cannot. The parts of this word provide a valuable clue, especially if you know some French. ‘Clair’ means clear and ‘voyant’ means seer. This looks like a winner.
     5. A propagandist puts out information in order to convince others of a certain way of thinking. This does not involve super human insights. We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. What are some words that would describe someone who notes very subtle differences in food? Distinguishing, perhaps? Let’s take a look at our options.
   * 1. Obscure as used here means undistinguished or perhaps not well known. So, this does not characterize the judges’ ability to distinguish subtle differences. Let’s move on.
     2. A deferential judge would defer to others, and may not have the sharp palate to note subtle differences. We can eliminate this option.
     3. When we discriminate, we are noting differences, as the judges are doing in this competition. This looks promising.
     4. The judges would not demonstrate any holy or devout qualities in their ability to note subtle differences in food. Nope.
     5. If the judges were unrelenting, they would refuse to give up or relent. This has little to do with an ability to note subtle differences in food. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. In Passage 1, we read that the field of journalism is trying to return to its core values after losing credibility in recent years. Passage 2 states that the criticism of the field is from a small but influential movement trying to convince the public that the state of journalism is hurting the country. So, the first describes how the industry is responding to the criticism, while the second feels the criticism is unwarranted.
2. Passage 1 does describe a certain campaign for change led by the Project for Excellence in Journalism. Passage 2 also challenges the need for any change in stating that “Conditions for journalism have never been better.” If it has never been better, then why would change be needed? This option sums up the passages well.
3. The first passage mentions sensationalism as one of a number of the causes of criticism. It does not discuss the cause of sensationalism itself. Let’s keep looking.
4. Passage 1 is mainly about improvements in the industry, and does not praise Rosenstiel’s influence on journalism. So, this would not best describe the relationship between the two passages (even though Passage 2 criticizes Rosenstiel’s contributions).
5. While Passage 1 tells us that journalism is in an era of reform, Passage 2 does not describe journalism as stagnating (it mentions improving conditions); it does not deny that the reform movement exists, just questions the need for it. Next.
6. We don’t have a definition of the purpose journalism in Passage 1, so we can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. Look at each answer to determine if the subject is noted in Passage 1. If it is, we can eliminate it. If it is not mentioned in Passage 1, check Passage 2; if it’s mentioned there, it’s our answer. We are looking for an area in which the two passages contrast.
2. Passage 1 definitely mentions core values in line 5. We can eliminate this option.
3. Each passage mentions Tom Rosenstiel, so this cannot be correct.
4. Passage 1 makes little to no mention of the history of journalism and the same applies to Passage 2, so this is not our answer.
5. Passage 1 mentions sensationalism in line 8. Next.
6. Passage 1 does not mention the economics of the industry, while Passage 2 mentions “robust media profits.” This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The initiatives mentioned here are those that are designed to restore journalism’s core values. We’ve already established that Passage 2 does not think that this restoration is necessary as the industry has never been better. So, we can guess that the author of Passage 2 would not think well of these initiatives.
2. If Passage 2 does not approve of these initiatives, the author would certainly not say they are timely. Let’s keep looking.
3. Rational would assume that the author of Passage 2 thinks these initiatives make sense. This answer is not correct.
4. We have no indication that the author cannot understand or decipher these initiatives. Nope.
5. Since the author of Passage 2 asserts that the industry has never been better, he or she does not think reforms are necessary or warranted. This looks like a winner.
6. The author of Passage 2 would not describe these initiatives as questionable. This author clearly feels they are not needed. We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. In these lines, the author criticizes those who say that journalism is unfair and sensationalized. He or she points to the fact that some of their own claims violate the number one rule of journalism, to tell the truth.
2. We’ve already said that the author is using these lines to point out that some journalists violate the number one rule of journalism. So, it’s pretty clear these lines are not intended to calm the readers’ concerns. This is not the correct answer.
3. What outcome is speculated in these lines? None that we can determine, so let’s eliminate this answer.
4. An exaggeration would make the problem seem much larger than it is. The author implies that those who wrote the book exaggerate the “problem.” These lines do not serve to exaggerate the depth of a problem. This can’t be correct.
5. What is the technical term supposedly being defined here? And would a technical term likely be used at the end of a passage? Let’s move on.
6. This looks good. The author notes that these critics, journalists themselves, have made allegations that violate the number one rule of their profession. It’s ironic that journalists should criticize their peers for poor adherence to rules only to violate those rules themselves. This answer makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. Here, we are introduced to the concept of measuring sleepiness. It is suggested that counting yawns could be a way to handle this, but at the same time it is questioned.
2. If direct observation is the only reliable method of sleep research, this would mean several things, such as watching people sleep, not just observing yawning. Let’s look for a better answer.
3. This question does not concern testing people before they fall asleep. It addresses how to measure sleepiness. So, this question is not based on the assumption that people yawn more right before they fall asleep. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. If we are measuring sleepiness and using yawning to test how sleepy people are, we would have to assume there is a correlation between the two. This looks good.
5. This may be true, but it doesn’t answer the question, which links yawning and measuring sleepiness. Next.
6. The amount of time needed to conduct sleep research has little to do with using yawning to test sleepiness. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This comment describes the term that precedes it, yawning. It looks like an attempt to provide a detailed description of the action.
2. There is no claim made here, only a description of yawning. Next.
3. This comment could work as a definition of the term, yawning. This looks like our answer.
4. This comment does not describe any particular manner of yawn so as to qualify one. It could describe all yawns, so this option won’t work.
5. Not much humorous here, just a straight-forward description. Nope.
6. This does not seem like an opinion or personal insight. We can eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. This section of the passage describes the author’s personal experience of observing troops about to jump from an airplane. The author noticed that many of the soldiers were yawning even though they were likely not tired.

1. An understatement would represent something as less important, perhaps, than what it really is. No understatement here. Next.
2. The author does not give human qualities to an inanimate object in this section. Let’s keep looking.
3. In an analogy, two things are compared. There is no comparison here, so we can eliminate this answer.
4. A metaphor would also call for some sort of comparison that is not present here. Nope
5. An anecdote is a story used to illustrate a point. This story demonstrates how people yawn for reasons other than being tired. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The soldiers were yawning despite having just taken a coffee break, which would usually help someone overcome being tired. What does that tell us?
2. This line states, “I doubted they were tired.” So, it doesn’t appear they needed a break. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. At this point in the story, we know nothing of the attitude of these soldiers; they were yawning when they should not have been tired. This answer won’t work.
4. The response of yawning after a coffee break would not be understandable given that coffee is normally used to keep someone from being sleepy. Next.
5. What action would we deem unnecessary? The coffee break? The yawning? This doesn’t make much sense, so this cannot be correct.
6. Yawning would be unexpected if we knew they had just had coffee. This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. We’ve all had moments when we notice someone yawning and find ourselves doing the same. What does this show us? Can we conclude that yawning always indicates that a person is sleepy when we know we can yawn just because someone else does? Nope.
2. The author is trying to prove a point that yawning does not always point to sleepiness. The social aspect of yawning points to the power of suggestion rather than actually being tired. This answer makes sense.
3. The author does not address a need for personal responsibility. It would be hard to be accountable for something you can’t control. This can’t be right.
4. There does not appear to be a link between “social yawning” and personality—it is instinctual. Let’s keep looking.
5. What is the psychological cost of conforming to yawning? That is not addressed, so let’s eliminate this answer.
6. There is no mention here of companionship, just that yawns are contagious. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. According to the passage, scientists believed that yawning was meant to increase oxygen in the blood or release carbon dioxide. So, which of our options would disprove this?
2. Carbon dioxide is only mentioned as something that needs to be released, not as something that affects breathing rates. So, even if this were true, it would have little effect on the scientists’ belief. Let’s move on.
3. The scientists’ belief did not deal with the link between yawning and sleepiness, so even if this statement were true, it would have no effect on their theory. Let’s keep looking.
4. This statement basically restates the scientists’ theory. Therefore, if this statement were true, it would prove the scientists’ theory, not disprove it. Next.
5. According to the theory, a purpose of yawning was to increase oxygen in the blood, so one would think people would yawn more at high altitudes, where oxygen is low. If people do not tend to yawn more at high altitudes, this would disprove the theory. This looks like a winner.
6. The scientists believed that one purpose of yawning was to release carbon dioxide. So if people yawned more after exercise, when their carbon dioxide levels were high, it would prove the theory, not disprove it. This option can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. Up until this point, most of the passage has shown why counting yawns cannot be used to test sleepiness. This part of the passage addresses the need for other ways to test it.
2. There is no digression here; we are still talking about how to test sleepiness. This cannot be right.
3. This is a not transition to a new subject. We’ve proven that yawning cannot be used to measure sleepiness, and this section serves to address what else could be used to measure it. The overall subject remains the same. This is not correct.
4. There is no evidence presented here, just a statement that we need to find some other way to test sleepiness. Next.
5. The author has never advocated using yawns for testing sleepiness. He or she has explained that this does not make sense. Let’s eliminate this option.
6. The same problem is being discussed here as was discussed before, that of measuring sleepiness. So, this is the correct answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Here the author discusses the problem of using a self-rating scale to measure sleepiness. He or she claims that self-rating is difficult because people may think admitting to being tired shows a lack of ambition or drive. In other words, this might make them look lazy.
2. Sleepiness is not a sign of lack of propulsion or forward movement. Next.
3. Sleep and instinct are not directly related. Admitting to being sleepy would not show a lack of instinct. Let’s keep looking.
4. Would a lack of sleep show a lack of campaign? This answer makes no sense.
5. Admitting to being tired could be thought of as a sign of lack of vitality, or liveliness. This could explain why people may not accurately assess their level of sleepiness. We might have a winner here.
6. A person’s momentum would not be hurt by an admission of sleepiness. This can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. The author has already presented one argument why asking people to rate their level of sleepiness may not be accurate. This line introduces us to other reasons why this is not a good sleep research idea.
2. We don’t get the impression that people are being intentionally deceptive. They just may not realize that their coffee consumption is related to their level of tiredness. Let’s look for a better answer.
3. The author is trying to make a point that asking people to rate their level of sleepiness is not an accurate measurement. This paragraph serves to prove that people are not always accurate in judging themselves. This looks like a good option.
4. We are not talking about whether people have had restful sleep, but rather how they are able to rate how sleepy they are. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. It may be true that some may use caffeine to ward off tiredness, but again, the point the author is trying to make is about a person’s ability to test their own level of sleepiness. Next.
6. The author is not concerned about how the subjects feel about the effects of lack of sleep. He or she is concerned with how to measure sleepiness. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The simple definition states that the greater the need for sleep, the faster you’ll fall asleep when the opportunity arises. Let’s look for a statement that would make this not true.
2. While different sleep patterns could cause trouble for researchers, they would not disprove the theory of the relationship between the need for sleep and the likelihood of falling asleep quickly. Let’s keep looking,
3. If true, this would certainly disprove the theory presented. This statement says that people with a great need for sleep will have difficulty falling asleep. This would contradict the theory that the greater the need for sleep, the greater the likelihood of falling asleep. This is a good option.
4. If people can go a long time without sleeping, we could conclude that they have lesser need for sleep, which would be in line with the theory in the passage. This can’t be right.
5. This theory has nothing to do with yawning. Next.
6. Nope, this theory makes no mention of yawning and its relationship to sleepiness. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. What do we know about yawning from this passage? Basically, we know that it has little to do with how tired we are. It can be caused by stress, or just by observing other people who yawn. Which of the options that we are presented with are not found in this passage?
2. Line 13 notes that people who are bored will tend to yawn. This is not the correct answer.
3. The passage notes several examples of stress-induced yawns. This is not right either.
4. Does the passage make any note of clearing ears in airplanes? Nope, there is no mention of this. This looks like our answer.
5. Lines 38-44 mention the social phenomenon of yawning. We can eliminate this answer.
6. Lines 43-44 note that just reading about yawning can cause a yawn. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. As a whole, this passage discusses a number of theories and approaches in conducting sleep research. Keep in mind that it is adapted from a book on sleep research.
2. Could someone learn something from this passage? Yep. So, we can conclude that the point of this passage is to inform others about sleep research. This looks like a winner.
3. What has the author confessed? The passage would be much more personal if this answer were correct.
4. The author does not ask many questions that cannot be answered. He or she is not discussing philosophical theories, so we can eliminate this option.
5. The subject of yawning may be humorous, but that is not the overall point of the passage. Let’s move on.
6. The author presents information, not arguments. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 3**

**Section 6: WRITING**

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. The entire sentence is underlined here, so there’s likely a large structural problem. Two things stick out. First, the word *that* usually refers to an inanimate object, while *who* should be used here as we are talking about a person. Second, make a living at what? While we can guess it refers to being a painter and illustrator, we need to reword the sentence to make that clear.  
   * 1. This sentence is simple, and it tells us what we need to know. We know how Rockwell was able to make a living, so this looks like a good choice.
     2. This option still does not clearly express what Rockwell did for a living. Next.
     3. This sentence introduces “from them” before we know what “they” refer to. Let’s eliminate this option.
     4. Wouldn’t this sound better if we flipped the sentence to read “Norman Rockwell was able to make a living by illustrating and painting”? Of course. So, this not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Let’s move the first clause to the end of the sentence. “The employees called in sick as a protest against their employer’s stubbornness because of repeatedly asking in vain for a comprehensive health care plan.” Did they call in sick *because* they repeatedly asked for a health care plan? Not exactly, so let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. “The employees called in sick as a protest against their employer’s stubbornness after repeatedly asking in vain for a comprehensive health plan.” That sounds better. They called in sick in protest *after* trying to get a health plan. Looks good.
     2. In this option, it seems as if the asking in vain and the calling in sick merely occurred one after the other. There’s more of a relationship between the two that is not clear here, so let’s keep looking.
     3. This option also does not link the relationship between the two actions. This can’t be right.
     4. The use of “while” makes it seem as if these actions occurred simultaneously. They called in sick *after* asking for the health care plan, so this answer is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. This looks good as is. A semicolon separates the two distinct thoughts. The first could be a sentence on its own: “Hingis took advantage of Williams’ error and tied the score.” The second could also stand on its own: “Williams fought back to take the lead again.” The semicolon and the word however show that the two ideas are related. We had a tie, but then that situation changed. This sentence is correct as is.

A is the correct answer.

1. Nursing and physical therapy are two things. Is it correct to say *they* are *an example* of something? Nope, they are *examples*. Let’s looks for an improvement.
   * 1. They are examples of health care fields. The subject and verb are plural, so this should be our answer.
     2. The examples are not in a place, so it is not correct to say they are examples *where.* Next.
     3. ‘Exemplifies’ is the singular version of the verb, while we have a plural subject. This can’t be right.
     4. “The fields where they have shortages.” Who is *they*? Wouldn’t it sound better to say ‘the fields *in which there are* shortages’? Yep, so let’s eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. When you read this sentence aloud, it stumbles in the underlined section. The addition of “also she” is where things go sour. We need some sort of conjunction to connect these two thoughts.
   * 1. We have a mixture of verb tenses with this option. Most of the verbs are in the past tense so *sets* would not be appropriate. Let’s keep looking.
     2. This option still has no conjunction to join the two thoughts. Nope.
     3. We have two distinct thoughts here. Blaché introduced close-ups and double exposures. She also set cars on fire. The semicolon separates the two thoughts while still showing that both were done by Blaché. This looks good.
     4. The first idea, the introduction of close-ups and double exposures, did not happen *by* setting cars on fire and the like. This does not accurately show the relationship between the two thoughts. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Look at the two things the company does. Maintains computer systems and will manage their payroll accounts. The verbs *maintains* and *will manage* do not match in tense, so we need to find a better way to express this statement.
   * 1. The only change here is changing *plus* to *in addition*. That doesn’t fix our problem. Next.
     2. The business manages and maintains. Sounds about right.
     3. We have a lot of extra words here. *Additionally* and *also* both express the same thought as *and*, so we don’t need them. We can eliminate this option.
     4. This option is missing a conjunction that tells us they maintain *and* manage. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. Three things have enabled the dancer to secure the leading role: Studying dance, practicing steps and frequent performances. Notice the first two are something the dancer does, but the last is something that happens. Let’s look for an option where they are all something the dancer does.
   * 1. This does not change our problem with the “frequent performances.” Let’s keep looking.
     2. This changes “frequent performances” to “frequently performing,” which is better, but it adds another problem. By changing “has enabled” to “being enabled,” we are left without a complete thought. Let’s eliminate this option.
     3. Here the problem is the word *these*. We clearly state the activities leading to the role, so there is no need to add an additional reference to them in the form of *these*. This is not correct.
     4. This sentence uses “performing frequently” to match the other reasons that enabled the dancer to secure the roll. We have a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, it seems as if the critics are now one of the most famous abstract artists. The underlined phrase should first refer to Jackson Pollock, not the critics. Let’s look for a way to fix this.
   * 1. This still lists the critics after the introductory clause. Let’s move on.
     2. Was Pollock doing the ridiculing? Nope, that can’t be right.
     3. This looks good. Pollock is now one of the most famous abstract artists, and he was once ridiculed by critics. We have a winner.
     4. What about Pollock’s having once been ridiculed by critics? This is an incomplete thought. To be correct, we would need something that followed up on this, which we don’t have here. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. The hero of *Hidalgo* did what? Hmm, this sentence cuts us off there. We need to find a complete sentence.
   * 1. This option still does not tell us what the hero of *Hidalgo* did. This is not correct.
     2. Let’s simplify the sentence. He, who *did this* also *has become* a hero. For “also has become” to be correct, you would have to describe *him* in another way (for example, “He *was a cowboy* *who also became* the hero.”). Let’s look for a better option.
     3. He, who did this, is the hero of Hidalgo. This makes sense. Hopkins rode a mustang to victory and is the hero of the movie. This looks good.
     4. We still don’t know what Hopkins did. Next.

D is the correct answer.

1. This sentence looks good as is. The band sold *its* CD’s. Band is a singular noun, so we would not say *their* CD. The CD’s *were* sold to fans who *shared* the music with friends. All of the verb tenses are correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. If the birds *inhabit* Ecuador, they would also inhabit North America. What are the birds doing in North America? We have no verb associated with them. Let’s find a better written sentence.
   * 1. Twice as many birds inhabit Ecuador as inhabit North America. In each case, the birds are inhabiting a place. This looks good.
     2. This option just replaces “as in” with “instead of in”, so we have the same problem as our original sentence. This is not correct.
     3. When compared to what in North America? It’s not clear, so we can eliminate this option.
     4. Twice as many birds inhabit Ecuador than do what in North America? Not sure, so this can’t be the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

This section tests your ability to identify grammar mistakes. In each sentence, 4 word(s) are underlined. You are to determine if any of the underlined words reflect incorrect grammar or usage errors. You also have an option to indicate that there are no errors in the sentence.

First, read the whole sentence. Does anything stick out to you? The more you read, the more you may pick up when something in the sentence just doesn’t sound right. Since it helps to know why an answer is right or wrong, we’ll explain all the answers.

1. The sentence should read: “Of the hundreds of warm-water coral species, only a few are highly prized for use in jewelry because of their beauty, luster, and ***hardness***.”

Three factors made the coral highly prized. Beauty, luster, and “they are hard.” That doesn’t quite sound right. We need to phrase “they are hard” as a noun just like the other descriptions.

D is the correct answer

1. The sentence should read: “Because of its innovativeness and its effective presentation, Mary’s science project received more judges’ votes at the exhibit than ***Jim’s project did***.”

What received the most votes? Mary’s science project did. Did *Jim* receive fewer votes? No, his *project* did. We need to make sure it is clear what received the votes, which is not clear in the original sentence.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Mr. Johnson’s assumption that a teenager had robbed his house ***was unfounded***, for the witnesses described the person they had seen fleeing as a woman in her 40s.”

This sentence describes an action that has already taken place. The assumption was not currently being made (being unfounded), and so “was unfounded” is the correct way to describe Mr. Johnson’s assumption.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Waterways close to land ***pose*** challenges to navigation that differ greatly from those posed by the open seas.”

What poses these challenges: the land or the waterways? It is the waterways, the subject of our sentence, which is a plural noun. We need the plural form of the verb, which is *pose*, not *poses*.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “During my most recent trip, I came across a wonderful antique store ***while I was wandering*** in the old quarter of the city.”

Is the antique store wandering in the old quarter of the city? That wouldn’t make a whole lot of sense. We need to make it clear that the narrator was doing the wandering.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “It is difficult to predict what kinds of books will be popular in the years ahead, because tastes change and topics either get overexplored ***or*** lose their relevance.”

The use of the word *either* without an *or* is the big clue here. Either/or go in pairs. You would not say “I want either chocolate and vanilla.” Same with this sentence. Topics either get overexplored *or* they lose their relevance.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “As children mature, they develop an independence that their parents, who have been responsible for them since they were born, often find difficult to accept.”

Yep, this one is correct as it is. The development of independence is an ongoing process, so it makes sense to say the parents “have been responsible” for them rather than the past tense “were responsible.”

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Horse psychology, a science that investigates the reasons for the behavior of horses, ***helps*** trainers both motivate their charges and prevent problems.”

Is it the horses that help the trainers motivate? Nope, it is the horse *psychology*, which is a singular subject. So, the verb needs to match the singular subject. It *helps* the trainers.

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “To an Iranian, only a salt desert truly merits the name “desert,” for other types of deserts can be sown with dates, figs, and pistachios and ***they*** can be watered by sprinklers or by ancient subterranean canals called *qanats*.”

In the original sentence, we get the impression that the “other types of deserts” are what can be watered by sprinklers. Assuming that’s true, the pronoun *it* is incorrect as deserts is a plural noun.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Ms. Kovak proudly displayed her research group’s most ingenious invention, a vacuum cleaner that empties its own dust bag when a button ***is pressed***.”

The original sentence would describe a remarkable invention. A vacuum cleaner that presses buttons in order to empty its own bag would really be something. It makes more sense that someone else would be doing the button pressing, not the vacuum itself. If we change the sentence to say the action occurs when a button is pressed instead of when pressing a button, it is much clearer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Famous for ***its*** sticky feet, the gecko can run up walls and across ceilings as well as hang from a surface by its toes.”

The word *their* would refer to a plural subject. We are talking about the gecko, which is singular. So, we need to change *their* to *its*.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Both her work on community service projects and her dedication to learning ***have*** ***gained*** Ms. Stella the respect of the entire faculty.”

There are two things that gained the respect of the entire faculty. If we used a pronoun to replace those two things, we would use the word *they*. We would not say: “They has gained her respect.” We need the plural form: “They have gained her respect.”

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “After the uprising of October 10, 1911, that ***led*** to the establishments of a Chinese republic, many Chinese Americans decided to return to China in hopes of a brighter future there.”

The uprising occurred at a fixed moment in time, October 10, 1911, so the simple past tense is the correct verb here. “Has led” would be correct for a past action that continued into the future.

A is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “At the art show, Amy enjoyed looking at her friend Mark’s innovative paintings, which she thought were more original than the other ***artists’ paintings***.”

Amy thought Mark’s painting were innovative. She also thought the paintings were more original than the other artists. Why is she comparing Mark’s painting to artists? It would make more sense if she compared Mark’s paintings to the other artists’ paintings instead of the artists themselves. This is much clearer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Traffic was heavy, so by the time Brianne finally arrived at the theater, we ***had been waiting*** for her for an hour, missing the entire first act of the play.”

When this sentence starts, Brianne has just arrived at the theater. The rest of the sentence describes the situation at the time Brianne finally arrived. What had they been doing? They had been *waiting* for an hour and *missing* the entire first act of the play.

B is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Although its reputation is not as good as it once was, the university is still proud of ***its*** productive, intelligent graduates, many of whom have gone on to earn national recognition.”

Whose graduates are we referring to? The university’s, which is a singular subject. There is only one university we are talking about, so we would be discussing *its* graduates, not *their* graduates.

C is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “Although familiar to us from representations in ancient art, war chariots are rare museum artifacts because by the sixth century B.C., they were no longer used in battle.”

This one is correct as is. Although (Option A) is correct as a way to introduce two thoughts that contrast. We have multiple representations (Option B) and multiple chariots, so this plural form is correct. The fact that chariots were no longer (Option D) used in battles caused (Option C) them to be rare museum artifacts.

E is the correct answer.

1. The sentence should read: “A volunteer organization, the Covington Soup Kitchen has been feeding needy families since 1977, annually distributing nearly a million pounds of food ***~~each year~~***.”

Look closely at this sentence. We’ve already said that they *annually* distribute nearly a million pounds of food. Adding “each year” says the exact same thing, so it is redundant and can be removed.

D is the correct answer.

This next section tests your writing skills in a different way than the previous section. Whereas the last section asked you to find errors in grammar & usage, this section asks you to improve sentence structure or word choice, or how the passage is organized or developed. So, as you read the passage, think about whether it makes sense or it could be written better.

Keep in mind that while the SAT *reading* sections may require you to fully understand the point of a passage, this section tests *writing*. You are not going to be inferring answers from the passage, just looking for ways a sentence or section could be improved. So, take a look at the questions first to get a sense of what you’ll be asked. Then, quickly read the passage. Don’t too spend too much time reading as you’ll likely have to re-read portions more closely in order to determine the best answer.

1. The first sentence of this passage states, “Seeds of Peace camp … is unlike any other camp in the world.” The next sentence, the one we are to rewrite, should likely explain why that is. It is because the camp brings together teenagers from opposite sides of conflicts. Our sentence is a actually a fragment, an incomplete thought, so let’s look for a way to restate the thought.
2. This option also begins the sentence with “due to” without explaining what is due to this fact. Next.
3. We are talking about a single camp, so the plural use of *they* is not correct. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. The students are not brought together in different parts of the world. They are brought together at this camp. This option does not make that clear. Nope.
5. This is passive voice. It is better to say “It brings them together” than “They are brought together by it.” This is not the best answer.
6. We have the correct singular subject, *it*. It brings the teenagers together. And, this sentence serves to explain why the camp is unlike any other in the world. Looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Paragraph 1 states that this camp is unlike any other and then gives the reasons why. Which of our options would add to that description?
2. There is no other evidence to show that Seeds of Peace camp is unlike others due to its beauty. This would not really improve the paragraph. Nope.
3. This paragraph explains that teenagers from opposite sides of conflicts around the world are brought together, yet we don’t have any indication as to where these conflicts may be. Adding an example of a location such as Israel or Palestine would be helpful. Let’s keep this option in mind.
4. How would this be improved by knowing the names of key staff members? Would that serve to show why this camp is unlike others? Not really, so let’s eliminate this option.
5. The next paragraph discusses more of what a day is like at the camp. This would not really help this paragraph describe why the camp is unlike others. This is not the best answer.
6. This passage is about this particular camp and its mission. It is not about promoting peace in general, so this paragraph would not be improved by adding a reference to other peace efforts. Next.

B is the correct answer.

1. Sentence 8 covers the living arrangements for the campers.

1. This sentence speaks of the moment of the campers’ arrival, yet it is positioned at the end of the paragraph. So, before we get to this sentence, we already know that they are living side by side at the camp. Let’s look for a better spot.
2. If we placed this after sentence 1, we would be diving into how the campers live before we even learn what the camp is all about. This can’t be right.
3. In the first paragraph, we are learning about what is unique about the camp. The fact that campers live side by side is not necessarily something unique about it. Let’s move on.
4. If we moved this sentence to the beginning of the second paragraph, then we’d have a good introduction. We would know how the camping arrangements were set up, and we’d get more details about what their daily life was like. This looks promising.
5. Would this information be useful at the very end of the passage? No, so we can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

33. These sentences serve to explain how the camp is not tied to the government of any particular nation and so nations cannot pay for it, although nations may choose their own campers.

1. This looks good. Even though nations may choose their own campers, there is no affiliation with any nation. The use of “but … which …” makes this relationship clear. Let’s keep this one in mind.
2. It sounds like the countries are unaffiliated with any nation, which can’t be the case. Next.
3. This option does not clearly link the facts about what nations can and cannot do nor are these issues properly linked with the fact that the camp is unaffiliated with any nation. We can find a better answer.
4. This sentence needs something better than a comma to link the statement that countries may not pay for the camp with the statement that the camp is unaffiliated with any nation. This is not correct.
5. This sentence does not work well; it is difficult to know what *it* refers to. The sentence before it refers to the campsite. *It* is the camp, and it is not referred to until the end of the sentence. This is not good writing.

A is the correct answer.

34. This sentence follows a quote attributed to John Wallach, an award-winning journalist who has covered conflicts in the Middle East. He states, “If you begin to know your enemy, if you begin to understand your enemy, it’s inevitable that you will begin to feel some empathy.”

1. Adding *furthermore* at the beginning of a sentence that explains a cause and effect does not add a lot. Let’s find another option.
2. Does “among the young people” sound much better than “among the young”? This is not the most needed revision in this sentence. Next.
3. Is “since the hatred of adults … is very ingrained” a better choice than “being that the hatred of adults … is very ingrained”? Yep. Using the word *since* shows more of a direct relationship between the two ideas; it gives us a better introduction to the reason behind the author’s belief. This looks like a good answer.
4. Elders could be described as “senior adults.” There’s not much improvement made by changing this word. Nope.
5. The word *is* refers to the hatred, which is singular. We do not need to use the plural *are*. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

35. This last paragraph notes the importance of this camp in understanding others to help promote peace. Which option would further that purpose and end the passage well?

1. The fact that the camp is in Maine is irrelevant to its purpose of promoting peace. Nope.
2. This paragraph has already stated the need for understanding. It does not need to be restated, so this is not the best answer.
3. The passage does not say that the camp is the only means to peace, so this would not make an appropriate ending. Let’s keep looking.
4. Does a discussion of the selection process make an effective concluding sentence? No, so let’s eliminate this option.
5. This looks like a winner. It ties back to Wallach’s quote and reinforces the importance of the campers’ actions in helping to promote peace.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 3**

**Section 7: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. “Although the archaeologist *saw* the symbols on the cave wall, she was unable to *read* them because they were too faint.”

In the “time saver” note above, we suggest focusing on the first word to quickly eliminate answers, but it’s perfectly fine use the same approach using the second word. For this statement, let’s do just that. What type of thing would an archeologist be unable to do with symbols on a wall if they are faint? He or she would likely have a hard time reading them. Let’s start with the second word and look for an answer that’s similar to *read*.

1. Would symbols that were faint be incapable of being ignored? We’ve said the archaeologist might be unable to easily read them. Even so, given an archaeologist’s line of work, she wouldn’t ignore them. This answer doesn’t make much sense.
2. Would you be unable to be discard, or get rid of, symbols on a wall just because they were faint? This can’t be right.
3. Faint symbols would be hard to translate, so let’s move on the first missing word. Hmm, if the archaeologist obliterated, or destroyed, the symbols, the fact that they were faint would be irrelevant. This is not the correct answer.
4. Faint symbols would likely be easy to conceal, not hard to conceal. Next.
5. It would be difficult to decipher (or read, as we guessed above) faint symbols, although the archaeologist scrutinized, or closely examined them. This is our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. “Popular interest in music performed by folk singer Jean Ritchie acted as a *boost* because it *created* a wider interest in the music of Ritchie’s native Kentucky.”

We are talking about a folk singer who is a Kentucky native. What effect might her popularity have on the music of her home state? It would likely help it, right? S0, both of the words we are looking for would be helpful to the state, perhaps acting as a boost and creating a wider interest.

1. If interest in Ritchie’s music was a deterrent, then that would not have a positive effect on interest in the music of Kentucky. This can’t be right.
2. If interest in Ritchie’s music acted as a panacea, it would cure some sort of ill. We don’t have any indication of this. Plus, how would it overcome a wider interest in the music of Kentucky? Next.
3. Creating a barrier would not result in awakening a wider interest in Kentucky music. Let’s keep looking.
4. The interest in Ritchie’s music could be seen as a catalyst, or something that accelerates, if it helped stir interest in Kentucky music. This looks good.
5. We wouldn’t want Ritchie’s popularity to mitigate, or lessen interest, in Kentucky’s music. We can eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. “Oceanographers have identified more than 50 “dead zones” around the world: areas of sea that various forms of pollution have rendered *lacking in* life.”

The big clue here is the word “dead zone.” The missing word represents a definition of this term. Considering that *dead* means a lack of life, we can make a good guess that this place would be lacking it.

1. Death is not conducive of life; it takes it away. This can’t be right.
2. If someone gives you something invaluable, it is so precious that a value can’t be determined. Death zones would not likely be called such if they were invaluable to life. Let’s keep looking.
3. Death zones would not be imperative, or necessary, to life. Next.
4. We are talking about areas of the sea here. How would these areas be made indistinguishable from life? It’s hard to compare life and an area of the sea. This is not the best answer.
5. Bereft means lacking, and is similar to what we had guessed. Dead zones are bereft of life. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. “The few female physicians practicing at the end of the nineteenth century might be considered *unique* because they constituted a very small percentage of all physicians.”

How would we describe something that constitutes a small percentage of its kind? Perhaps unique or special. Let’s look for similar words.

1. Miscreants are troublemakers, not unique people. This won’t work.
2. Revisionists would come up with new ideas. All we know about the people we are attempting to describe is that their numbers were small compared to male physicians. This is not the correct answer.
3. An anomaly is something that stands out from what’s normal, much like a female physician in the nineteenth century would stand out. This looks promising.
4. Pacifists refuse to fight or argue. This has little to do with female physicians being a small minority at the time. Next.
5. Extremists hold radical beliefs, an attribute that we can’t apply to female physicians in this time from what we know from this sentence. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. “Rose smiled approvingly but gave neither written nor spoken permission to proceed with the project: her consent, in short, was *implied*.”

Our missing word is an adjective to describe Rose’s consent. All we know of this consent is that it was given without written or spoken permission. What type of word might describe permission that is unspoken? Implied, maybe. Let’s find a similar word.

1. A *tacit* approval would be one that is expressed without words or speech. This looks like a winner.
2. A fervent response would be very sincere, not typically one made with just an approving smile. Let’s keep looking.
3. An unqualified approval would be without restrictions. We don’t have any indication from this sentence if there are restrictions or rules associated with this approval. This is not the best answer.
4. An impetuous consent would be expressed impulsively or passionately, which would not be characterized by a simple smile. Next.
5. We have no indication that any conditions have been placed on this consent, so this can’t be right.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. Keep in mind that the author is remembering his or her artistic experience as a 4 or 5-year-old. The author describes writing his or her first poems in the form of drawings.
2. The author’s mother made him or her recite poems in church, so it seems that this activity was encouraged by adults. Nope.
3. When the author was too young to write, he or she used drawing as a means of artistic expression. This looks like our answer.
4. We don’t have anything in these lines that would hint at what others thought of the author’s drawing and poetry. We can eliminate this option.
5. There is nothing in these lines to indicate that the author had already developed his or her abilities to their limit. This can’t be right.
6. These lines do not indicate if the author continued these activities as an adult, so we can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Pay attention to the preceding sentence that notes that the author took his or her commitment to drawing and painting too seriously. That gives us the idea that this passion was very intense.
2. The author gives no clue as to how his or her artistic ability ended up later in life. We can eliminate this option.
3. This passage is personal to the author; there is no indication that the author’s wish is shared by many young people. Next.
4. To have ambitions of writing, painting, composing music and inventing things are lofty goals for a 12-year-old. The author even admits that it was taken too seriously. So, we could characterize this as a grandiose ambition.
5. This answer alludes to a future that we are not given a glimpse of in this passage. Nope.
6. We don’t have any indication that this devotion to the visual arts continued past childhood, so this is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This passage describes the effects of World War II on Americans, especially Chinese American women. This can all be summed up by the information in the first paragraph alone.
2. This passage highlights the contributions of Chinese American women in particular, not all those who lived in San Francisco’s Chinatown. Let’s keep looking.
3. The second paragraph mentions various jobs held by Chinese American woman after the war, but the main point of the passage is the effect of the war on these women, not just the jobs they held. This is not the best answer.
4. Even though the Great Depression is mentioned in the first paragraph, the primary purpose of the passage is the effect World War II had on Chinese American women. Next.
5. The impact that the war had on Chinese American woman includes everything mentioned in the second paragraph. This is also stated at the end of the first paragraph. This looks like a winner.
6. This passage has to do with Chinese American women and the war effort, not the influence of feminism on these women. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. The first paragraph describes the changes on Americans that were brought about by World War II, and notes that Chinese American women had a particularly strong role in them. The second paragraph furthers this topic with examples of the contributions of these women.
2. The first paragraph does not contain an anecdote, nor does the second paragraph make generalizations. This is not correct.
3. The first paragraph makes a claim that Chinese American women made major contributions to postwar America, while the second paragraph gives examples to support that claim. We have a winner.
4. The first paragraph only makes the claim; it does not offer explanations. We can eliminate this answer.
5. We’ve already determined that the second paragraph furthers the topic mentioned in the first. There is no digression here. Next.
6. Again, the second paragraph serves to support the claim made in the first, not to challenge the claim. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. The passage describes these workers as grim and that their work “may as well have happened in another country in another age.” The shopkeepers do not seem to have much regard for these workers.
2. If the shopkeepers were ambivalent, they would likely have both positive and negative feelings. We don’t see that here. Let’s keep looking.
3. This description does seem dismissive of the workers. The shopkeepers didn’t care what they did or how hard they worked. This looks like a good answer.
4. The shopkeepers are not described as wanting to go into combat or fight the factory workers. This answer won’t work.
5. Are there any words used here to denote fear of the factory workers? Nope.
6. The shopkeepers regard the factory workers as people of no concern, not as people they are suspicious of. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. We are discussing the relationship between the factory workers who create the goods and the shopkeepers who sell them. Placing the order is how the shopkeeper receives the goods; it is a business transaction. We are looking for the best definition of the term as it is used here.
2. No military authority here. This can’t be right.
3. The shopkeeper places an order, which is an instruction to provide him with certain goods to sell. This looks promising.
4. Could placing a request for goods be considered a system of organization? No, so we can eliminate this option.
5. This is not a customary procedure (like a rule of order, as in a debate); it is meant to ask for goods. This is not the correct answer.
6. While an order can be a logical arrangement (e.g., put files in alphabetical order), this is not how the word is used here.

B is the correct answer.

1. This area of the passage relates the shopkeepers’ notion of where the store goods come from. They seem to come as if by magic from behind a veil of smoke. The benign monster is the manufacturing business.
2. This part of the passage describes the manufacturing industry and does not characterize the shopkeepers as greedy. Next.
3. Would describing the manufacturing industry as a monster indicate that the shopkeepers were sympathetic toward the factory workers? This is not the correct answer.
4. Obviously, the manufacturing industry is not literally a monster. This phrase is used to characterize the process in which plentiful goods just happens to appear “from behind veils of smoke.” This looks like a good answer.
5. Line 19 refers to objects of “perfect uniformity” in mass production, the opposite of inconsistency, so we can eliminate this answer.
6. Benign monster does not describe hardships in life; it describes the manufacturing business. This is not right.

C is the correct answer.

1. This sentence comes after a description of the filthy air created by the manufacturing industry. This sentence implies that while the world may never be clean again, who cares when there are benefits (compensation) from industrialization.
2. Economic costs would represent a negative aspect of business; the shopkeepers appear to overlook the negative as there are benefits from industrialization. This can’t be right.
3. The passage does not mention how the goods are marketed. We can eliminate this option.
4. This passage is told from the point of view of the shopkeepers. They are the ones making profits, not the manufacturers. Next.
5. Past failure is not addressed in this passage. This is not the correct answer.
6. Sure, the world is not as clean as it used to be, but who cares when the financial benefits are so great? This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. This last paragraph shows the competition among the shopkeepers. They have to make sure they are open quickly and fully to take advantage of any customers who may come by. The shopkeepers must cater to all customers as they can never tell which ones will spend money in the store.
2. The shopkeepers are not concerned over delivery in this paragraph. They are concerned about opening in time for customers. Let’s keep looking.
3. This paragraph does not provide any indication that the shopkeepers’ profits are abundant, so let’s move on.
4. The shopkeepers are so eager for customers to arrive that they scramble to have their shops open first to take advantage of the early arrivers. This looks like a good answer.
5. If the shopkeepers were nonchalant, they would not be described as being in a hurry to open for their customers. This can’t be right.
6. The shopkeepers are not suspicious of the other shopkeepers, though they are competitive with them. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

This part of the reading comprehension section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

In this section, how would you summarize the first passage? It is discusses the Clovis people, who were long thought to be the earliest Americans, though that theory has now been challenged. The second passage argues that the first people in the Americas may have arrived by boat, as opposed to by foot.

1. We know that the two passages reflect differing theories as to how people first arrived in the Americas. We’ll need to look for finer details to determine where they might agree.
2. The first passage does not even mention a maritime environment, so this cannot be correct.
3. The first passage indicates that people found in Chile may have been the first Americans and there is no mention of what they subsisted on. The second passage mentions that an environment that is not friendly to mastodons would have left these people without access to food (lines 41-44), so mastodons couldn’t have been in the Americas during the ice age. This is not the answer.
4. Passage 1, in the last paragraph, addresses the need for an ice-free passage to travel, which didn’t exist until the end of the ice age. Passage 2 states that travel would have been difficult during the ice age, especially for animals. So, both authors would agree that overland travel would have been difficult during the ice age. This looks like our answer.
5. Both passages seem very interested in pinpointing when America was initially settled, so neither author would likely say that this may never be determined. Let’s move on.
6. The first passage shows that this belief may actually be false, so this is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This phrase is used to describe the ancient spear points that were found as evidence of the Clovis people. The points are sharp on both edges and “finished off” with a groove down the center of each side.
2. This phrase describes an artifact, not a battle itself, so how would this spear point be defeated? Next.
3. The spear point still exists, so the groove in it has not been terminated. Let’s keep looking.
4. First, the spear point was sharpened, and then completed, or finished off, with a groove on each side. This makes sense.
5. The groove in the spear point was not disposed of; it is still in existence. Nope.
6. If the groove totally consumed the spear point, it would be difficult to determine what the object even was several thousand years later. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This quote comes from a prominent archaeologist who declared that the Clovis people were the first to inhabit the Americas. The next sentence then disputes his claim.
2. The archeologist’s quote is not providing evidence; it’s representing a theory of that time. This is not the correct answer.
3. This quote explains the widely held assumption that the Clovis people were the earliest Americans; it does not discredit it. Next.
4. This quote explains the generally accepted claim that the Clovis people were the first Americans. It is not providing support to any thought provoking alternative. Let’s keep looking.
5. This quote states the widely held viewpoint. The opposing viewpoint comes later in the passage. This is not the best answer.
6. The first part of this passage describes how the theory of the Clovis people as the earliest Americans came to be accepted. This quote summarizes this theory with a quote from an expert. This is our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The word *sign* is used in the context of how we know that the Clovis people existed. The first sign that the Clovis people existed appeared in the form of archaeological evidence.
2. An omen is an occurrence that indicates that something is about to happen. Our sign happened thousands of years ago. Let’s move on.
3. The sign of the Clovis people is not a symbol; it is tangible evidence that they existed. Next.
4. Would you equate a gesture as evidence that the Clovis people existed? This one makes no sense.
5. The artifacts that have been found are the indication, or sign, that the Clovis people existed. This makes sense.
6. There is no figure that is described as evidence of the existence of the Clovis people. This can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. The paragraph we are referred to provides evidence against the idea that the Clovis people were the first to settle in the Americas. It presents evidence that people lived in Chile around 1,000 years prior to the arrival of the Clovis people. The second passage claims that the first people to arrive in the Americas may have done so by boat.
2. This paragraph does not invalidate that people arrived shortly after the ice age. There’s evidence to the contrary. This can’t be right.
3. This paragraph states that evidence of people living in South America during the ice age could mean those people arrived by boat rather than by foot. The author of Passage 2 would support this theory.
4. The fact that people were found in Chile would not prove that travel by foot was impossible. Let’s move on.
5. We don’t have any indication as to how these people sustained life, so let’s eliminate this answer.
6. This paragraph shows evolving and differing theories, not disputes over facts. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. The latest idea referred to here is that people arrived in the Americas in skin-covered boats without their spears and crampons. What type of artifacts might support that claim?
2. We are talking about people who arrived around 13-14,000 years ago, so knowing what existed 9,000 years ago would not help us with this claim. Next.
3. Again, artifacts dating back 11,000 years would not tell us very much about what occurred 13-14,000 years ago. Nope.
4. Arrowheads would not have much to do with people traveling by boats, so this answer won’t work.
5. If archaeologists found evidence of boat anchors dating back before the time of the Clovis people, then that would support the “latest idea” that people traveled by boat before the time of the Clovis people. This looks like a winner.
6. This would only prove the existence of mastodons in the area, not the existence of people traveling by boat. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. The studies referred to in these lines show that even during the ice age in North America, there were areas of coastline not covered by ice where people could rest during voyages. What might this information be an indication of?
2. This does not provide proof that the first people traveled to America by boat. It suggests it is possible, but it does not prove the theory. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author provides no indication that the findings are certain to be verified. The author merely states that these exist.
4. The findings are not characteristic of an experimental approach; they are simply results of the studies. Next.
5. These findings are not critical of the idea that people could have traveled to the Americas by boat prior to the arrival of the Clovis people. We can eliminate this option.
6. Knowing that there were areas of coastline not iced over and where people could take refuge makes it plausible, or possible, that people could have traveled to the Americas by boat during this time. In other words, it indicates that this theory is plausible.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s look at each of the three options and identify in which passage each can be found.

Option I - We know that both provide a theory on how people originally traveled to the Americas: the first passage claims it was by foot, the second by sea. That eliminates Options B and D.

Option II - The first passage puts the date of the first settling of the Americas as around 14,500 years ago; the second passage does not mention any settlement dates. So, neither passage provides an exact date as to when the Americas were initially settled. That eliminates Option E as well.

Option III - Both passages mention sources of food for the earliest Americans: in lines 18-20 of Passage 1 and lines 42-44 of Passage 2.

So, both passages contain option I and III.

C is the correct answer.

1. This question asks us to identify writing devices used in each passage. We will need to be able to identify each style of writing as well as whether it occurs in each passage. First, read through the possible answers to see if you can identify the writing device in either of the passages. If not, eliminate that answer. Then, come back to the remaining answers to see if the device can be identified in both passages.
2. Neither passage alludes to or mentions politics. We can eliminate this answer.
3. The first passage includes a direct quotation from Frederick Hadleigh West. The second passage also includes a direct quotation from Robson Bonnichsen. This looks like our answer.
4. Even though a rhetorical question does not have a specific answer, neither passage includes any questions, so this answer can be eliminated.
5. The first passage includes the anecdote of a teenager in New Mexico who discovered what he believed to be a “war-head.” But the second passage does not include any anecdote. So, this is not the correct answer.
6. Neither passage uses metaphors in addressing the claims. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. We’ve already determined that the primary purpose of Passage 1 is to indicate that the Clovis people may not have been the earliest settlers in the Americas. The second passage attempts to defend the idea that the first settlers in the Americans may have arrived by boat.
2. Passage 2 does not disprove the first passage’s argument that people may have arrived in the Americas before the Clovis people. It merely describes an alternative theory about how those people may have arrived. We can eliminate this option.
3. What terms are defined in Passage 1? There’s a description of Clovis people and “warheads” but no “defined terms.” Next.
4. Passage 1 discusses an ancient technology in the anecdote about spear points, but these spear points are not discussed in Passage 2. Next.
5. The theory presented in Passage 2 that the first Americans may have arrived by boat could help explain the evidence of people living in South America that pre-dated the Clovis people. This could work.
6. Passage 2 does not describe any archaeological discoveries, only theories. This option can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 3**

**Section 9: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as ‘similarly’ or ‘otherwise.’ This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. We have a clue here with the inclusion of the word *paradoxically*, which means “contradictory but perhaps true.” So, the two words we are looking for will convey this meaning in the statement.
2. Regal and imperial both mean similar things, so someone with regal philosophies and imperial practices would not be paradoxical. Next.
3. Someone with simplistic philosophies and neutral practices would also not be a paradox; there is no contradiction here. Let’s keep looking.
4. Having liberating philosophies, but repressive practices would be a paradox. While they favor liberation, they repress with their actions. This looks like our answer.
5. Totalitarian and absolutist mean very much the same thing, so we could not describe this as a paradox. Nope.
6. Scandalous philosophies could lead to compromised practices, so this option won’t work.

C is the correct answer.

1. The use of the word *despite* also serves as a clue to the missing words in this sentence. Gerald feels the way that he does *in spite of* his brilliant career. So, we’re looking for feelings that we would not expect someone with a brilliant career to have.
2. Gerald is plagued with doubt so he could probably imagine being worthless, not the opposite. This option is not correct.
3. We might actually expect someone with a brilliant career to be unable to reconcile his feelings of superiority. Let’s keep looking.
4. A person with a brilliant career would not likely embrace feelings of insecurity. This can’t be right.
5. This makes sense. Even though Gerald’s career was brilliant, he still could not dispel, or drive away, his feelings of inferiority.
6. It does not make much sense to say that Gerald would be unable to fathom his feelings of levity (lightheartedness). His being plagued with doubt would indicate a lack of levity. We can eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The two words we are looking for both describe someone who is blatantly proud (first missing word) and offensively bold (second missing word).
2. Haughty could describe someone who is full of herself, or blatantly proud. Impudent also describes someone who is cocky or bold. This looks like a good possibility.
3. Someone who is irresolute is unsure of herself, not proud. No need to go further on this one.
4. Someone who is presumptuous assumes something to be the case before getting the full story. This doesn’t quite work in describing someone who is proud, so again, let’s move on.
5. We could conclude that Jane is arrogant, but not necessarily articulate if she is offensive to others. This is not the best answer.
6. Someone who is reverential shows reverence, or respect, to others. This doesn’t seem to describe someone who is blatantly proud.

A is the correct answer.

1. Which of the options would describe two things that are diametrically opposite in placement?
2. A satellite typically revolves around another planet. This would not describe the position of countries in the world. Nope.
3. The prefix anti- describes things that are opposed. Antipodes would be parts of Earth that are opposite. This looks like a winner.
4. Could countries be described as reversals? You can’t turn them in the opposite direction, so this would not work.
5. The prefix bi- refers to two things, as in dividing two things. So, this does not explain the position of the two things, and we can eliminate this answer.
6. A dichotomy is something that has been divided in two. This is not how you’d describe two countries’ positions. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Ken’s obligation is to his mother during a health situation. What adjective could we use to describe this obligation? Familial perhaps?
2. *Filial* is similar to *familial* except it is specific to a son or daughter. That seems to be the case here, so this looks like our answer.
3. A symbiotic relationship is one in which both members benefit. In this statement, Ken’s mother is the only one receiving the benefit. Let’s keep looking.
4. In familial relationships, what member of a family do you recognize in the word avuncular? An uncle, perhaps? While this word is synonymous with kindly, it doesn’t best describe the relationship between Ken and his mother. Let’s eliminate this option.
5. Ken is not staying with his mother to be convivial, or to keep her company. This is not the best answer.
6. We don’t have any indication that Ken’s mother is dying, so there is no funerary (think funeral) obligation in this instance.

A is the correct answer.

1. Think of where you’ve seen the word *abashed.* If someone shows unabashed enthusiasm, they are not embarrassed by their enthusiasm. So, we can conclude that someone who is abashed is embarrassed. So what type of noise could the orchestra make that would have even the least experienced members embarrassed?
2. A cacophonous sound is not a good one; it would be the sound of instruments playing off tune. This would be an embarrassing sound for an orchestra. This looks like a winner.
3. Syncopation is a type of rhythm; it is not an embarrassing sound. This is not the correct answer.
4. An orchestra playing in harmony would be something to be proud of, not embarrassed by. Next.
5. An orchestra would make collaborative sounds if they are working together well. This won’t work.
6. Mellifluous looks similar to fluid, which is smooth. A smooth sound would not be embarrassing. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

This passage is taken from a memoir of the author’s 1960’s childhood in Chicago. She describes how she loved trips to the library which was located in a nice neighborhood, far outside of her poor one. She specifically mentions loving the novel *Little Women* and the common ground she found with one of the characters.

1. The author describes these excursions to the library as a “piece of perfection” in which she could find everything she loved in one place. So, we can be certain that she had positive thoughts about these excursions.
2. The author looks forward to these excursions; she did not show apprehension about them. We can eliminate this answer.
3. If she felt detachment from these excursions, why would she remember them so fondly in her memoir? Next.
4. The author did not resent having to go to the library. She describes the visits as perfection. This can’t be right.
5. The author does not seem proud of herself for going. She is more in awe of being able to make these trips. Next.
6. We could certainly conclude that the author looked upon these excursions with delight. She described them as perfection and was happy to go to a place that had everything she loved. This one looks right.

E is the correct answer.

1. This statement notes the contrast between the outside of a very non-descript building and the very ornate inside. Walking through the doors seems almost magical.
2. Impressions are usually images or feelings one has based on experiences, so it would not be correct to refer the library’s physical descriptions as impressions.
3. The author is not distinguishing between experiences; she is just providing descriptions. Next.
4. The author distinguishes between the boring external look of the library and the fancy internal view. This looks like our answer.
5. These are certainly observations, but from these lines we only have the author’s private ones. We can eliminate this option.
6. These statements are the author’s comments, not anyone else’s assumptions. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. This is the line that expresses wonder over the interior of the library. How would you describe the author’s tone in describing this part of the library?
2. No arrogance here. The author is describing the library—not anything she could be obnoxiously proud about. Next.
3. The author is not predicting anything, and particularly nothing evil, so she is not taking a foreboding tone. Nope.
4. The author seems adamantly sure of her statement; it is made with conviction. The inside of the library could not be mistaken for anything else. This looks good.
5. She is not diffident, or unsure, in her tone, so this is not correct.
6. There is no sarcastic tone. The author is not making fun of the library; she is in awe of it. This can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

1. The author describes the ceiling of the library as being “adorned with what I used to imagine were the angels of books.”
2. From her reaction to the ceiling, we don’t have any indication that the author aspires to be a novelist. Let’s move on.
3. The author doesn’t express any feelings of distaste for religious imagery. This can’t be right.
4. There is nothing here that would indicate that the author is puzzled about the angels on the ceiling. Next.
5. The author is in awe of what the library offers. She reveres what can be found there, likening the images on the ceiling to “angels of books.” This looks like our answer.
6. The author seems quite comfortable in the library, so this can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. In describing her exploration of Africa on the globe, the author notes that she would “try to remember which countries were fighting to be free just as we were struggling for civil rights.” This exploration has as much to do with African-Americans as it did with foreign countries.
2. The author likens the African nations’ struggle for freedom with the civil rights movement closer to home. So, this memory serves as a reminder of the American movement for social change. This looks promising.
3. We don’t have any indication that the author has been abroad at all, much less to Africa. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. The only cultures mentioned here are African ones, so we don’t get a sense of world-wide diversity from this memory. Let’s keep looking.
5. Other than in contrast to the manicured lawns of the neighborhood surrounding the library, we don’t have much of a sense of the diversity of the author’s neighborhood. This is not the correct answer.
6. Looking at Africa reminded her of the American civil rights movement, not the influence African politics may have had on America. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The author’s father is characterized as arguing with the TV when the issue of civil rights was discussed on a program. So, we can conclude he felt very passionately about the topic.
2. We can’t say that her father was uncomfortable discussing politics with the children because the only information we have about this subject is author’s main memory of him arguing over it in front of the television. Let’s keep looking.
3. It is not television news coverage in general that he is upset over; it is the issue of civil rights. Let’s eliminate this option.
4. If someone is fired up enough about a topic to yell at the television about it, we can safely conclude that this person had strong feelings on the topic. This looks like our answer.
5. We don’t have any information to tell us if the father’s view of the world was pessimistic. This can’t be right.
6. If the father was an outspoken public advocate for civil rights issues, we would think he’d be described as arguing in public rather than yelling at his television. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The Tarzan movies are mentioned as the only thing the author knew of Africa, and that those movies did seem strange to her.
2. The author was curious as to whether or not the portrayal of African life was authentic, so this answer won’t work.
3. Judging from the author’s joy in trips to the library, we certainly could not conclude that she preferred watching movies to books. Nope.
4. No mention is made of the actors from the Tarzan movies. We can eliminate this answer.
5. The fact that the author’s only knowledge of Africa came from Tarzan movies demonstrates that she had little knowledge of the area at that time. This answer looks good.
6. The author admits to watching these movies a lot, so we couldn’t say she has little interest in fictional characters. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. This paragraph describes the author’s curiosity and how books fueled it. She particularly liked science books and would perform experiments based on what she read in them.
2. The author does not go into any detail about the mythology books, so this paragraph could not be described as one that contrasts them with science books. We can eliminate this answer.
3. This paragraph is about more than the author’s enjoyment of books on birds and bees, so let’s find a better answer.
4. The examples given are all about the types of books the author enjoyed at that point in time. This answer makes sense.
5. While a difference in the book preferences is mentioned, it is is not the main point of this paragraph. Let’s keep looking.
6. The experiments the author conducted demonstrate the joy and knowledge that the author took from reading science books; they do not serve as the primary purpose of the paragraph. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This section of the passage describes the day the author found *Little Women*. She did not want to judge the book based on its title, so she skimmed the first few paragraphs to determine if she would like to read the book or not.
2. The author did not find reading the book in the library to be dull. In fact, she kept reading it until it was time to go home. So, let’s keep looking.
3. The author uses the first few paragraphs to determine if the book could be interesting, so it does not make sense that she would think that “interesting books are often dull in their first few paragraphs.” Let’s move on.
4. This paragraph does not address how she felt about novels in comparison to nonfiction works, so this answer can’t be right.
5. The author did not want to judge the book by its title. She thought that a title could lead you to think a book was good when it was not. So, this answer looks right.
6. The author indicates that sometimes books that have interesting titles are not so interesting to read. So, sometimes the books are interesting and sometimes they are not. She does not indicate that books are rarely as interesting as their titles. This answer is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. The quotes in these lines all show the girls in *Little Women* discussing their thoughts about being poor at Christmas and how having family is an important gift.
2. The author did not expect to open this book and find a story about young girls who are poor like her. She was surprised to skim these first few paragraphs and relate so well to these girls. Let’s keep this answer in mind.
3. What is the decision that would be illustrated here? The decision to begin reading Little Women? If so, that decision is not necessarily sudden. Let’s move on.
4. It does not seem that any children have misconceptions here. Both the author and the girls in the book know that they are poor and have to come to terms with that. We can find a better answer.
5. The author seems to enjoy this book, so it does not make sense that she would use this quote to criticize this type of book. This can’t be right.
6. The author does not use this excerpt from the book to describe her sense of history; it’s included because the girls in the story are in the same position as she is. We can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The word *fair* is used in the sense of being right or decent: “it is not fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all.”
2. This is not used to mean something comely, or pretty, such as a “fair maiden.” Nope.
3. This version of the word fair would be used to describe fair weather or temperature. This won’t work.
4. The character in the book feels that all little girls should be able to have the same nice things. She wants things to be equitable or fair. This looks like our answer.
5. Would the fact that some girls have lots of pretty things while others have none be considered auspicious, or favorable? This answer does not make sense.
6. Fair is not used to mean mediocre, or inferior in quality. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. This section of the passage describes how the author read the book all the way through, only stopping to sleep and eat. She seems to have fallen in love with reading the book.
2. If she found the book bewildering, she would be puzzled by it; since this isn’t the case, this is not the correct answer.
3. Why would someone have a hard time putting down an unremarkable book? This answer does not make sense.
4. We don’t have any indication that the author found the book funny or hilarious. Let’s keep looking.
5. While the author could have a hard time putting down a profound book, she does not note any deep insight learned from the book. We can find a better answer.
6. Captivating is a good word to describe how the author found the book. It certainly had an irresistible charm. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this section, the author describes why she loves *Little Women* so much. She especially likes the character Jo, with whom she identifies; Jo is her kindred spirit.
2. There is no hypothesis, or theory, that would be supported by declaring a character to be much like the author. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author sees the character, Jo, to be much like her; you could say it’s an interpretation that is supported, not challenged. Next.
4. There is no inconsistency here. Jo’s traits described here, loving to read and to make up plays, and hating to be ladylike, are consistent with how the author characterizes herself. This is not the correct answer.
5. The author is comparing herself to this character in Little Women. The traits mentioned here serve to substantiate that comparison. This looks like a winner.
6. Describing Jo’s character traits is not meant to criticize her; it is meant to help us understand what our author is like. Let’s eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 3**

**Section 10: WRITING**

Congrats, you’re in the final stretch. You’ve now reached the final section of the test. You can see the end. But don’t be tempted to race through. Yes, you’re tired. You’re ready to be done. But still, take a deep breath and try to concentrate for these final 10 minutes. You’ve worked hard to get this far; don’t blow it by getting lazy at the end.

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. This sentence sounds good as it is. If we simplify the sentence, it would say “She assured them that they would finish on time.” The verb tenses are correct as are the pronouns (e.g., Wa Nu [her group] and the members of the group [they would finish on time]). You can take a quick look to make sure none of the other options improve on the original sentence.
   * 1. We’ve got two complete thoughts separated only by a comma. This is not correct.
     2. “She assured ... to the members of the group” would be better stated as “She assured the group that . . . .”
     3. Would we say “she *assuring* them that they would finish on time”? Nope. This is not a complete thought, and not the right answer.
     4. Once again, we have two complete thoughts linked only with a comma, so that’s not right.

A is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take a look at the verb tenses here: “pointed out” and “getting.” Do these match? Nope, so let’s look for an option with matching verb tenses.
   * 1. This option replaces “getting” with “was named,” which is the past tense and matches “pointed.” This looks good.
     2. While this option includes the past tense “got,” it states that Mission San Luis Rey is “being” a Spanish church. It either is or is not a Spanish church; its nature can’t change. This is not correct.
     3. This option is actually funny. We have a French king that had an Arabic dome. Next.
     4. This option makes it seem like the *name* was a Spanish church, not that Mission San Luis Rey was a Spanish church. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. Once again, let’s check out the verb tenses in this sentence. Joan “feeling tired” and she “was able.” This structure doesn’t make a lot of sense, so let’s find a better option.
   * 1. This option is better in terms of the verbs but it leaves out the conjunction, so we have nothing linking the two parts of the sentence. This is not the best answer.
     2. This looks good. We know Joan was tired and frustrated. We also know she was able to finish her painting. But what do these two ideas have to do with each other? Although she was tired, she was still able to finish. The thoughts are correctly linked. This sounds right.
     3. For this option to be correct, we would need to say “Despite the fact that Joan felt tired . . . .” We need to show that the action is in spite of a fact. This option won’t work.
     4. Nevertheless can’t come at the beginning of a sentence. It would be correctly used here if what came *before* it stated that Joan was tired (i.e., “Joan felt tired and frustrated, nevertheless, she was able to finish her painting . . . .”). So, this is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s separate the two actions in this sentence. Men and woman leave the village before sunrise. Men and women to be returning by late afternoon. Hmm, that second part doesn’t sound right, does it? Let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. “It is late afternoon that they return . . . .” For one thing, it is late afternoon *when* they return. This can’t be right.
     2. This option does not tell us what the two thoughts have to do with each other. We need some sort of word that would link the thoughts or show a relationship between them. Let’s keep looking.
     3. Men and women leave the village before sunrise and return by late afternoon. Yep, that sounds good. Our verb tenses match and we have a conjunction linking the two thoughts. This could be our answer.
     4. Men and women leave the village before sunrise. They to have returned by late afternoon. That second part does not sound right. Next.

D is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take a look at the verbs that describe what the society does. It provides information. It giving them discounts. Yep, we have some verb tense issues here, so let’s find a solution.
   * 1. Does the society provide *the getting of* discounts? Wouldn’t it just sound better if we said the society provides discounts? This can’t be the answer.
     2. The society not only provides information, but also gives discounts. That sounds right. Both of the verbs match the subject, the society. This looks like a winner.
     3. The society has been providing information. The society were giving discounts. For one thing, we know this can’t be right as society is a singular subject, and *were* would refer to a plural subject. Next.
     4. This answer can’t be right as the subject, the society, is singular, while *are* would refer to a plural subject. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. This sentence does not sound quite right, so let’s take a look at the underlined section. First, “so close was she” sounds more like something out of an old folk song, and not quite proper grammar as it is used here. Wouldn’t it sound better to say “she was so close”? And where does the mention of Antietam fit in? Let’s see which option best corrects these issues.
   * 1. This option needs a better way to link the relationship between the facts that Clara Barton ministered on battlefields and was close to the actual fighting. This option won’t work.
     2. She ministered to soldiers. She being so close to the fighting. Nope, this is isn’t right.
     3. This option uses a semicolon to link the thoughts, and changes the word order in the second thought to subject-verb (“she was so close”). This looks like the correct answer.
     4. This also uses the semicolon, but there are problems with the second thought. It should say “She was at Antietam, so close to the fighting that . . . .” So, this is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Is the point of the sentence to say “their flight was missed” or “they missed their flight”? The subject of the sentence is the bride’s parents, not the flight, so we need to fix this.
   * 1. Simplified, this sentence says, “Because they missed it, they had to run.” That looks pretty good, so we’ll keep this answer in mind.
     2. “They had missed their flight, thus, finally, running . . . .” “Missed” and “running” don’t match in tense and the word “finally” is unnecessary. Let’s keep looking.
     3. This option doesn’t link the thoughts properly. We have two complete thoughts separated by a comma. This is not correct.
     4. This option has the same problem as the original sentence. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. The herds trampled vegetation. Looks good. Now, “and future plant growth was aided by this by returning nutrients.” This sounds awkward, so let’s find a better answer.
   * 1. We need some sort of conjunction here to link the two thoughts. Taken as a whole, this would say, “Buffalo herds … trampled vegetation, future growth was thereby aided.” Let’s move on.
     2. Let’s simplify this sentence. They trampled vegetation thereby aiding future plant growth. We have a good link between the two thoughts with “thereby,” and it otherwise sounds good.
     3. This does not accurately link the two ideas. The trampling of vegetation aided future plant growth by returning nutrients to the soil. Here, it sounds as if an aid to plant growth returned nutrients to the soil. This is not the correct answer.
     4. We would normally use “but” to show some unexpected or contrasting consequence. That is not the case here. The herds trampled the vegetation *and* this aided future growth. This answer does not make sense.

C is the correct answer.

1. Because the actions in this sentence have not actually occurred (the administration failed to do them), we need to use either/or as opposed to neither/nor. Using neither/nor would result in a double negative. Notice that the *non-underlined* section contains *either*; that gives us a clue that *nor* in the *underlined* section *would not be correct*.
   * 1. This answer still uses *nor*. Next.
     2. We can’t use *nor* after *either*. Nope.
     3. What are the two things the administration failed to do? They failed to renovate the dormitories. Did they also fail to *by replacing* them? Nope, that’s not right.
     4. The administration failed to renovate the dormitories. They also failed to replace them. This looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. We have a lot of words here that indicate a reason for something: because, causes, why. We can find a better option than this.
   * 1. Insufficient funding causes the failure of new businesses. Because of this, Tamar and Robert waited to open their coffee shop. Makes perfect sense, right?
     2. Why did Tamar and Robert wait to open their coffee shop? Because insufficient funding causes the failure of many small businesses. So, in our sentence, it should state that insufficient funding *causing* the failure of business is the reason why. This won’t work.
     3. We know that semicolons separate two complete thoughts. The first part of this sentence is not a complete thought; there is no verb. Let’s keep looking.
     4. In this one it is also difficult to determine what is causing what. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. This entire sentence is underlined, so we’ll need to look at the structure as a whole. What do we know of Roosevelt from this sentence? He was a great reformer. He was a great president. The sentence is structured so that it is clear how great he was. He was not only a great reformer, but also a great president. This one looks good as is.

A is the correct answer.

1. If you only read through the underlined part of this sentence, it looks good. But *keep reading;* things get weird once we reach the words *was created*. There’s obviously something wrong here.
   * 1. There are two separate descriptions of the coalition (“established to encourage” and “created by”) that are not properly linked. This answer doesn’t correct the sentence.
     2. The coalition is not currently *establishing*. It has already been established. This can’t be right.
     3. The establishment has already taken place, it is not being established. Next.
     4. The coalition, established to encourage others, was created in 1996. This correctly describes the coalition, and works well.

E is the correct answer.

1. This sentence mentions several difficult choices. Once choice is referred to as “when she forces herself” to leave the house. “When she forces” describes an action, not a choice.
   * 1. The example “when she forces herself” would be better stated as “such as forcing herself.” Let’s keep looking.
     2. We know the sentence is giving an example of a difficult choice. One of those would be “forcing herself to leave,” not “*by* forcing herself to leave.” Next.
     3. Again, we cannot describe a difficult choice with a verb phrase like “when she forces.” This is not correct.
     4. The choices she had to make include *forcing* herself to leave the house. And this option is our best choice.

E is the correct answer.

1. What do we know about quinoa from this sentence? It is nicknamed the supergrain of the future. It is a complete protein. It contains all the necessary amino acids. It is high in fiber. All of these things are clear from this sentence, and all of the verb tenses match and represent quinoa’s current state. Quinoa is currently a complete protein. This one looks good just the way it is.

A is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 4**

**Section 2: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. What type of reaction would you expect if there was never any element of surprise in someone’s songs? A bored reaction, perhaps. Let’s check out our answers to see which description could be prevented by using an element of surprise.
2. A song with an element of surprise could very well be erratic or inconsistent. This option won’t work.
3. Adding an element of surprise would not prevent a composer’s songs from being informal, or unsophisticated. Let’s keep looking.
4. A song with surprising elements could be somewhat elaborate or varied. Next.
5. Adding an element of surprise would prevent a song from being predictable. This makes sense.
6. The addition of surprising elements would not prevent a piece of music from being idiosyncratic, or odd. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. We know that the pandas are already weak. A harsh winter would likely be difficult for them, and so that could result in very bad consequences.
2. How would a harsh winter have preventive consequences for these pandas? It certainly would not prevent them from being weakened further. Let’s keep looking.
3. Regressive means moving backwards. We’ve already said the harsh winter would make things very bad for the pandas. So, how would going back to a less weak state move the pandas from bad to worse? This answer makes no sense.
4. A harsh winter could have catastrophic or horrible consequences for these pandas. This answer works much better.
5. If the consequences are unforeseen, what is the point of our sentence? This option won’t work.
6. Again, we’ve already determined that a harsh winter would result in very bad consequences. Moderate consequences would not be as bad, so this option can be eliminated.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s start with the second missing word. If the marriage is “nevertheless grounded largely in economic advantage,” we can infer that it would not be one that came about due to love. This would make marriage a practical decision. Let’s find an option that would make this relationship clear.
   * 1. The marriage is not necessarily devoid of love, but more grounded in economics. This works so far. As such, marriage for these villagers is a practical arrangement. These words work, so let’s keep this answer in mind.
     2. A marriage that is not disparaging, or critical, of love could be one of economic practicality. But would we describe this sort of marriage a practical entertainment? Nope.
     3. A marriage that did not consist of love could be tied to economics. But marriage is not an attitude. This answer won’t work.
     4. Would a marriage not worthy of love be grounded in economic advantages? And, if so, would it be considered a practical bargain? This one is not clear, so let’s eliminate it.
     5. How could a marriage be a practical misfortune, or bad luck, if it was grounded in economic advantage? This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. We know that Maggie is a procrastinator—someone who puts things off until the last minute. How would she participate in discussions? She might add an element of delay, perhaps.
2. Someone who procrastinates is not necessarily meddlesome or inclined to create trouble. Let’s keep looking.
3. A procrastinator would be inclined to temporize, or draw out, a discussion to gain time. And this would likely prolong a discussion. This looks like a winner.
4. Misbehavior is not necessarily a trait of procrastinators. Next.
5. Someone who would be inclined to sneer and terminate discussions would be rude, but would not necessarily be a procrastinator. Nope.
6. It does not seem likely that someone who was withdrawn or quiet would also be the type to intrude in discussions. This definitely does not seem likely for a procrastinator. This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, the atmospheric gases are described as much like glass windows. So, the actions we are looking for would be similar to the functions we find in windows, offering both light and insulation. The gases might *take in* sunlight and *trap* heat.
   * 1. Conducting sunlight would be directing it, so this could work. But, if the gases release heat, it would not keep it from escaping, so we can eliminate this option.
     2. Glass windows do not deflect sunlight; they bring it in. The gases perform like the windows, so they would not deflect sunlight either. Next.
     3. If the gases admit sunlight, that would be similar to glass windows letting light in. Also, “contain heat” would be a purpose similar to the insulation purpose of windows. This option works well.
     4. Windows do not absorb light, so our gases do not either. Nope.
     5. We would not want windows to resist light, so let’s eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. The speaker referenced in this question is all style with no substance. The naïve listeners are easily fooled; they are moved with the speaker’s style, and this makes them feel that her speech has substance.
   * 1. The speaker’s reasoning is not her strong point; it is her style. And people are generally not “moved” by reasoning. Let’s move on.
     2. Naïve listeners would not necessarily be moved by infelicity, or inappropriateness. This can’t be right.
     3. The speaker’s rhetoric is her words and the way she presents them. This would be reflective of her style, which could convince naive listeners that her speech had substance (which is also the word we guessed above). Looks good.
     4. If the speaker spoke with pragmatism, or practicality, that might convince listeners. But would that lead them to believe her speech had futility, or uselessness? No.
     5. If the speaker was being boorish, she would lack class. This speaker has been praised for her style, so we can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. The second part of this sentence defines the word we are looking for. What sort of behavior is characterized by easily being irritated when one does not get one’s way? Perhaps demanding or fussy.
   * 1. A fastidious person would have high standards, but would not necessarily be irritable and demanding of others. Let’s look for a better answer.
     2. A sedulous person is hard-working and active, and that does not accurately describe this actor. Nope.
     3. It does not seem like the actor is behaving this way specifically to hurt others, so he doesn’t sound very vindictive. Next.
     4. A petulant person is grouchy and short tempered. This seems to describe the actor’s behavior well. Looks good.
     5. The actor does not seem to be acting this way out of greed, so we can’t conclude that his behavior was mercenary.

D is the correct answer.

1. This sentence seems to be saying that Hayley Mill’s films are generally considered sentimental. How would we describe a sentimental film?
   * 1. If something is treacly, it is sugary sweet. So, a sentimental film could be described this way. This looks like our answer.
     2. A cursory film would be superficial or shallow. This does not describe sentimentality, so let’s keep looking.
     3. Think of prose as opposed to poetry. Which would you describe as more sentimental? Poetry probably. So a film that is prosaic would not necessarily be sentimental. We can eliminate this option.
     4. A meticulous film would have every detail just so. This does not have anything to do with sentimentality, so this can’t be right.
     5. A consecrated film would be holy or sacred, not necessarily sentimental. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. This sentence notes irony in the fact that women were drawn to Balzac by his writing yet were appalled at how awkward and insensitive he was in real life. It seems that he did not appear to be the person he truly was.
   * 1. The women are described as being drawn to Balzac based on his writing, so we can’t conclude that his writing was not popular among females. Nope.
     2. This sentence has to do with Balzac’s personality and not his financial woes. Next.
     3. Balzac’s “penetrating intuition into the female heart” did not appear in his insensitive personality. This answer looks good.
     4. This sentence does not give us a sense that these women no longer respected him as an artist after meeting him. Let’s move on.
     5. The female readers’ expectations were not met, but we don’t know if they were unreasonable or not. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. As a schoolboy, Balzac is described as being locked in a dark closet at boarding school. The lesson he gained from this experience was that “Life is a prison and only imagination can open its doors.”
2. This experience has little to do with the financial woes that began the passage. Let’s keep looking.
3. As a boy trapped in a closet, he learned that the only way out was imagination. That would explain Balzac’s powerful imagination. Let’s keep this option in mind.
4. This passage makes no critique of how Balzac performed at school. This can’t be right.
5. We don’t know why Balzac was locked in the closet as a boy. Additionally, knowing whether or not he was an unruly student holds little meaning in this passage. We can eliminate this option.
6. What Balzac’s overall boarding school life was like is of little consequence here. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. The answer here can be taken from the sentence, “His very fame … made her training harder in some ways.”
   * 1. The fact that her father told her how hard becoming a doctor could be was not the reason her training was much harder. We can eliminate this option.
     2. We don’t have any clues in this passage that Wright’s father was showy about his success. Let’s keep looking.
     3. We don’t know from this passage how much she studied. This can’t be right.
     4. There are no clues to say that Ms. Wright desired fame by becoming a doctor. Next.
     5. “Everyone knows who Papa is.” This statement makes it seem as if he was a hard act to follow, and that would make training more difficult for her. This answer makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. If we had to summarize this passage, what would we say? It seems that it is primarily concerned with the influence that Jane Wright’s father’s had on her medical career.
2. What would be Ms. Wright’s views of the medical profession? We can’t really tell from this passage, so this answer can’t be right.
3. These recollections do not take place only in childhood. She reflects “in later years” about being warned by her father. Let’s keep looking.
4. The passage primarily covers Ms. Wright’s relationship with her father as it relates to her career. This seems like a good answer.
5. There is no mention of Ms. Wright having any opportunity to collaborate with her father. Let’s move on.
6. Words that would show gratitude would be grateful, thankful or indebted. Do any such words appear here? Nope.

C is the correct answer.

This part of the reading comprehension section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

1. This sentence points out that while men are valued for making money, women are disgraced and shamed for the same action. So, for women, economic exertions would not lead to self-worth.
2. When two things are mutually exclusive, they cannot be present at the same time. This passage tells us that women at this time did not gain self-worth from economic exertions, and that working led to a lack of self-worth. This looks like a winner.
3. These lines describe things the way they have always been. There is no sense that conditions were evolving. Nope.
4. For women, economic exertions lead to shame, not success. Let’s keep looking.
5. It seems that working women would be less likely to be able to find a husband, so this can’t be right.
6. There is nothing here that hints that either of these attributes is easy to achieve.

A is the correct answer.

1. Occupation is referred to here as “a core element in masculine identity.” “Occupation” is a line of work.
2. This passage deals with jobs, not military conquests. This is not correct.
3. Occupation is not used here as if it were a pleasant diversion, something that would occupy one’s time in a carefree manner. Let’s keep looking.
4. A vocation is someone’s line of work. This word makes sense, as what a man did for a living was becoming a key element of his identity. This looks good.
5. How would a settlement be an element of masculine identity? This can’t be right.
6. Political repression was not a key element of male identity, and there is no discussion of militarism in this passage. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. During the late seventeenth century, these trade tokens included both the husband’s and wife’s initials. By the late eighteenth century, only the husband’s initials were used. There seems to be a shift in the importance of women in financial dealings.
2. There is nothing in this passage that notes that these were used as legal currency. Next.
3. We don’t know what class of women used these tokens, so this can’t be correct.
4. Trade tokens have nothing to do with gender stereotypes. Let’s keep looking.
5. The tokens are not described as including the positions of men or women, so we can eliminate this option.
6. If both husband and wife were listed on the tokens, they were considered partners in the business. If only the husband was acknowledged on the tokens, the woman’s place in the business was no longer acknowledged. This works.

E is the correct answer.

1. Most of the examples listed in this passage as evidence of women’s diminished social status have to do with working and money. Women in business were shamed. Let’s find a description that’s an exception.
2. Line 49 notes that women’s opportunities in business were “as faint shadows behind the scenes.” This would be an example of the disparity in career opportunities. Let’s keep looking.
3. Lines 20-21 note the “opprobrium for herself and possibly shame for those around her” risked by working women. This is not our answer.
4. Lines 41-42 note the exclusion of the female’s initials from trade tokens, thus indicating the withdrawal of women from business life. We can eliminate this option.
5. Queen Victoria is noted as an example of a working woman of the time, but her influence is not listed as evidence of diminished social status for women. This looks like our answer.
6. Line 50 notes the absence of financial records of women’s activities, which again confirms their lack of participation in business life. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The view expressed here is from a man born in 1790. His mother participated in their family business when he was a boy, but this man could see that as time progressed, women were no longer participating in business as they had been. Which of the ideas listed here would support this change?
2. Our question is not about the status of women in the seventeenth century. We are to focus more on how things have changed since then. Let’s keep looking,
3. What would women writing novels have to do with women participating in the family business? Not much.
4. Would the fact that women and girls worked in factories support the view that women no longer participated in family business? This doesn’t seem like the best answer.
5. If the practice of married couples jointly running businesses died out in the early nineteenth century, this would confirm this man’s noticing that women were withdrawing from business life. This makes sense.
6. This passage does not deal with formal academic institutions. Nope.

D is the correct answer.

1. This passage deals with Victorian women and their desire to travel. An author of the time notes that women should “hail even a temporary emancipation through travel.” “Hail” used here means to embrace or pursue an opportunity. Let’s find an answer with a similar meaning.
2. How would a woman call out to emancipation? This won’t work.
3. Women would not make a physical gesture to embrace an opportunity. This is not like signaling for a cab. Let’s keep looking.
4. These women may hail, or come from, Europe, but this is not the meaning of hail in the author’s statement. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Women should welcome the opportunity to seek emancipation through travel. This answer makes sense.
6. The women are not summoning emancipation or asking for it. They are encouraged to embrace the opportunity. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Mary Kingsley was a travel writer of her day. She was hailed as a “new woman” due to her travels, but she actually did not embrace the idea of women gaining more political rights.
2. Kingsley did not seem dedicated to equality. She did not want to be thought of as a “new woman,” so she did not advocate for equality. Next.
3. Her dedication to travel is not indicated as a cause for her antagonism, or disapproval, of the women’s rights movements. This answer won’t work.
4. There is no mention made of Kingsley as a British citizen or what it would mean to be a British female, so we can eliminate this option.
5. These lines do not mention the struggle for rights of others groups, so this can’t be right.
6. Kingsley’s traveling was not meant to express her independence, yet, it was interpreted as such. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The reasons for women traveling are listed in lines 64-69. Educational pursuits are one reason, as referenced in line 65 (scientific research). That eliminates Options B and E. Humanitarian concerns are noted in line 66 (missionary work). That eliminates Option A. Entrepreneurial interests (making money through travel) are not mentioned at all. That eliminates Option D.

C is the correct answer.

1. We know that most of the female travelers in the Victorian era did so as researchers or missionaries. Women also traveled to escape the confines of Victorian society.
2. The passage notes that women had a desire to do scientific research, so traveling to Greece to research ancient ruins would fit well with this description. Let’s keep this option in mind.
3. The passage specifically notes a newfound freedom for women to travel unescorted. The woman in this example is living with her father, so this would not support this passage.
4. The woman in this example is escorted by her husband, which does not reflect the newfound freedoms. Next.
5. Traveling as part of a job as a nursemaid does not support the idea of women traveling independently for scientific or missionary work. Let’s keep looking.
6. The passage does not mention fortune seeking as a reason for women traveling during this era. This answer won’t work.

A is the correct answer.

1. The fifth-class is made up entirely of women with no occupation. They are women whose only role is being a part of a family. Which group in Passage 2 would be similar?
2. The women of the fifth class had no occupation outside of mothering, while the missionaries do have an occupation. This is not the correct answer.
3. The caged birds in Passage 2 are women who are left in the house all day. This sounds like the women of the fifth class, who are homemakers. This answer makes sense.
4. The new woman is one who enjoys her freedom and follows her own pursuits. This seems like the opposite of the fifth class. Next.
5. Dorothy Middleton seems to be a researcher discussing the women of this era while Mary Kingsley was a travel writer. They have occupations and would not be representative of this fifth class. Nope.
6. Davenport Adams and Paul Fussell are both authors discussing women of the Victorian era. They do not represent the homemakers of the fifth class. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. Both passages are factually based. They rely on quotes and historical notes to discuss the women of the Victorian era.
2. Neither passage shows a great deal of affection toward its subjects. We don’t get a sense that the authors feel nostalgic for this era. This does not quite work.
3. Both passages analyze the subject. The first discusses the view of working women while the second discusses a newfound fondness for travel. Neither seems to show much of an attachment or fondness for the subject. This answer makes sense.
4. Neither passage contains any personal remarks from the author. This can’t be right.
5. We don’t get a sense that either author is angry about the conditions faced by women of the Victorian era. The first passage may show some dismay, but not righteous indignation. Let’s move on.
6. Neither author is hostile about the subjects that are discussed. There is no anger detected, so we can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Recall that Passage 1 discusses the decreased role of women in the workplace. To determine the correct answer, think about the assumptions about women found in Passage 2 and how the information from Passage 1 could be used to support each option.
2. Passage 1 discusses how women were discouraged from working in England. This could explain how they might pass their time by traveling, as the women of Passage 2 did. This could work.
3. The women described in Passage 2 did not seek to establish businesses at home or abroad. Let’s keep looking.
4. The women in Passage 2 are described as traveling unescorted, so this can’t be right.
5. We don’t have any information in either passage to indicate that women who traveled were universally admired. This is not the correct answer.
6. Passage 1 does not address women’s interests in social reform, so we can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 4**

**Section 5: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. What would be predictable about detail-oriented workers? Perhaps their strong ability to keep track of particulars.
   * 1. One who is remiss in keeping track would be one who is not very good at it. This would not be how we would characterize detail-oriented workers. Nope.
     2. Being “adept at” is another way of saying “being good at.” This looks good.
     3. Detail-oriented people could possibly find humor in doing their work, but the fact that they are detail-oriented would not necessarily mean we could predict that they’d do so. Let’s keep looking.
     4. Would someone who is good at keeping track of details be predictably hesitant about keeping track them? This does not make sense.
     5. We would not think these workers would hold contempt for, or hate, this sort of task. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. We know the tax we are talking about is controversial, so we can assume that people are upset about it. The Prime Minister is using speeches to reduce the negative feeling about the tax.
2. A controversial tax could start a rebellion, but it would likely take more than impassioned speeches to challenge an all-out rebellion. Let’s see if there is a better option.
3. Would a tax lead to a sustained interrogation? Let’s keep looking.
4. A controversial tax could start a conflagration, or conflict, but would the Prime Minister want to foster a conflict? Nope.
5. How would a controversial tax fuel denial? This does not make sense.
6. The people have started an uprising in response to the controversial tax. The Prime Minister would likely want to quell, or stop, the uprising (which could be impossible with speeches). This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. We have a definition of the missing word. It is a word that describes genes that make animals subject to disease or cause reproductive issues. We are looking for a word that could mean defective.
2. We’re able to describe these genes; they are not ineffable, or indescribable. Let’s keep looking.
3. Articulated would mean “connected” here. How does this match our word defective? Let’s move on.
4. Consummate means the best and most accomplished. This doesn’t sound like the most appropriate word to describe the genes considering they make animals prone to disease. We can eliminate this answer.
5. How would a gene be presumptive? This can’t be right.
6. This word shares the prefix de- with words like deteriorate or destruct. These both mean to break something down. Deleterious, in fact, means harmful. The harmful genes make animals prone to disease. This makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, we need to look at both words together. What would a doctor do so frequently that would make others accuse him of the second missing word?
2. The doctor was accused of being inconsistent because he often vacillated, or waivered, in his techniques. This looks like a good answer.
3. Would a doctor be accused of fidelity, or being faithful, if he often gave sermons about disease-prevention techniques? Nope, this doesn’t make sense.
4. The doctor’s colleagues would not think him to be steadfast, or unchanging, if he often wavered. This can’t be right.
5. An inflexible person would not frequently experiment with techniques. They would be stuck on one technique. Let’s move on.
6. If the doctor frequently relied on disease-prevention techniques, would that make him negligent or harmful? Nope, so we can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. First, we need to know what “judicious” means. We know it is related to the word “judge.” A judge is impartial and makes fair decisions. So, it would seem that a judicious biography would be fair and balanced. For the second word, we are looking for the opposite of “indictment,” or strong disapproval, since this is one of two extremes.
2. Something that is “polarizing” brings things apart (think of polar opposites). This does not mean fair and balanced. Let’s move on.
3. Would a judicious biography have to be imaginative? No, it has to be fair and balanced. We can eliminate this answer.
4. A holistic approach does bring all sides to light. But, censure is similar to indictment in that both criticize, so they would not be extremes of each other. This answer won’t work.
5. A biography that is judicious would be balanced, not only complimentary. Both strengths and weaknesses would be included. This can’t be right.
6. A biography that has an equitable presentation includes both strengths and weaknesses. It avoids the extremes of indictment and eulogy. Eulogy is high praise (think of a eulogy at a funeral). This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

The first passage details the difficult life of farmers. The second passage mentions the discomfort that family farmers endure, but primarily takes an adversarial tone against consumers for threatening family farms.

1. The two passages seem to agree that farm life is hard. Passage 1 focuses primarily on the specifics of the hardships of farm life, while Passage 2 only makes a mention of discomfort.
2. Passage 2 seems more concerned about ethical implications than Passage 1. This can’t be our answer.
3. Passage 1 makes mention of long days and an all-consuming schedule. Passage 2 only mentions the farmers’ discomfort and does not focus on the harsh working conditions of farm life. This looks like a winner.
4. Passage 1 laments the lack of unions, but it is not the primary concern of the passage. Next.
5. Passage 1 does not note what types of or how much food is available in the U.S. This can’t be right.
6. Passage 2 seems to pay more attention to American beliefs about farm life than does Passage 1. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. What do you think might be discouraged by both of these passages? Taking farmers for granted, perhaps? Both seem to respect farmers and think that they deserve more respect.
2. Passage 2 mentions a certain poll result, but neither passage makes a case for not relying on poll results. Let’s keep looking.
3. We don’t get a sense of whether or not the farmers desire vacations or if that desire should be discouraged; Passage 1 just notes that they cannot take vacations. Next.
4. Only Passage 2 mentions the price of food. This can’t be the right answer.
5. Both passages describe the life of the farmer as difficult and unglamorous. This could serve to discourage the romanticization of farm life by non-farmers. This looks like our answer.
6. Passage 1 makes no mention of food prices, and neither passage mentions home-grown produce, so this cannot be the answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. This line, in the second passage, indicates that according to a poll, most Americans see farm life as superior to any other type of life. Given Passage 1’s portrayal of long suffering and hard working farmers, how might the author of this passage view these poll results?
2. The first passage does not devote attention to boredom; it is more concerned with how difficult the work is. Let’s keep looking.
3. If most people think farm life is superior, then they obviously don’t know about the 14-18 hour days and lack of relaxation. It seems they would have little understanding of this farm reality. This looks like our answer.
4. Passage 1 makes no mention of farm efficiency, only how difficult the work is. We can eliminate this answer.
5. If these people feel that farm life is superior, then they would likely not wish to improve it. Let’s move on.
6. Research on economical food production is not addressed in either passage.This is not the right answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. We are looking for something that can be found in Passage 1, but not Passage 2. First, try determining if the action can be found in Passage 2. If so, then that answer can be eliminated. If not, check to see if you can identify the action in Passage 1. If so, you have your answer.
2. Passage 2 notes the study conducted by the New York Times. This answer can be eliminated.
3. Passage 2 does not offer a solution. It ends the passage with rhetorical questions about what would be done if family farmers disappeared. Passage 1 also does not provide suggestions to help change the perception of farm life as romanticized. This answer won’t work.
4. Passage 2 argues the position that Americans have distanced themselves from the ethics of food production. Let’s eliminate this answer.
5. Both passages discuss the phenomenon that nonfarmers have a romanticized view of farming. This can’t be right.
6. Passage 2 does not quote an authority; it only mentions a poll of ordinary Americans. But, Passage 1 quotes a farm alumnus, meaning that he has worked on a farm. This answer looks good.

E is the correct answer.

This passage is taken from a novel written by a Chinese American woman about another Chinese American woman. In the beginning, she is embarrassed by her friend and her mother at a dinner party. Later, she laments not asking her recently deceased mother about the significance of a gift of jewelry.

1. In these lines, the words “three” and “guaranteed” are italicized to show us that Waverly had problems with these words; they seemed unimaginative and commonplace.

1. From our assumption about these lines, it makes sense to say that this advertisement sounds unsophisticated and heavy-handed. This looks good.
2. There are no somber, or sad, words used in the advertisement. Plus, it would seem longer and confusing if it were convoluted. Let’s keep looking.
3. If the advertisement had been clear and concise, wouldn’t Waverly have expressed appreciation for it rather than having poked fun at it? This can’t be right.
4. If the advertisement had been effective, June would have been praised for her work, not criticized. We can eliminate this answer.
5. A clever advertisement would not have led to joking and critical comments. This answer won’t work.

A is the correct answer.

1. If June was surprised that she felt humiliated, she is probably someone who is normally resilient and does not let others get to her.
2. June was surprised that the words of both her mother and Waverly made her feel so badly. So it seems likely she was unaware how vulnerable she could be. Let’s keep this answer in mind.
3. She may have been exasperated by Waverly’s comments, but she was also “betrayed” by her mother. This is not the best answer.
4. She expresses humiliation, not a clear dislike. This answer won’t work.
5. Just because her mother agreed with Waverly didn’t mean she admired her. This has nothing to do with June’s humiliation or vulnerability. Next.
6. The author does not show guilt in this section of the passage; she is humiliated.

A is the correct answer.

1. From this sentence we get the feeling that this type of situation has happened in the past.
2. It does not seem that June expected this insult to occur. If so, she might have been more prepared to handle it. Let’s see if there is a better answer.
3. There is nothing to indicate that June wanted to retaliate for past embarassments. Let’s keep looking.
4. We don’t get a sense of the relationship between Waverly and the mother; they do not seem to be purposefully conspiring against June. This is not the correct answer.
5. The fact that June says she can’t believe this happened again shows that Waverly made June feel inadequate on previous occasions. This answer makes sense.
6. We don’t know that Waverly is a talented writer—only that June’s mother feels she is sophisticated. Nope.

D is the correct answer.

1. What does June seem to be most concerned about? She had been outsmarted by Waverly before. What made this occasion worse was being “betrayed” by her mother.
2. We do not see June’s mother going to great pains to make Waverly welcome. Let’s move on.
3. She was not criticized for arguing with Waverly, she was criticized for a lack of sophistication. This can’t be right.
4. June seems mostly concerned that her mother agreed with Waverly when Waverly was being mean to her. June’s mother sided against her, leaving her feeling betrayed. This looks like the correct answer.
5. June’s mother agrees with Waverly—she is not angered by her. Next.
6. We don’t know if Waverly’s comments were a lie or not. We just know they were hurtful and June’s mother agreed with them. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. June has an encounter with a bartender who wears a necklace similar to the one June’s mother had given her. When asked about the significance of the pendant, the bartender takes a guess. It’s clear he placed the same lack of significance on the pendant as June first had.
2. Both June’s mother and the bartender’s mother gave their children this pendant. The relationship of mother and son and mother and daughter are not different in this regard as the pendant appears to be given to a child regardless of whether the child is a son or daughter. Next.
3. June is hoping the bartender can explain the cultural significance of the pendant they were both given by their mothers. But, the bartender can only guess—both are left to ponder it significance. This could work.
4. Neither June nor the bartender understand the symbolism of the pendant. This is not the correct answer.
5. The information the bartender gives us is a guess; it does not illuminate the true significance of it. Let’s keep looking.
6. June talked to this stranger only because he had the same pendant as she did, not because she finds it hard to talk to family members and friends. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. The author describes the pendant as very unfashionable and does not place much importance on it. Once her mother is gone, she notices many other Chinese Americans have similar pendants and wonders about its significance.
2. June runs across a number of Chinese Americans who have also been given this same pendant. This shows that there is a tradition that is widely observed in this community. This looks like a winner.
3. If this were an act of forgiveness, why would so many other Chinese Americans possess the same pendant? This does not seem right.
4. The pendant is described as unfashionable; it is not a symbol of extravagance. Next.
5. If this show of generosity were unprecedented, why would this same gift giving occur in so many other families? This can’t be right.
6. We are being asked about the general act of giving a jade pendant, not how June felt when it was first given to her. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

This passage starts with a description of the types of bats that can be found outside of North America. The author states that bats are useful and fascinating, and any fear of them is unfounded. The author then goes on to discuss why so many people fear bats.

1. The end of the first paragraph provides a good summary of the main point made in the passage. The author feels that bats are “sweet-tempered, useful and fascinating creatures.” He or she then goes on to state that the fear many people have of bats is due to the nature of human fear, not because bats themselves should be feared. Which of the following statements would mirror these thoughts?
2. The author describes many different types of bats, so this can’t be right.
3. The author implies that humans are not actually vulnerable to bats; they just feel that they are. Let’s keep looking.
4. This is an example given in the passage, but this does not sum up the passage. Next.
5. Myth and literature are discussed as examples of why humans fear bats, which is a feeling the author has issues with. This is not the correct answer.
6. The last sentence of the first paragraph agrees with this statement. Our fear of bats has more to do with human fear than any other factor. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, “classic” is used to describe the quotation mark shaped incisions vampire bats make on their prey. We are familiar with these bites based on our common knowledge of bats. So, “classic” is used in this sense.
2. How would “literary” describe incisions made by bats? This has nothing to do with a story, so let’s move on.
3. “Classic” is not meant here as enduring. This makes no sense.
4. The incisions are not described as elegant or beautiful. This is not the meaning of the word “classic” in this passage.
5. We said that the bites were familiar or typical based on our common knowledge. So, it would make sense to say that they are well-known. This looks like a good answer.
6. What would be significant about the incisions? There is nothing special associated with them. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The discussion of vampire bats mentions the difference between the “showy, theatrical” bats depicted in movies and real “stealth” vampire bats. Most notably, the vampire bats’ saliva has the potential to help heart patients.
2. We get a sense from this passage that vampire bats could be useful due to their potential ability to help heart patients. This looks like a good answer.
3. The vampire movies are described as showy, but this quality is not attributed to North American bats alone. This is not the correct answer.
4. The author notes that some tropical bats actually are carnivorous, so this can’t be right.
5. Line 17 states that bat saliva is not toxic to humans. We can eliminate this option.
6. This passage states quite a few scientific facts about the behavior of bats, so this answer does not make sense.

A is the correct answer.

1. Normally, when quotation marks are placed around a word, that indicates that the word is so-called, meaning its use is not 100% appropriate. So-called “normal time” means that what is considered normal for one person may not be normal to another.
2. The author is not making references to his or her own writing here. This answer does not make sense.
3. Quotations marks could be used to criticize a concept the author does not agree with. But, we don’t get a sense that the author believes that human are too obsessed with time. The author’s point is more that humans’ concept of time may not be the only true concept of time.
4. As humans, we tend to be active during the day. But, there are many animals and even some humans who think of the night as normal. So, the quotation marks show that the concept or “normal” is based on one particular point of view, which is limiting. This answer looks good.
5. The author is actually arguing that people should note that there are alternate views of normal time, not just what most people would consider as normal. The quotation marks do not express agreement with this use of the word. Next.
6. The quotes are not used to indicate that we should stress the word. And why would we do that? If we read this aloud, stressing the word normal does not change the meaning of the sentence. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The second paragraph describes why humans are naturally fearful of creatures that are “masters of the night.” At nighttime, we are out of our comfort zone. We feel like prey at this time, and this causes us to fear nighttime creatures such as bats. This question asks which option detracts the least from this argument, so we are looking for the one that would not wholly contradict an argument made in this paragraph.
2. One of the main arguments here is that people feel uncomfortable or vulnerable at night because they are mostly active during the day. If people worked at night and slept during the day, they might be less likely to feel vulnerable at night. So, this answer detracts from the main point quite a bit. Next.
3. The argument here is that nighttime creatures make humans fearful. If many people are not fearful of owls, which are also active at night, this would serve to disprove the author’s point. This is not the correct answer.
4. If most dangerous predators hunt during the day, wouldn’t we feel more like prey during the day rather than at night, which is the author’s argument? Yep, so this is not the answer. Nope.
5. The author makes the argument that our fear of bats is due to human nature. If certain cultures are not fearful of bats, the author’s argument that this fear is human nature would be challenged. We can eliminate this answer.
6. The author does not make an argument regarding the source of dream imagery. Dreams often come from personal life, and this would not disprove the author’s reasoning for why humans feel vulnerable at night. It looks like we found our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The examples in the last paragraph discuss examples of bats drawn from mythology, religion and superstition. Most of the examples cited come from ancient cultures.
2. Anthropology is the study of ancient cultures, like the Ancient Egyptians and Mayans mentioned in this paragraph. This looks like a winner.
3. It seems unlikely that autobiographies of ancient Egyptians would exist, much less that they would discuss bats. Nope.
4. The examples discuss things like beliefs and ancient images on pottery, not fictional stories. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Psychiatry treats mental illness. The examples come from legends and stories, not the psychology behind fears or superstitions. This can’t be right.
6. The examples cited come from the study of culture, not of the study of living things. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The last paragraph begins by stating that bats have always been depicted as frightening or supernatural in mythology, religion and superstition. This is then followed by several historical references meant to prove this point.
2. Each example shows the same side—that bats have been depicted as supernatural. We can eliminate this option.
3. The paragraph ends with a sentence beginning with the word “if.” It does not seem as if this paragraph ends in a truth. Let’s keep looking.
4. The thesis in this paragraph is that bats have always been depicted as frightening or supernatural. This is then followed by examples from mythology, religion and superstition that prove this point. This looks like our answer.
5. The examples help to prove the author’s argument, not refute it. Nope.
6. While the author notes that it is common to depict bats as frightening, he or she is not giving opinions, but rather explanations from historical records. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. In the second paragraph, bats are described as being useful due to their potential in treating heart patients. Which of the historical examples of bat depictions would best support this fact?
2. The Finnish peasants thought that their souls flew around at night in the form of bats. That’s not exactly a useful purpose. Let’s move on.
3. The Ancient Egyptians used bats in medicine to cure diseases. That was quite useful. Let’s keep this answer in mind.
4. The Mayans had a ghoulish depiction of bats, not a useful one. Nope.
5. The bat was the god of death and the underworld in Central American cultures. This does not necessarily imply the bat would be considered useful. Let’s keep looking.
6. The example attributed to English-speaking people is that bats are “bloodsucking monsters.” This can’t be the right answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Bram Stoker’s novel *Dracula* is a popular example of the scary depiction of bats in English-speaking cultures. The novel even inspired “a spill of horror books … about the human passions of vampires.”

1. A novel about bloodsucking monsters would not serve to prove the point that bats are actually sweet-tempered. Let’s keep looking.
2. In Stoker’s novel, bats were given human elements and passions. Humans were inherently interested in the “human aspects” of vampires more than bats themselves. This would serve to support the author’s idea that a fear of bats is due to human factors. This looks like a good answer.
3. The curiosity in Stoker’s novel does not speak to nocturnal creatures, but rather “bloodsucking monsters.” Let’s move on.
4. In referencing Stoker’s novel, the author does not speak to the idea that bats can see better than humans at night. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Dracula represents an example of the supernatural from English-speaking cultures, not distant nations. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 4**

**Section 7: WRITING**

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. As this sentence is written, it sounds like there were more U.S. tourists in British museums than in all of Canada. It seems that what the author meant to say is that more Americans tourists visit British museums than Canadian museums. Let’s rewrite the sentence to make this clearer.  
   * 1. Was it Canada as a whole that visited the British museums? Nope, so this can’t be the correct answer.
     2. Canada’s what? With option, we still don’t know. Let’s keep looking.
     3. Did more American tourists visit British museums than Canadian tourists? Nope, we’re talking about Canadian or British *museums* and American tourists. Next,
     4. Let’s separate this one sentence into two. More tourists from the United States visited museums in Great Britain. Tourists from the United States visited museums in Canada. If we know there were more tourists in British museums than in Canadian museums, we would say that more tourists visited museums in Great Britain than in Canada. This is the correct answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, one company is acquiring another. The publishing company is acquiring the one that manufactures school uniforms. We need to find an option that clarifies the “it” that manufactures uniforms.
   * 1. Dispatch Education is the company that manufactures school uniforms. So, the publishing company bought Dispatch, which manufactures uniforms. This looks good.
     2. This option makes it sound as if Connors is manufacturing school uniforms. It is the second company that manufactures the uniforms. This can’t be right.
     3. Here, it seems as if the “it” referred to is Connors, not Dispatch Education. Let’s keep looking.
     4. Notice the semicolon, which is used to separate two complete thoughts. The problem here is that “for the manufacturing of school uniforms” is not a complete thought. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. How exactly does one’s *hometown* print world news? Yep, that doesn’t quite make sense. It would be the hometown *newspaper* that would print the world news.
   * 1. The hometown newspaper prints more world news than the campus newspaper. We are comparing two newspapers, and that is clearly expressed in this sentence. This looks like a good choice.
     2. Here, the campus newspaper is compared to the town, not the town’s newspaper. This option can’t be right.
     3. The first part of the sentence says “… does not print *as much* world news . . . .” So, we need to repeat the word “as” (i.e., It does not print *as much as . . . .*), replacing “like.” Next.
     4. This option also uses the word “like” when it needs to be “as.” This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. The barrels of potatoes were emptied on the highway and blocked the highway. We do not need to repeat the subject using “they” as a pronoun. There is a more concise way to phrase this.
   * 1. The potatoes were emptied across the highway. This resulted in the highway being blocked. We don’t have to write these as two independent actions so the conjunction “and” is not necessary. Let’s move on.
     2. What is “‘which” referring to here? That’s not clear. This is not the correct answer.
     3. Does “this” refer to the potatoes being emptied on the highway or the labor dispute? Again, this is not clear. We have one more chance for the best answer.
     4. The potatoes were spilled, thereby blocking traffic. This eliminates the unnecessary words and presents the thought in the clearest way.

E is the correct answer.

1. The narrator of this sentence thought the problem through with care. She was therefore frustrated that the committee did not understand her solution. As written, it sounds as if the committee had thought the problem through. Let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. The chairperson’s frustration resulted from the committee’s lack on understanding. It would be clearer to say that the chairperson was frustrated by the committee’s actions. Let’s move on.
     2. The point of this sentence is not how extreme the chairperson’s frustration was. Yet, this is the message we get in this option. Let’s eliminate this option.
     3. We know that the chairperson carefully thought through the problem and that she was frustrated by the committee’s lack of understanding. This option makes the connection between these two thoughts very clear. This looks like a good option.
     4. Here we have the same problem as the original sentence; it looks like the committee had thought the problem through. In addition, this introduces “her” before we know who she is. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. First, we have two reasons here, so the verb has to be plural. Second, what are the two reasons students give for failing to participate in politics? The fact that they have demanding assignments and they work at part-time jobs. Let’s look for a better written answer.
   * 1. What about the demanding assignments? The fact that the students *have them* is a reason for lack of participation. There must be a clearer answer.
     2. The reasons are that *they have* assignments and that *they work* at part-time jobs. This clearly explains the reasons for the lack of political participation. This looks like a winner.
     3. The students *have* assignments and they *work* at jobs. They “ *is not having* assignments . . . .” This can’t be right.
     4. Are the assignments themselves causing the lack of participation? Nope, it’s the fact that the students *have them;* these take time that they could otherwise devote to political participation. This answer won’t work.

C is the correct answer.

1. We are talking about one specific village, Acoma. It is 7,500 feet above sea level and 400 feet above the valley floor. So, we are talking about a particular village, which is 7,500 feet above seat level and 400 feet above the valley floor. This sentence is correct as written.

A is the correct answer.

1. Did the small town return to Dayville after ten years? Nope, that doesn’t make sense. We need to rewrite this sentence so we know it is Margo who returned there after ten years.
   * 1. This still makes the town the subject. ”Having returned to Dayville …, it.” This can’t be right.
     2. Margo returned to Dayville *after* ten years; she did not return *in* ten years, which would be ten years from now. Next.
     3. This option is written as if the two thoughts are unrelated. She returned after ten years. The town seemed livelier. Let’s look for a option that shows that these two thoughts occur at the same time.
     4. Margo thought the town seemed livelier when she returned after a ten year absence. This reflects Margo’s thoughts about the town after she had not been there for ten years. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. George Eliot has command of pathos, tragedy and humor. She is considered to be a great English novelist. What do these two things have to do with each other? The relationship is not clear in this sentence, so let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. This option only changes “humor” to “her humorous side,” which doesn’t make the relationship between the two thoughts clear. Let’s keep looking.
     2. It looks like we have quite a few unnecessary words here. Why would we say *both* pathos and tragedy when we are also talking about a third attribute, humor? Let’s look for a better answer.
     3. Would we say “With being humorous, she was considered to be a great writer”? Nope, this change does not improve the sentence.
     4. She was considered to be a great writer *because* she had command of pathos, tragedy and humor. The relationship here is clear and each of the three attributes of her work is used as a noun. This looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. It is hard to follow Wright’s many moves from this sentence as it is written. Let’s find an answer that might be easier to follow.
   * 1. In this option, the first move is clearly expressd but the next move (from the United States to France) is not. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Wright’s first move was from the South to the North. He eventually moved from the United States to France. The sequence is clear in this option.
     3. This option does not make it clear that Wright was ever in the United States. We can eliminate this option.
     4. This option is also not well written. There are too many verbs (i.e., moved; ended up; leaving). This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. This statement may take a few reads to understand, indicating that something is not clear here. The sentence is nearly complete before we are introduced to “the corporation.” Is this the subject that is heavily dependent on the government? It is not clear, so let’s look for a better option.
   * 1. If you read this sentence closely you’ll see it’s an incomplete thought; there is no verb. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Now it all seems clear. The space center is our subject. It relies on government for business and information. It relies on universities for talent. It is a corporation that remains independent of both. This option makes sense.
     3. This option makes it sound as if universities are dependent on the government for business and information. This is not the correct answer.
     4. Again, it’s not the universities that are dependent on the government. This is not right.

C is the correct answer.

This section tests your ability to identify grammar mistakes. In each sentence, 4 word(s) are underlined. You are to determine if any of the underlined words reflect incorrect grammar or usage errors. You also have an option to indicate that there are no errors in the sentence.

First, read the whole sentence. Does anything stick out to you? The more you read, the more you may pick up when something in the sentence just doesn’t sound right. Since it helps to know why an answer is right or wrong, we’ll explain all the answers.

12. The sentence should read: “Fourteen years after the Galileo space probe was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis, the mission was purposely ended when Galileo ***disintegrated*** in the dense atmosphere of the planet Jupiter.”

The mission ended when the disintegration occurred. The action occurred in the past, so we need the past tense of “disintegrated” to match the past tense of the other verbs in the sentence.

C is the correct answer

13. The sentence should read: “The labor union is negotiating a contract with the hospital that will satisfy the demands of the workers and be acceptable to all levels of management.”

This is the same as it appears in your book; there are no errors (which would make your answer Option E). The union is currently negotiating (Option A) the contract. It is the same contract that (Option B), if adopted, will satisfy (Option C) the demands. At that future point in time, it will also be acceptable to (Option D) all levels of management.

E is the correct answer.

14. The sentence should read: “Many professional athletes are motivated by either personal pride ***or*** love of their sport, but some seem interested only in money.”

The word “either” indicates that *one* of two things would apply to many professional athletes. They are motivated by either one thing *or* the other, not one thing *and* the other. If “both” was used instead of “either,” the use of “and” would work. Just remember that either/or are always paired.

B is the correct answer.

15. The sentence should read: “Even though only parts of clay vessels may be recovered, these pottery shards are invaluable to the archaeologist because ***they are*** indestructible.”

We are referring to shards or pottery, which is plural. Therefore, the pronoun must also be plural (they, not it) as well as the verb (are, not is).

D is the correct answer.

16. The sentence should read: “Along the curve of islands known as the Florida Keys lies a reef of living coral, the only one of ***its*** kind in the continental United States.”

A kind of what? We would say use “a kind of” to describe one of a type of reefs. But, this sentence does not give us that sort of detail. So, we need to say that it’s only one of *its* kind, which would indicate that there is no other reef like it in the United States.

D is the correct answer.

17. The sentence should read: “Paule Marshall, whose Barbadian background has influenced her writing, describes many details of life in the Caribbean Islands vividly in her novels and short stories.”

This sentence looks good as is. Paule is a person whose (Option A) background we are talking about. This background has (continuously) influenced (Option B) her writing. She (currently) describes (Option C) Caribbean life vividly, or in a vivid manner (Option D).

E is the correct answer.

18. The sentence should read: “Because he ***was*** absent when his rivals voted against his proposal, Selby is worried about missing future meetings of the board of directors.”

Selby’s absence occurred when his rivals voted. The voting occurred in the past, so his absence has to be reflected by the past tense (was absent). His worry is current, so the present tense used in Option C is correct.

A is the correct answer.

19. The sentence should read: “In those cities in which public transportation is adequate, fewer traffic problems occur and pedestrians are rarely involved in accidents.”

The sentence is already correct. We are talking about only cities in which (Option B) public transportation is adequate. In those cities (Option A), we have past data that tells us that pedestrians are rarely involved in (Options C and D) accidents.

E is the correct answer.

20. The sentence should read: “Social scientists agree that a system for exchanging goods and services is not only present but also ***necessary*** in all societies.”

The system is *present* in all societies. The system is *of necessity* in all societies. Hmm, that second one would sound a lot better as “necessary.” That way, the system is present and necessary; both words are adjectives.

D is the correct answer.

21. The sentence should read: “The report Alexander is discussing, a report prepared jointly by ***him*** and the committee, does not take into account the socioeconomic status of those interviewed.”

What if the report was prepared only by Alexander? We would say “It was prepared by him” not “It was prepared by he.” The same goes when it was prepared by Alexander as well as the committee.

B is the correct answer.

22. The sentence should read: “It is far easier to ride a bicycle than ***to*** ***explain*** in words exactly how a bicycle is ridden.”

What are the two things we are comparing here? How to ride a bicycle and how to explain it to others. We need the verb tenses of “ride” and “explain” to match.

B is the correct answer.

23. The sentence should read: “Jorge wanted, for the most part, to travel around the world after graduation, but sometimes he thought about taking a job at his mother’s company instead.”

This sentence is correct as written. For the most part (Option A), or primarily, Jorge wanted to travel after he graduated, or after graduation (Option B). Even though this is what he wanted, he sometimes thought about (Option C) one day taking a job (Option D) with his mother’s company.

E is the correct answer.

24. The sentence should read: “***Some*** people are convinced that dowsing, a method of finding underground water with a Y-shaped stick, is effective, but others condemn the procedure as mere superstition.”

When a sentence begins with “since,” it is likely we are talking about the reason that something has come about (e.g., Since it was raining, we went in the house.). But, there is no causal relationship here. Others did not condemn the procedure *since* some people are convinced that the procedure is effective.

A is the correct answer.

25. The sentence should read, “Intense preoccupation ***with*** technique appears to be the one trait that great pianists have in common.”

Have you ever become preoccupied *on* a puzzle? Nope, that would not make sense. But, it would make sense if you became preoccupied *with* a puzzle. “With” follows preoccupation; it’s just one of those grammar rules you have to know.

A is the correct answer.

26. The sentence should read: “Apparently impressed with our plans, the foundation awarded ***Carlos and me*** a grant to establish a network of community centers throughout the city.”

Who was the grant awarded to? Carlos and the narrator. If someone gave you a grant, who would you say they gave it to? You would say, “They gave it to me,” right? The same goes here.

B is the correct answer.

27. The sentence should read: “Also supported by the commission ***were*** the proposed health clinics and the proposed center to distribute information on job-training opportunities.”

What does the commission support? It supports the clinics and the proposed center. This is more than one single thing. These things *were* supported by the commission, not *was.*

B is the correct answer.

28. The sentence should read: “The quality of multivitamin tablets is determined by how long ***their*** potency can be protected by the manufacturer’s coating material.”

We are talking about the potency of multivitamins. There are multiple multivitamins, so we need a plural possessive, “their.”

C is the correct answer.

29. The sentence should read: “The research study reveals startling proof of a ***constantly*** changing seafloor that comprises the major part of the underwater landscape.”

In this sentence, constant is used as an adverb; it describes the action of changing. Constant is an adjective; it describes nouns. For example, you could experience constant change, but the action of changing is doing so constantly.

B is the correct answer.

This next section tests your writing skills in a different way than the previous section. Whereas the last section asked you to find errors in grammar & usage, this section asks you to improve sentence structure or word choice, or how the passage is organized or developed. So, as you read the passage, think about whether it makes sense or it could be written better.

Keep in mind that while the SAT *reading* sections may require you to fully understand the point of a passage, this section tests *writing*. You are not going to be inferring answers from the passage, just looking for ways a sentence or section could be improved. So, take a look at the questions first to get a sense of what you’ll be asked. Then, quickly read the passage. Don’t too spend too much time reading as you’ll likely have to re-read portions more closely in order to determine the best answer.

30. The passage is primarily concerned with working conditions and the relationship between employees and their employers. We need a sentence that would help to introduce the main point of the passage, and that flows with the first sentence, which states that employers must be aware of their employees.

A. The passage does not introduce various types of workplaces, so it would seem odd to introduce this idea and then not mention it again. Let’s move on.

1. This addresses the specific topic of open communication in the workplace. It is not broad enough to introduce the passage and it does not tie in well with the rest of the information presented. Next.
2. This passage attempts to give direction to employers in regard to handling their employees. It suggests that employers must respect their employees and does not acknowledge that some employers do this. Let’s keep looking.
3. This looks like a good thesis statement. It tells us that communication is necessary, while the rest of the passage lists the reasons why. This looks like a good answer.
4. This passage is not attempting to describe what will happen in the future; it is suggesting that employers pay attention to their employees’ needs. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

31. Keep in mind that this question is looking for the best combination in context. So, this new sentence will also need to flow with the sentences preceding and following it.

1. The sentence means to say that employers should be familiar with what their employees face, and that employees must also assume responsibility. But this option makes it sound as if the employers are the ones that will also assume responsibility. This can’t be right.
2. This option makes it clear who does what. Employers must be familiar with the demands on their employees, but workers must also assume responsibility. This answer works.
3. This answer also makes it sound as if the employers must assume responsibility. We can eliminate this answer.
4. Is it only those employees whose employers are familiar with their demands that should take responsibility for their jobs? Nope, but this option makes it sound that way. Next.
5. This answer does not clearly tell us who must be familiar and who must accept responsibility.

B is the correct answer.

32. In context, the sentence that precedes the sentence that we must revise states that unreasonable demands are often made on an employee to satisfy customers. How does this relate to the employers’ lack of consideration for employees?

1. There is no *contrast* between unreasonable demands being placed on a worker and workers feeling a lack of consideration. Let’s keep looking.
2. We already know from the preceding sentence that unreasonable demands are placed on employees; this does not need to be re-stated. Next.
3. The fact that unreasonable demands have been placed on workers is not stated as a concern. We are not discussing someone’s concern; we are discussing the action of unreasonable demands being placed on workers. We can find a better answer.
4. The unreasonable demands are not a distorted view; they represent a pattern of behavior. We can eliminate this answer.
5. The placement of unreasonable demands represents how the workers are treated, so referring to this action as “such treatment” works well. This action also demonstrates an employer’s lack of consideration. This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

33. Listen to this sentence when read aloud. It runs on, and there needs to be some sort of link between the two ideas.

1. We’ve already established that this sentence does not sound good as written. Nope.
2. This option would not make sense in context. In the preceding sentence, “workers” are the subject of the sentence. If we use “they” in this sentence, it makes it sound as if the workers are the ones who are not listening. Next.
3. This changes the meaning of the original sentence, indicating that there are actions that have already happened. The original sentence says this happens “sometimes” and it “can make” workers feel undervalued. So, this can’t be right.
4. The verb tenses of “listen” and “making” do not match and leave us without a complete thought. We can eliminate this answer.
5. This shows the relationship between the two ideas—one causes the other to happen. It also keeps the original intent that *sometimes* employers don’t listen, and when this happens, employees can feel undervalued. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

34. Sentence 10 is the first of the third paragraph, which deals with problem employees and how these problems keep the workers from being promoted. This is a bit of a shift from the second paragraph that discusses how employers’ actions can make employees feel undervalued. We’ll need a sentence that introduces the ideas in the third paragraph while noting a shift in ideas from the second paragraph.

1. The point of mentioning employees tying up phone lines is not to make a comment on technology in the workplace. This can’t be right.
2. This paragraph does not discuss company relations with customers; it discusses the relationship between employers and employees. Let’s keep looking.
3. This makes sense. Having employees who tie up phone lines or receive too many visitors would cause employers to have legitimate complaints against their employees. This sentence sets that up by nicely. It transitions from the second paragraph that addresses how employers can make employees feel badly, and introduces the fact that their complaints are sometimes legitimate. This answer could work.
4. This problem stated in Sentence 10 is very clearly caused by the employee. Nothing is this paragraph makes it seem as if assigning blame is difficult. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Would mentioning how employees rarely complain be followed by examples of how employees misbehave? Nope.

C is the correct answer.

35. The final sentence should serve to effectively summarize the main point of the passage while remaining on point with the information discussed in the final paragraph. The end of the passage discusses the problems that need to be resolved in the workplace and what employers can do to solve those problems.

1. This is another example of the responsibility of an employer. It would not serve to summarize the passage. Next.
2. This sentence is one sided. It addresses the challenge that employers face but doesn’t mention the problems that employees sometimes cause. This would not make a good ending to the passage, so we can eliminate this answer.
3. With this sentence, we would also be introducing a new idea regarding technology. This can’t be right.
4. This option adds another defense to the argument; it does not summarize the argument or offer direction on how to improve the workplace. Let’s keep looking.
5. The point of this passage is to provide guidance to improve workplace relations. This sentence gives some direction as to what both employers and employees can do in order to improve the workplace. This looks like a fine answer.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 4**

**Section 8: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. In this instance, Luis eagerly sought something, but in the end chose not to accept it. The something he did not accept was advice, so the missing word will be a synonym for advice.
2. He sought her secretiveness? We’ve already said he was looking for advice, and that we needed a word similar to that. Next.
3. Luis’ seeking cooperation has little to do with his choice to not heed someone’s advice. Let’s eliminate this answer.
4. Although Luis sought her understanding, he chose not to heed that advice. If you seek understanding, you have a situation where you wouldn’t likely get advice. Understanding is not the same as advice. This is not the correct answer.
5. Think about what counselors do. They give advice. Luis sought her counsel, but chose not to heed that advice. This looks like our answer.
6. Concord is a synonym for agreement; if Luis sought her agreement, he likely would not have gotten advice. This doesn’t work.

D is the correct answer.

1. We know that Richard is a physics instructor and has developed a gift in his profession. For a teacher, such a gift would be the ability to help students learn and share his knowledge. Let’s look for an option that might describe the gift demonstrated by an instructor and its effect on others.
   * 1. An instructor that had passion for his subject and could make that passion contagious would perfectly describe the qualities of the instructor we were looking for. This option makes sense.
     2. Does it make sense to say an instructor’s excitement is inaudible, or impossible to hear? This can’t be right.
     3. What instructor would have the gift of sharing contempt for his subject? This makes no sense. Next.
     4. If the instructor had a propensity, or natural ability, for his subject, would that make his or her excitement futile, or useless? This also makes no sense. Let’s move on.
     5. “Impersonal excitement” does not mesh with the notion that the instructor has the gift of sharing his commitment to his subject. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. We know that this sentence characterizes the disintegration of the Roman Empire as a disaster, so the first missing word should match that description. The word “nevertheless” tells us that our second missing word should contrast with the first.
2. The fall of an empire is certainly a momentous event, but formidable, or fear inducing, aspects would not contrast with the momentous event. Let’s keep looking.
3. The disintegration of the empire was no doubt decisive, but “unavoidable” does not express the contrast we’d need for this to be correct. Next.
4. We don’t have any indication that this event was unexpected; we only know from this sentence that it was a disaster. Furthermore, one might expect ambiguous aspects to be present as the result of an unexpected event and so these words are not contrasting. This is not the correct answer.
5. Advantageous and beneficial have similar meanings. Furthermore, would an event described as a disaster be advantageous? Nope.
6. A catastrophic event could nevertheless have constructive aspects. The two missing words contrast. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Mount McKinley is a tall peak whose beauty is usually cloaked, over covered, by clouds. Our missing word is restating that the clouds cloak the summit most days, so it should be a synonym for cloak.
2. Would clouds release the top of a large mountain? Of course not. We can eliminate this option.
3. Elevate means to rise, not to cloak or cover. Next.
4. Clouds could figuratively entangle a mountain summit, but this would not mean the same as to hide or cloak the summit. Let’s keep looking.
5. A shroud is something that covers or cloaks. This looks like a good answer.
6. Clouds could attain or reach the summit, but this would not mean the same thing as cloaking the summit. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The marketing referred to is the introduction of a hair-care line. We know this marketing occurred just as demand for the product was peaking, so it was well-timed. Our missing word should be an adjective that describes this well-timed marketing.
2. The marketing happened at an opportune, or appropriate, time as it was just when demand was peaking. Let’s keep this option in mind.
3. Something that is instantaneous happens in an instant; it is done quickly. We don’t know how quickly the marketing happened, so we can eliminate this option.
4. We don’t have any indication that the marketing was intermittent, or occurred at various points in time. Next.
5. There is no indication here that this marketing campaign was dubious, or suspicious. This can’t be right.
6. We don’t have a description of this marketing to determine if it was extravagant, or showy. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The two thoughts here state the same point. Scientists should not automatically reject ways of doing things that seem silly or superstitious. Their qualifications do not give them the right to be overly judgmental or to promote prejudice or bias. Let’s look for words that are similar to “overly judgmental” and “promote.”
2. Scientists do in fact have license for experimentation due to their qualifications; that is what scientists do-they experiment. So, it does not make sense to say their qualifications are not a license for experimentation. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. Arrogance could possibly be equated to being overly judgmental, but it does not make sense to say that scientific qualifications pursue prejudice. Let’s keep looking for a better answer.
4. Humility, or humbleness, is not a trait scientists would “have license” for. Automatically rejecting folkways that seem silly does not describe humility. This is not the correct answer.
5. Scientists should not be so smug, or stuck up, so as to reject ideas that seem too silly. This is similar to “overly judgmental.” In addition, they should not legitimate, or justify, prejudice. This is similar to our guess that they should also not promote prejudice. This looks like a good answer.
6. Rigid could describe scientists as automatically rejecting folkways, but how would their qualifications console, or comfort, prejudice or bias? This can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

This passage is taken from an essay that discusses critics of television. The author does not seem to agree with these critics. He or she discusses four major theories that are critical to television and then states a counter-argument against them.

1. This essay is discussing the manipulation of TV viewers by those who program television. The “wire-pullers” invoke the idea of a puppet master pulling strings. It seems these wire-pullers are the ones who are thought to be manipulating the viewers.
2. The folks who staff television studios do not have much power over the content of the programming that is allegedly manipulating the poor unsuspecting viewers. Nope.
3. Think of a puppet master in the shadows controlling a puppet. In the same way, those who control TV programming are seen as molding public opinion. This looks like a good answer.
4. This sentence is presented from the point of view of the TV critics. They would not likely characterize themselves as “‘wire-pullers.” Let’s keep looking.
5. This part of the passage does not mention hack writers. This can’t be right.
6. This theory does not criticize the advertising industry; it criticizes TV itself. Let’s eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. “Television consumption leads above all to moral dangers.” This refers to viewers consuming information by watching television.
2. In this paragraph, theorists would likely think that the destruction of television would be a good thing and not something that would lead to moral dangers. This is not the correct answer.
3. The theorists who subscribe to the imitation thesis think that TV viewing leads to moral dangers. That sounds about right.
4. These theorists would likely be pleased by the erosion of television; they would not say this leads to moral danger. Next.
5. One can purchase a television without being led to the moral dangers that are transmitted by it. This can’t be right.
6. While the theorists would agree that obsession with television would lead to moral dangers, they actually feel that any TV viewing is bad, not just obsessive viewing. This is not the best answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. These lines tell us that the argument of the imitation thesis could be likened to that found in the eighteenth century critique of novel reading. Certainly, critics of television viewing would not think reading would be harmful to society.
2. The author is not trying to convey how long-standing these critiques have been. He or she is trying to point out that the same arguments were made against what is now considered to be a healthy undertaking. This is not the best answer.
3. There is nothing here that says this criticism was a main preoccupation or was widespread at the time. This can’t be the right answer.
4. If the critics of novels had been persuasive at that time, novel reading would not be a common and accepted pastime today. Let’s keep looking.
5. The author is stating that the argument against television is just as invalid as the notion in the eighteenth century that reading novels was dangerous for society. This looks like a winner.
6. The author does not address TV as a vehicle for art. Let’s eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. Today, reading novels is not considered a harmful or dangerous activity. It seems that the author feels that TV will similarly be considered useful one day.
2. There is no connection made between the origin of television and novels. The author only points out the origins of the imitation thesis. Let’s move on.
3. The author does not imply that television points to a decline in culture. This is not right.
4. Little mention is made of specific television content such as visual imagery. Let’s keep looking.
5. Much like there was resistance to novels in the eighteenth century, there is resistance to television today by those who are narrow-minded about new cultural developments. This looks like our answer.
6. The author does not mention television producers. This cannot be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. These lines discuss the simulation thesis in which “the viewer is rendered incapable of distinguishing between reality and fiction.” In this case, the primary reality (real life) is replaced by the second reality (fiction-TV life).
2. This passage does not discuss democracy or our political system. Next.
3. These realities do not show the distinction between nature and man-made objects. This can’t be right.
4. The primary reality is what we see in everyday life. In this theory, TV replaces everyday reality with a fictional counterpart. This answer makes sense.
5. This theory does not distinguish between the morality of the elite and everyday people; the imitation theory did. This is not the correct answer.
6. Science and mysticism are not mentioned here. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The simulation theory argues that people begin to think that what they see on television is reality. The lines referred to in this question state that there has never been an example of anyone who could not distinguish between, say, a soap opera family drama and one’s own family’s quarrels. How might someone who believes in the simulation theory respond to this idea?
2. This could be an argument against the author’s example. Sure, most people will not confuse a soap opera’s drama with their own. The example is too simple and literal; simulation theorists would likely criticize the example. Let’s keep this answer in mind.
3. The author points out that no examples of such a person have been presented; there is no proof. Proof is a significant point, not insignificant. This does not seem like the best answer.
4. We don’t have any indication of the author’s occupation, so it seems unlikely that simulation theorists would respond to the author’s criticism with this statement. Next.
5. The author states that *all* of the theories are unconvincing (line 36), so the simulation theorists would not say the author tries to bolster one of the other three theories. Nope.
6. The example points directly to the impact of television on popular culture. It indicates that there is no proof that someone might confuse a television plotline with reality, implying that TV is not really all that bad. This not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. Given that the author finds all of the theories discussed to be “unconvincing” (line 36), we can conclude that the author does not agree with the evaluators of television.
2. If the author was intrigued by these evaluators, he or she would seem more curious and might be more willing to see their point of view. That is not the case here, so we can eliminate this answer.
3. The author feels scorn, or disapproval, towards the evaluators. This looks like a good answer.
4. The author feels that the evaluators are wrong; he or she expresses decisive criticism and is not equivocal, or undecided. This is not the right answer.
5. The author does not indulge, or entertain the ideas of the evaluators. This is not correct.
6. The author has clear views on these evaluators—namely, that they are wrong. The stance presented is not nonchalant. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. We certainly know that the author does not agree with the four theories presented. How do we know that? He or she calls into question the validity of all the arguments.
2. There is not much evidence presented in the author’s argument, only mention of lack of proof to support the theories. This can’t be the correct answer.
3. The passage does not include evidence from authorities on television nor do we know who those authorities might be. Let’s keep looking.
4. While the author mentions criticism of novels in the eighteenth century, his or her argument against the theories is not rooted in history. We can eliminate this option.
5. We know the author criticizes the manipulation theory, but this statement does not best represent the author’s feeling about all the theories. Nope.
6. Look at next to last paragraph in the passage. The author points out that for being critics of the genre, these evaluators must watch television themselves. If that is the case, how are they not manipulated? The author cuts the arguments of the theorists by pointing out that they should not be taken seriously. This answer makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s evaluate the three possibilities here.
2. There is no mention made of the type of programming most viewers like. In fact, the author makes mention of the idea that television has been useful to politicians. This is not an assumption that the evaluators would assert. This eliminates Options A, C and E.
3. The theories are all based on the idea that television manipulates audiences. It does not take into account that viewers can distinguish truth from fiction or be critical of what they are presented with on television. This assumption is one that current evaluators would make.
4. The opposite argument is made here. The last paragraph paints a picture of politicians conveying their political message on an unsuspecting public. The political message is there, but it is not perceived by the viewing public. This assumption is not in sync with the theories, so this eliminates Option D.

B is the correct answer.

1. This question refers to the author’s description of the various theories. How would we describe how the author categorizes them?
2. If this were a reevaluation, we would have some indication that the author once believed in these theories, but is now changing his or her stance on them. That does not seem to be the case here, so let’s move on.
3. The author does not describe these theorists as being academics; they are just critics of television. Next.
4. The author does not paint a dreary picture of what the future holds. The theorists may feel that television is ruining society, but this is not the author’s stance. This is not the correct answer.
5. The author does not present any data—false or otherwise. This can’t be right.
6. The theories could be described as descriptions tinged with irony. In lines 34 and 35, the author mentions that one theory portrays television as producing zombies or mutants. This looks like a good choice.

E is the correct answer.

1. This section notes the irony in that these television evaluators must watch TV themselves. How is it that they are not faced with the same loss of intelligence or ability to recognize reality that they say is true for TV watchers? Their sovereignty is their ability to be immune to the ill effects of television and to make clear judgments.
2. In this sentence, the author wonders how it is that the critics are immune to the ill effects they speak of. Would “excellent” be the best word to describe this immunity? Not really. This can’t be right.
3. Their ability to distinguish is not opulent or well-to-do. This is not the correct answer.
4. If they distinguish between deception and reality in a elitist manner, they would favor a particular group. We don’t have that here. This answer is not correct.
5. If something is done in an absolute manner, it is free from restraint or force. They can resist the effects absolutely—free from the persuasive powers. This answer looks good.
6. The author does not mean that the evaluators can distinguish between deception and reality in a oppressive manner; he or she is sarcastically praising the critics here, so oppressive is not the right word. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. This line drives home the author’s critique of the television evaluators’ theories. The “fatal loophole” is that of “universal stupefaction” — universal in that it affects everyone. The ill effects that the evaluators believe are caused by television would apply to the evaluators themselves as well as everyone else.
2. This line is in a paragraph that does not mention politicians. Let’s move on.
3. If the fatal loophole is universal, then everyone must be affected—even the theorists themselves. This answer works.
4. Let’s look back at what the stupefaction theory entails. It says that television impairs humans’ ability to perceive. The reference to zombies or mutants is not meant to discuss behavior—it is meant to refer to one’s ability to perceive reality. Occasionally behaving like zombies is not addressed in this paragraph. Furthermore, universal stupefaction would be a condition that’s not occasional. Let’s keep looking.
5. The idea that mindless entertainment is needed is not discussed in the passage. This can’t be right.
6. The author does not address the enjoyment of television. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The final line gives a pretty good clue to the author’s view of politicians—they have been “particularly taken by the good old manipulation thesis.” They feel they are dealing with “millions of idiots” (line 71) and take care to fight for each minute of air time. The politicians seem manipulative and vain.
2. The author shows contempt or dislike for politicians in this paragraph, and the depiction of them displaying limousines and paying attention to their hairstyles is humorous. Let’s keep this option in mind.
3. We sense criticism but not much anger or rage here. Next.
4. The author does not question these actions or seem confused by them, so puzzlement does not express the sentiments here. This is not the correct answer.
5. While the author may be resigned to how the politicians behave, he or she does not seem okay with what is described here. This can’t be right.
6. If sympathy were expressed, the author would not have painted a picture of politicians as manipulative and vain. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 4**

**Section 10: WRITING**

Congrats, you’re in the final stretch. You’ve now reached the final section of the test. You can see the end. But don’t be tempted to race through. Yes, you’re tired. You’re ready to be done. But still, take a deep breath and try to concentrate for these final 10 minutes. You’ve worked hard to get this far; don’t blow it by getting lazy at the end.

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. The researchers hope exploring the body will do what exactly? Hmm, it doesn’t quite tell us, so there must be something wrong here.
   * 1. What do they hope? They hope *to explore* the body. This looks like a good answer.
     2. The researchers hope it can explore? What does “it” refer to? It’s not clear, so let’s eliminate this answer.
     3. This could work, but it sounds better to use “hope” as a verb (they hope to explore) than as a noun (have hopes to explore) as this more directly describes the action. This is not the best answer.
     4. While this option expresses that the hope is current, it’s much more wordy than “hope to explore.” This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. As is, this sentence does not have a predicate. What did Douglas do? We know who he is, but not what he did.
   * 1. Now we know what Douglas did. He eventually recruited and commanded his own unit. This looks like a good choice.
     2. With this option, we would be missing a proper link (like the word “and”) between the description of Douglas and the fact that he eventually recruited and commanded his own unit. Next.
     3. This could be its own sentence. We could put a semicolon in front of “he,” but that still wouldn’t make this right, as the first part of this sentence is not a complete thought. This is not the correct answer.
     4. Having eventually recruited and commanded his own unit, he did what exactly? This option needs an action to follow, which is not present. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. This sentence sounds good as it is. The first half of the sentence makes the statement “Ignorance is not equivalent to stupidity.” The second half of the sentence states why this is the case: “… for ignorance can be corrected while stupidity cannot.” Let’s look at the other options just to make sure.
   * 1. There are a lot of words here to say the exact same thing as the original sentence. This is not a better answer.
     2. It is not clear what “it” and “the other” refer to, so let’s eliminate this option.
     3. Does “it” refer to ignorance or stupidity? Again, this is unclear. Next.
     4. OK, so we know the two differ in their correctibility, but how? Which one is correctable, and which one isn’t? It’s not clear, so this can’t be right.

A is the correct answer.

1. How does the goal to stir discussion and unsettle readers fit in with the journalists’ presentation of a balanced view of the news? Perhaps that goal should be *in addition to* presenting a balanced view of the news.
   * 1. According to this sentence, journalists should do two things, present a balanced view and stir discussion. Both of the verbs (present and stir) share the same verb tense and the sentence makes sense in context. This looks like a good answer.
     2. The verb “aiming” would indicate that the action is currently happening, but this is something they *should* do, not necessarily something they *are* doing. This is not the best answer.
     3. Again, we have problems with the verbs not matching – “should present” and “trying to stir.”
     4. The incorrect pronoun is used here. We should use “their” to refer to journalists, not “its.” There are also many more words than what is needed to get the message across. Let’s eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. In the first half of this sentence, we have a list of various things the Spartans did: they tested endurance, they devised various ordeals, etc. However, “including one” would not follow that sequence; it refers to one of those various ordeals. There must be a better option.
   * 1. The potential warriors are not devising the ordeals; it is the Spartans doing so. The verb is not matched to the correct subject, so let’s keep looking.
     2. The part following the semicolon should have its own subject, which is not the case here. Let’s move on.
     3. This option looks good. The Spartans tested the endurance of potential warriors. They did so by devising various ordeals, including the one mentioned in this sentence. This looks like our answer.
     4. “By devising” has the same meaning and is less wordy than “with the devising of.” This is not the best choice.

D is the correct answer.

1. Whose practices are referred to as “their” practices? Given that the lawyers are the subject of the sentence, we might assume it is the lawyers’ practices. But, wouldn’t it make more sense that the parking-lot operators’ practices would be the ones asserted as legal? There must be a better way to word this sentence.
   * 1. This option has the same problem as the original sentence. It is not clear whose practices we are talking about. Let’s keep looking.
     2. What good does it do to say “their” practices and then later clarify “that is the operators”? Wouldn’t it be easier just to say “the operators’ practices”? This can’t be right.
     3. We already know the practices are legally and ethically defensible, so why do we need to include “in regards to defensibility”? Nope.
     4. We know whose practices we are talking about—those of the operators. We know those practices are legally and ethically defensible. This answer looks good.

E is the correct answer.

1. Toni Morrison was honored for two reasons. One, she is a great novelist. Two, she wrote eloquently of history. The first is a description of her; the second is a description of how she wrote. We need to describe Ms. Morrison in a consistent manner.
   * 1. “Having written eloquently” is still describing how she wrote. Let’s keep looking.
     2. This is still an action, not something that describes her. Let’s keep looking.
     3. Being an eloquent historian is something that describes Ms. Morrison. But, look at how the first attribute is worded: “*as* a great novelist.” Let’s look for an option that better matches this wording.
     4. She was honored as a great novelist. She was honored as an eloquent historian. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. This entire sentence is underlined, so we’ll need to look at the structure as a whole. Let’s break down the information given to us in this sentence. Central Park is better known than Prospect Park. This structure looks good. The designer of both parks preferred Prospect Park. This also looks good. Put all together, our verb tenses express the action correctly and we understand the relationship between the two ideas. Although one is better known, the other is preferred by the designer. This looks good as is.

A is the correct answer.

1. What is “this” that blocks all solar radiation? Is it due to the fact that Uranus is nearly three billion kilometers from the sun? How would this fact block radiation? It seems that Uranus itself blocks radiation, and this is due to its position and the cloud layer around it. Let’s look for an option that makes this clear.
   * 1. In this option, the facts that Uranus is far from the sun and has a cloud layer around it account for it not receiving solar radiation. This corrects the original issue, but uses more words than are really necessary. Let’s look for a better answer.
     2. By beginning the sentence with “because,” we do not need to restate “is the reason.” The reason was already stated after “because.” Next.
     3. This option makes it clear that Uranus’ distance from the sun and thick methane cloud layer prevent solar radiation from reaching it. This makes sense.
     4. What does “it” refer to? Uranus, the sun or the cloud layer? It’s not clear, so this can’t be the answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Are mistakes lacking good instruction? Right away, we can see that we need to look for a better option.
   * 1. This seems much clearer. The narrator is the one lacking good instruction and made numerous mistakes. The subject is clearly “I.” Let’s keep this option open.
     2. What is not clear is who was lacking good instruction. It almost sounds as if the graph is lacking instruction. This is not the best answer.
     3. Do the historical trends have the numerous mistakes? Nope, this is not right.
     4. The graph is not what was lacking good instruction, so this can’t be the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Do the mathematicians have no practical interests because they are so absorbed in abstractions? If so, “and” does not seem to be the right word to link the thoughts. We need to find a way to clarify this sentence.
   * 1. We need the “so” for emphasis, otherwise this sentence doesn’t express the true degree of the cause and effect. Let’s use a different example: “She was happy and therefore she couldn’t stop smiling.” You’d really want to say, “She was *so* happy she couldn’t stop smiling.” Let’s keep looking.
     2. Aha. The myth is that they are so absorbed that they have no interests. This looks like our answer.
     3. The emphasis is not on numerous abstractions, but on how absorbed the mathematicians are in abstractions. This is not the correct answer.
     4. This sentence is not describing the mathematicians as abstract; it is saying they are pre-occupied with abstract things. This can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

1. Is a catalog order entering an Internet website? That’s what it says here, and we know that’s not right.
   * 1. What occurs by placing a catalog order? There is no subject here; it’s an incomplete thought. This option is not right.
     2. Who is “they” referring to in this sentence? It is not clear, so let’s eliminate this option.
     3. In this sentence, we are told we can enter a website, call a number or place an order. These all demonstrate similar structure. This looks like a good option.
     4. This is similar to the problem in the original sentence. Is the catalog order entering the Internet website? Of course not. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. What are the actions that some people believe will occur one day? We will establish bases on the moon. A landing on Neptune will occur. One demonstrates who is performing the action (we), while the other does not say who or what will land on Neptune. The structure of the thoughts don’t match. There must be a better version of this sentence.
   * 1. It would be better to put “will” right after “not only” (i.e., “not only will bases be established”) but it gives us an awfully wordy sentence. Let’s keep looking.
     2. We will establish bases on the moon. We will also land on Neptune. Both of these actions are clear. This looks like our answer.
     3. The words “in addition” are misplaced after the action. This is not the best answer.
     4. “But we will land on Neptune” instead of “but also land on Neptune” changes the meaning of the sentence. It almost sounds like we will not be establishing bases on the moon. This is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take out the clause “although their common language is English” to demonstrate what is wrong with this sentence. “The city is populated by many people who the languages at home range from speaking Armenian to Zapotec.” A verb is missing after “who,” so let’s take a look at the answer choices.
   * 1. “Many people who speaking” doesn’t sound right. Let’s keep looking.
     2. “Many people who the languages” does not correct our original problem. Next.
     3. “Many people who speak” gives us a verb that tells us what they do. They speak languages at home that range from Armenian to Zapotec. This looks like a winner.
     4. “Many people who they are speaking languages.” Nope, we already know who we are talking about; we don’t need the pronoun “they.”

D is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 5**

**Section 3: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. The key word in this sentence is *however*. At one time, massive doses were thought to be harmless; now, *however*, they are thought to be something *contrary to harmless*.   
   * 1. Healthy would not be contrary to harmless. Let’s keep looking.
     2. The amount of harm brought on by the doses has little to do with cost. This can’t be right.
     3. Large doses of vitamins could be both harmless and wasteful; logically, then, wasteful could not be *contrary to harmless*. This is not the correct answer.
     4. Large doses of vitamins were once thought to be harmless; now, however, they are considered toxic. Something that is toxic certainly would be harmful, or contrary to harmless, so this looks like a good answer.
     5. Something that is inane, or silly, could also be harmless, so this answer won’t work, too.

D is the correct answer.

1. The missing word in this sentence is restated with “critically examining its [the employers’ world] assumptions and values.” Which of the following words would describe this examination?
2. If the heroine idealized this world, it does not seem likely that she would look at it critically. Next.
3. It would be difficult to examine something by avoiding it. Nope.
4. We don’t know that the employers’ world is not already beautiful. And could the heroine beautify the world through critical examination? This can’t be right.
5. When something is placed under scrutiny, it is closely examined. This seems to be what the heroine is doing. This looks like a winner.
6. If the heroine excluded her employer’s world, it would be difficult for her to critically examine it. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. What would frequent name changes say about a country? Perhaps power is shifting or boundaries are changing. In terms of political turbulence, would these name changes make you think that there is or is not turbulence in that country? Likely, the two would be related. A turbulent country may likely go through several name changes.
2. The name changes do not argue against, or make a case *against*, the turbulence. The name changes would make the case *for* the turbulence since name changes are likely to follow political troubles. Let’s keep looking.
3. There’s no contrast between turbulence and constant change. Next.
4. The name changing is a testament to, or proof of, the political situation in the country. It reflects an unsettled, turbulent country. This looks like our answer.
5. The name changes might jeopardize political stability, but not turbulence. This is not correct.
6. The name changing occurs as a result of the turbulence. If the name changes sustained the turbulence, then they would be causing the turbulence, which is unlikely. Let’s eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. What do we know about brachiopods? We know that there are more than 30,000 species of them, which sounds like a lot, so that will help us with the first missing word. For the second missing word, think about what types of actions could be taken from fossil records and what that tells us about the brachiopods.
2. 30,000 species certainly sounds plentiful, so let’s check out the second word. Species are not subtracted from the records—that would mean we would not know about them. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. We don’t have any clues in this sentence that might make us think that brachiopods are ornate, or fancy. This can’t be right.
4. We know that multi- means many, so this could work as there are many different species. Also, species could be catalogued, or arranged in categories, from fossil records. Let’s keep this option in mind.
5. A scarce being would not produce 30,000 different species. This is not correct.
6. We know that chron refers to time. The clues in this sentence have to do with numbers, so even if we don’t know that anachronistic means out of chronological order, we can conclude that this is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. One thing we already know about the video games referenced here is that they are elaborately contrived, or complex. What types of strategies might such a video game require? Specialized or complicated ones, perhaps. So, we need an adjective that would describe a player who can master these complicated strategies.
2. Something that is byzantine is complex or involved (think of a very old building with intricate architecture), which could describe a contrived video game. An adroit, or skilled, player would likely be able to master such an involved game. This looks like a good answer.
3. Do we have any clues that the video games referred to here require nefarious, or wicked, strategies? Nope, we only know they are contrived, not that they are evil. We can eliminate this option.
4. A lackadaisical, or lazy, player would not likely be a player that could master a contrived and intricate game. This can’t be right.
5. Think of where you’ve seen the word shod—such as shoddy construction (i.e., not done well). Slipshod is related to shoddy. Does this describe the type of player who would master a detailed video game? Nope.
6. An elaborate and contrived video game would not likely require predictable strategies, so this can’t be right.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

1. What are some of the words in the passage used to describe Wilson’s writing? *Directly; informal; reflect changing moods; not self-conscious*. Which of the options would best describe such writing?
2. We don’t have any clues that would point to Wilson’s writing as cynical or questioning. Let’s keep looking.
3. Wilson’s writing is informal and reflects changing moods. This could describe a spontaneous writer who would not plan each word carefully. Let’s keep this option in mind.
4. There’s no indication here that Wilson’s writing could be considered critical. Only on occasion would he respond to an outrage or a challenge; critical writing was not his prevailing tone. Next.
5. Wilson is only occasionally eloquent or passionate, which would be more like the preachy style. This is not the correct answer.
6. There is no mention of how witty, or clever, Wilson’s writing is, so we can eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

1. As Wilson ages, this writing style does not change. In each part of his life, he speaks directly through his letters. His voice does not change as he ages.
2. A multifaceted writer may have different voices depending on the situation, but Wilson’s writing is consistent across time. Let’s move on.
3. We don’t know that Wilson displayed maturity when he was young; there is no indication of this. Let’s eliminate this answer.
4. Wilson’s temperament is the same as both a young and old man, so there is no effect from aging. Next.
5. This passage focuses on Wilson’s writing style, not the length of his career. Nope.
6. Wilson’s writing style was consistent throughout his whole life. He spoke directly through his letters, from his early writing through his more contemporary writing. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. This passage argues that authors should be able to explore the humanity of the leaders of the Black community. It argues that a leader does not have to be perfect to have a positive effect on the community. These highly thought of individuals have a less than perfect side to them, and our portrayals of them should include this so as to tell the full story of Black life.
2. The leaders are not described as being sentimental or emotional. We can eliminate this option.
3. The author is arguing that the leaders should be portrayed as complex and that they have not actually been portrayed in all of their humanity. The author does not imply that this is already the case; he or she argues that it should be the case. Next.
4. The author argues that the leaders were thought to be too important, or above reproach. This looks like our answer.
5. There is no mention of regret—neither in terms of the Black leaders having regret nor in their being portrayed as regretful. Nope.
6. It is not that the leaders could not be understood—it is that the authors did not want to show their more human, flawed side. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The paintings described here are of a culture, not art. The passage discusses the author’s portrayal of Black leaders. The authors portray their subjects much like an artist would paint theirs. So the paintings are a metaphor for the work of the authors mentioned in the passage.
2. We’re not talking about art or sculptures here. Nope.
3. The authors are portraying leaders of the Black community, so it would make sense that those authors would be creating historical biographies. The author is arguing that these biographies should be detailed and true representations, not dull and predictable drivel. This looks like a good answer.
4. What would whimsical novels have to do with an accurate and honest portrayal of Black leaders? This can’t be right.
5. No cartoons here—we are not literally talking about paintings or drawings. Next.
6. Generally speaking, a theorem is a mathematical statement or idea, which is not what the paintings represent. Let’s eliminate this option.

B is the correct answer.

This passage was written by a physicist in 1986. It discusses time travel, primarily the author’s own fascination of it. The author admits that it is not likely possible due to the laws of physics, but he or she still longs for the possibilities of time travel. The author notes at the end that a sense of time travel is possible in revisiting trinkets from the past.

1. The asterisk notes that *Australopithecus* is an extinct human primate. This is mentioned in reference to the fact that we see our nearest galaxy as it was millions of years ago when these ancient primates existed on Earth. This seems to emphasize how long ago this was.
2. This is mentioned in reference to seeing a galaxy as it was millions of years ago—not to point out how humans have evolved on Earth. Let’s keep looking.
3. The existence of this ancient being on Earth points to how different the Earth was millions of years ago. This looks like a good answer.
4. The astronomers are the ones who observe the closest galaxy, and there is no reference to them being commended for any theory. Next.
5. The mention of Australopithecus has nothing to do with the discovery of the Andromeda galaxy. This can’t be right.
6. There is no comparison made between the age of the universe and the presence of human life. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The author notes that on Earth, we can see Andromeda as it was millions of years ago. If the situation were reversed, we could go to Andromeda and see Earth millions of years ago. This would teach us quite a lot about what Earth was like back then.
2. The author, a scientist, laments not being able to see Earth from a planet in the galaxy Andromeda, which would show Earth in the past. It makes sense that scientists would like to observe Earth in the distant past. Let’s keep this option open.
3. This statement has nothing to do with potential planets in Andromeda or space travel. Nope.
4. This statement is not meant to study and compare Andromeda and Earth; it alludes to a benefit in being able to view Earth from the perspective of Andromeda. Next.
5. The author does not make this statement to indicate that this is something that could happen in the future. This can’t be right.
6. This statement does not indicate which is older, the galaxy of Andromeda or Earth. This is not correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. In this section, the author is discussing the possibilities of time travel. One possibility would be going back in time to cure the plague or into the future to observe vacations on space stations. He is just dreaming about what might be possible if we were capable of time travel.
2. While the author mentions science fiction, his or her intention is to imagine the possibilities we’d have with time travel. These are not mentioned to provide examples of what has already been written in science fiction. Let’s move on.
3. The plague is mentioned as an example of time travel to the past, not the future, so this can’t be right.
4. The author seems to have a positive opinion of the potential of time travel, so he would not scoff at it. Nope.
5. This section of the passage is told from the author’s point of view and does not necessarily represent other scientists’ interests. This is not the best answer.
6. The author is trying to demonstrate why time travel would be so cool. We could save lives and see into the future. This suggests why time travel is so fascinating. It looks like we’ve found our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Here, the author concedes that he, as a scientist, admits that time travel is not likely possible. We believe the author’s argument, as it is obviously made by someone who would know about such things.
2. The author is not interested in this subject solely due to being a scientist. He could be intensely interested and not be a scientist, so this is not correct.
3. Knowing that the author is a scientist lends an air of authority to the topic. The author must know about the physics of time travel as a physicist. This looks like a good answer.
4. The point of this passage is not to discuss interest in literature. This can’t be right.
5. The author presents no opinion of those who defend science fiction, so we can eliminate this answer.
6. The fact that the author is a scientist might mean he or she could explain causality violation but the mention of him being a scientist doesn’t help illustrate this term. This is not the best answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take a look at the lines mentioned here to find examples of each of the following options in the text. If we can’t find the concern mentioned in this passage, then we have found our answer.
2. Lines 18-20 mention that time travel could cause important changes in significant events “with the knowledge of how they would have turned out.” This would be an anticipatory knowledge of events, so we can eliminate this option.
3. Lines 32-33 specifically mention that physicists believe in a deterministic universe and that they might face the challenge of lack of employment if time travel were possible. This is not correct.
4. Does the author mention how time travel might actually happen? What scientifically could make time travel possible? It doesn’t look like this subject is addressed in this passage, so this might be our answer.
5. Line 21 states that “cause would no longer precede effect.” This option can be eliminated.
6. Differential equations would no longer be valid if time travel were possible (Lines 28-30). This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The author’s assumption about the impact of clocks is that with the invention of clocks, people must have been surprised to “discover that time flowed outside their own mental and physiological processes.” Which of the following options would make this statement untrue?
2. If people were oblivious to time before the invention of clocks, this invention would still be as surprising to them since it would introduce a new concept of time to them. This is not correct.
3. If people always perceived time as composed of discrete, uniform intervals, then the invention of clocks would not have been that surprising to them. “Time being measured by clocks” is the view of time that the author claims would be so different to people. So, if this option were true, it would undermine the author’s assumption. This looks like our answer.
4. If concern about time was unnecessary before clocks, the invention of clocks would still have had a drastic impact, so this would not invalidate the author’s assumption. Next.
5. The predictability of mental and physiological processes is not directly related to the impact of the invention of clocks. So, the invention of clocks might surprise people. This does not invalidate the author’s assumption, so this can’t be right.
6. This fact about body time would also not invalidate the author’s assumption about the surprise that clocks would bring. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. What do the brain and the heart have to do with time? Each is an example of a natural clock in the human body. Earlier, the author mentions that “Body time flows at its own variable rate, oblivious to the most precise clocks in the laboratory.” This shows that the body has its own clocks that are unaffected by mechanical time.
2. The brain and the heart are not demonstrations of timepieces—they are natural timekeepers. Next.
3. The mention of the brain and the heart does not explain the historical significance of mechanical clocks. This is not the correct answer.
4. There is no mention of how the brain and heart interact to regulate body rhythms. This can’t be right.
5. Both the brain and the heart are examples of internal clocks, so this looks like a good answer.
6. The author mentions how mysterious organic processes are; the passage does not attempt to demystify these processes. This is not our answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. *Ruthless* is mentioned in reference to the internal clocks that control aging. Aging is ruthless in that no matter how hard we fight it, it always happens.
2. Ruthless does not note bewilderment—it notes something cruel or lacking in mercy. This is not the correct answer.
3. This line already notes that the internal clocks are mysterious, but this has little to do with what the word ruthless suggests here. Let’s keep looking.
4. The author does not mention the speed at which aging occurs except that body time is variable. Furthermore, this does not explain the use of the word ruthless. Next.
5. The author does not make mention of the sense of time changing as we age, so this cannot be how the word ruthless is used. Let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Aging is something we can’t fight. It is ruthless, or merciless. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. When the author smokes his grandfather’s pipe, the act brings back the past and creates a sense of time travel. The sense of time became “twisted” and time skipped upward on the page. He experienced a sense of time travel.
2. While the author is reading, he doesn’t mention “skipping upward on the page” to note that he reread a portion of the page. He felt as if he had experienced time travel. This is not correct.
3. The author’s sense of smell, not vision, was affected by the smoke, so we can eliminate this option.
4. By feeling a sense of his grandfather through the smells from his grandfather’s pipe, the author traveled back in time—metaphorically skipping upward on a page as if to reread it. This looks like a good answer.
5. We don’t know what the author is reading; it is the pipe and the smell of the smoke that make him think of Papa Joe. This can’t be right.
6. It is not the reading that reminds the author of the past; it is the pipe smoke. This is not our answer.

C is the correct answer.

This passage discusses the modern art that came about after the turn of the twentieth century. Many people found the art shocking, and the author discusses why the art may have been seen that way. He or she argues that most people are looking for something familiar in art. If they do not recognize human elements and stories in art, they are less likely to enjoy it.

1. The primary purpose of this passage is stated in the beginning of the second paragraph, in response to the question: “What is it that the majority of people call aesthetic pleasure?”
2. What do we know about the lives of artists from this passage? Not much at all, so this can’t be right.
3. There is some mention of the emotions people are seeking from enjoying a painting, but the primary purpose is what determines whether or not people like a piece of art. Let’s look for a better option.
4. The statement in the second paragraph asks what determines how people gain pleasure from art and provides an answer that syncs with this option, so this looks like our answer.
5. The author seems to think that most people have to same reactions to art; if they can recognize something familiar, they like it. This passage is not about various reactions to different works of art. We can eliminate this option.
6. This passage focuses on contemporary art; there is little mention of older art. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. “Paintings attract them if they find in them figures of men or women it might be interesting to meet.” In what sense is the word “figures” used here?
2. We don’t know enough about the type of art discussed to know if the images are crude. It seems it would not matter so long as there is some element of humanism involved. Let’s keep looking.
3. If the paintings of people discussed here are literal and not abstract, the same would apply to these figures; viewers would need to find a human element, not an abstract one. This is not the correct answer.
4. Art is a representation. According to the author’s argument, if viewers see representations of men or women in art that they find interesting, they will enjoy it. This looks like a good answer.
5. The author’s argument is not based on the numbers of men or women represented, but whether the viewers find them interesting. Let’s move on.
6. The author does not argue that people will only enjoy art depicting famous people, just people they think could be interesting. Nope.

C is the correct answer.

1. Prior to this sentence, the author argues that viewers of art are looking for a human story depicting people they may find interesting. “John and Susie” are mentioned as examples of people who may be interesting. Once we cease to be able to relate to the story of John and Susie, we are less likely to enjoy the art that depicts their story.
2. This line is not addressing specific works of art; it’s used as an example in discussing how people relate to art. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author has already made the point that viewers of art are looking for human figures that they can relate to so as to enjoy the art. Here, the author is giving names to these human figures, imagining their story. This looks like a good option.
4. What in this passage would lead you to believe that John and Susie were real people having an affair? There is no indication of this, so this answer can’t be right.
5. John and Susie are not a legendary couple. They are names assigned to people who are mentioned only as examples of a human story in art. Nope.
6. Again, John and Susie are not renowned historical figures. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. First, let’s go back to the author’s explanation regarding how the majority find enjoyment in art. People recognize human stories they may find interesting. If they cannot recognize or follow these human stories, then they will not like the art. We can assume that the modern art that many people found shocking did not include this recognizable human element.
2. The first paragraph notes that those who enjoy modern are different, but not necessarily better than those who do not enjoy it. So, elitism is not cited as the cause of their dislike. Let’s keep looking.
3. This passage concerns the regular viewing public; the influence of critics is not cited, so we can eliminate this answer.
4. What is the social message of modern art? This is not really addressed in this passage, so this answer can’t be right.
5. The author argues that people look for human interest in order to enjoy art. Once that human interest is eliminated, they are not likely to enjoy the art. This looks like a winner.
6. The author does not argue that the artist’s source of inspiration is important to enjoyment of the art. Nope.

D is the correct answer.

1. First, let’s think about the author’s motivation in writing this passage. This is from a book on twentieth-century developments in art, with this excerpt discussing the public reaction to modern art just after the turn of the century. The author mentions how many disliked this art and discusses how they gain pleasure from art in general.
2. There are no words that would indicate confusion or puzzlement concerning the public reaction to modern art. The reasons behind this reaction are discussed matter-of-factly. Let’s keep looking.
3. The author is not aggressive or hostile toward the majority of people discussed here. We don’t have any indication that the author was angry about their reaction. Next.
4. If the author respected the majority of people, he or she would include passages that painted these people in a favorable light or displayed reverence toward them. This is not evident in this passage, so this can’t be the correct answer.
5. The passage primarily explains the feelings of the majority of people. If the author were indifferent toward them, then he or she would not likely devote so much time to explaining their opinions. We can eliminate this option.
6. The author is not overtly critical of this majority; there are no words that would characterize them as stupid or ignorant. So, you could say that the author is tolerant of their view. At the same time, you could say the tone is somewhat condescending. He or she doesn’t seem to appreciate that the majority of people dismiss art just because it is different from what they can recognize. This looks like a good option.

E is the correct answer.

1. “…indeed, preoccupation with the human content of the work is in principle incompatible with aesthetic enjoyment proper.” Here, the author makes a case against the idea that human elements are necessary for enjoyment of art. He or she makes the argument that focusing on the human element of art takes away from appreciating its pure aesthetic value.
2. As opposed to the human story presented, the author argues that pleasure in art should come from the artistic elements instead. Viewers are so preoccupied with the human element that they may miss the artistic value. This looks like a good answer.
3. This passage focuses on viewers’ reactions to and enjoyment of art, and these are not linked to artists’ intentions or accomplishments. Next.
4. It does not seem likely that the author would assume that responses to art cannot be easily defined. We have the description of those who need to see the human story behind it and those who can enjoy art for its pure beauty. Let’s eliminate this answer.
5. The author does not discuss moral conventions of the artist’s society; the focus here is on art viewers, not the artists. This can’t be right.
6. The author feels that people should focus on artistic technique to enjoy art, but the majority focus on “the story,” the human element. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 5**

**Section 6: WRITING**

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. “The delegates coming this far”? Something is wrong with the verb form here. Let’s search for a better option.  
   * 1. Did the delegates feel this way simultaneously as they “are coming this far”? Do these actions occur at the same time? Nope, this answer can’t be right.
     2. This better reflects the action. The introductory clause “Having come this far . . . .” essentially tells us they just arrived and they did not want to leave without accomplishing something. This looks like a good answer.
     3. The delegates did not want to leave without accomplishing something “in order to come this far,” as this sentence would make it sound. This is not correct.
     4. The delegates did not come this far in order to come to the conclusion that they did not want to leave without accomplishing something. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. In the underlined section, is it clear *what* is marching through a rainstorm? We’d assume from the context it is the band members, but it is not clear from this sentence structure. Also, the form of the verb “marching” does not sync with the verb “soaked.” The verbs should reflect past action.
   * 1. Here, the verb is “having marched,” which still does not sync with “soaked.” Let’s keep looking.
     2. Adding the word “from” in front of “marching” without fixing the verb tense issue does not improve this sentence. Next.
     3. The pronoun “they” tells us who had been soaked. They were soaked as if they had marched through a rainstorm. The verbs reflect past action as well. This looks like our answer.
     4. “As if they would have marched” means that they could potentially have marched, but did not. We know they did march, so this is not the right tense (and not the right answer).

D is the correct answer.

1. How many effects are we talking about? The word “effects” is plural, so it must be more than one. We need the plural verb “are,” not “is,” which is singular.
   * 1. This option uses the same singular verb “is,” so this can’t be right.
     2. Here, we’ve replaced the singular “‘is” with the plural “are” to match the plural subject, “effects.” This corrects our problem, so it should be our answer.
     3. We don’t mean to say the effects are increasing, we mean to say the documentation is increasing. While the option corrects our problem in one way, it creates a new one. This is not the right answer.
     4. “Has increased” is also a singular verb that is misused with the plural subject of “effects.” It also makes it sound as if the effects increased rather than the documentation. We can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. What about the issue that was debated? The thought is incomplete. We know what the issue is, but what is this sentence trying to say about it? Let’s take a look at the other options.
   * 1. Let’s state the issue that’s debated as it written here. The issue was “if they would repeal rent control.” The issue should be described with a noun, not an action, as in this option. Let’s move on.
     2. This option states that repeal would result in “improved housing or increase profits.” With two possible choices, *the result* is not clearly known. Let’s eliminate this option,
     3. Let’s shorten the statement. The issue debated was “Will this mean that?” This is now a question when the issue that’s debated should simply be described as a statement. Moving on.
     4. Simply stated: The issue was whether it would improve this or that. The sentence is complete, and the description of the issue is now grammatically correct. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s take out the clause “the first … Channel” to get to the heart of the sentence. “American journalist Harriet Quimby, doing it just nine years . . . .” The verb (doing) is not correct, so let’s find a better answer.
   * 1. This sentence does not have a payoff. “Harriet, who did so nine years after the Wright Brothers” still reads as the subject. What about this woman who did this thing? It’s an incomplete thought. Let’s keep looking.
     2. Harriet *became* the first woman *to have piloted* a plane and *did* it nine years after the Wright Brothers. The verb tenses don’t match. Let’s move on.
     3. Harriet became the first woman to pilot a plane across the English Channel. She did so nine years after the Wright Brothers. This is a fine answer.
     4. We have two complete thoughts separated by a comma. We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. In this sentence, the duo’s selection to represent the school is rather clumsily linked with their work having been excellent this year. Let’s look for an option that makes this relationship clearer.
   * 1. “They have done excellent work in this.” What is “this”? Perhaps debating, but it’s not clear. Next.
     2. It’s still not clear what “in this” refers to. We believe it has something to do with debating, but it’s not clear. Let’s keep looking.
     3. This shows that it was their work as public speakers that earned them a place in the debating contest. This may be the answer we’ve been looking for.
     4. We know that a semicolon is used to separate two complete thoughts. “Their work as public speakers . . . .” is not a complete thought. This is not the right answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. What is the subject of this sentence that correspond with the verb “give”? Colorful images and verbal wit. These are *two* things that give the reader pleasure. Therefore, we need the plural form of “give,” which is correct as is.

A is the correct answer.

1. The underlined part of this sentence is an introduction to the fact that Linda is an expert at describing people and places. She is an expert because she is a gifted storyteller. We do not need the words “being as she is” because we already know to whom we are referring. Let’s look for a better answer.
   * 1. “In being” gives us the same problem that’s in the original statement. We don’t need these extra words. Next.
     2. “A gifted storyteller . . . .” appropriately introduces our subject, Linda Goss. This option is grammatically correct without extra, unnecessary words. This looks like a winner.
     3. The fact that Linda is an expert at describing people and places is not in contrast to the fact that she is a gifted storyteller, as would be implied by the word “although.” This can’t be right.
     4. This makes it sound as if Linda is an expert while she is telling stories in a gifted manner. This one just doesn’t sound right, so let’s eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s simplify the underlined portion of this sentence: “He never having painted portraits . . . .” The verb “having painted” does not match the tense of the next verb, “regarded.” The verb tenses should match. There must be a better answer.
   * 1. This option does not clearly connect the two ideas. What does the fact that Blake never painted portraits have to do with how he regarded them? We need an option that makes this connection clear. Let’s move on.
     2. Here, it seems as if “they” (the portraits) never painted a portrait. That can’t be right.
     3. The part of the sentence after the semicolon does not contain a subject; it’s an incomplete thought. It should say something like “he did, however, regard them . . . .” This is not the correct answer.
     4. Here the connection between the two ideas is clear. He never painted portraits *because* he regarded them as mechanical reproductions that lacked creativity. This is the best answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. We already know that the heat lasted a week. We do not need to say, ”which duration,” but we need to find a better way to express that the long lasting heat seemed like torture. Let’s look for a better answer.
   * 1. What noun does “it” refer to in this sentence? It’s not clear, so let’s eliminate this option.
     2. We have extra words with “the duration of.” And, again, it’s not clear what “it” refers to. Let’s keep looking.
     3. The heat could be described in two ways. It was overwhelming and it lasted a week. Its (the heat’s) lasting a week made it seem like torture. When the sentence is structured this way, it uses correct grammar and does not include unnecessary or redundant words, so this looks like our answer.
     4. The heat *was* overwhelming; the action is in the past. It should have *made* it seem like torture, not *making* it seem like torture, which would express current action. This can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

1. The subject here is novels, which is plural. “It” refers to a singular subject. Let’s look for an option that recognizes the plural subject.
   * 1. “These first efforts” is plural. They draw upon all the experiences of childhood. This looks like a winner.
     2. By declaring “the reason is,” we do not also need to say “because of.” Let’s eliminate this answer.
     3. This option also uses “because of.” And we don’t know if “them” refers to the writers or the novels. This can’t be right.
     4. Are the novels drawing from their experience? That’s implied here. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

This section tests your ability to identify grammar mistakes. In each sentence, 4 word(s) are underlined. You are to determine if any of the underlined words reflect incorrect grammar or usage errors. You also have an option to indicate that there are no errors in the sentence.

First, read the whole sentence. Does anything stick out to you? The more you read, the more you may pick up when something in the sentence just doesn’t sound right. Since it helps to know why an answer is right or wrong, we’ll explain all the answers.

12. The sentence should read: “Directed by George Wolfe, the Broadway musical *Bring in ‘Da Noise, Bring in ‘Da Funk* ***told*** how tap dancing evolved from the African American experience in the decades following the Civil War.”

We would not say “It telling how something evolved”; it leaves us with an incomplete thought. We would say: “It told how something evolved” or even “It tells how something evolved.”

A is the correct answer

13. The sentence should read: “The question of whether certain chemical fertilizers are a curse ***or*** a blessing is still being debated.”

We have a single question. Are fertilizers a curse or a blessing? We do not need to say “are they” as in Option B because we already know we are talking about the fertilizers—this is clear without this pronoun.

B is the correct answer.

14. The sentence should read: “People ***who*** need immediate reeducation for employment are impatient with the prolonged debate over funding for the new national program.”

The pronoun “which” refers to things, while “who” refers to persons. As we are clearly talking about people, the word “which” is incorrect in this sentence.

A is the correct answer.

15. The sentence should read: “The thoughtful student wonders what Patrick Henry meant when he talked about liberty because most of the members of the House of Burgesses then ***were*** slaveholders.”

We are talking about a particular moment in time, when Patrick Henry talked about liberty. The verbs to refer to this time should be in the past tense, but “having been” is not the past tense.

D is the correct answer.

16. The sentence should read: “One challenge that writer Eleanor Wong Telemaque faced was ***how to preserve*** her ethnic identity while becoming more accessible to readers who are not accustomed to writers from other cultural backgrounds.”

What are some challenges you have faced in the past? How to get good grades? How to tie your shoes? Notice how we structure the verbs in each of these examples. The same applies here; the challenge faced is how to preserve her identity.

A is the correct answer.

17. The sentence should read: “No one objects to his company, even though he has made insulting remarks about almost every member of the group, ***because*** he is a remarkably witty man.”

The sentence does not mean to say that no one objects to his company only at the time *when* he is a witty man. This lack of objection does not happen only in certain situations; no one objects *because* he is witty.

D is the correct answer.

18. The sentence should read: “Just how critical an improved balance of trade is to a healthy economy has never been ***more clear*** than it is now.”

Clearer by its very definition means “more clear.” It is not correct to say “more clearer.”

D is the correct answer.

19. The sentence should read: “Critics contend that reforms in welfare ***have*** not managed to bring their high percentage of our nation’s children living in poverty the economic security they need to thrive.”

The subject that the verb must agree with is “reforms,” which is plural. “Has” is the singular form, so it does not agree with the subject.

B is the correct answer.

20. The sentence should read: “Crabs living in polluted waters will come in contact with large numbers of disease-causing microorganisms because ***they feed*** by filtering nutrients from water.”

The verb must then agree with the plural subject, crabs, so this phrase should be “they feed” instead of “it feeds.”

C is the correct answer.

21. The sentence should read: “The new system, which uses remote cameras ***to catch*** speeding motorists may undermine the police department’s authority.”

Let’s use a different example. We use a fork to eat food. We do not use a fork “in the eating of food.” The same goes for using this new system “to catch criminals,” not “in the catching of criminals.”

B is the correct answer.

22. The sentence should read: “Although the politician was initially very sensitive to ***being criticized*** by the press, he quickly became more confident about responding to reporters’ sometimes pointed questions.”

What was the politician was sensitive to? Some*thing*, which in this case, was “being criticized.” You cannot not be sensitive to *an action*, such as “be criticized.” Likewise, you would not be sensitive to “be cold”; you would be sensitive to be “being cold.”

B is the correct answer.

23. The sentence should read: “Although Pre-Raphaelite artists advocated the close study of nature, their paintings sometimes seem elaborately artificial to modern viewers.”

This sentence is correct as written. “Although” (Option A) notes that there is a contrast or irony present in the two ideas presented. The study was “of nature” (Option B) much like you could have a story “of happiness.” The paintings are those of the Pre-Raphaelites, so the plural possessive pronoun “their” (Option C) is correct. “Elaborately artificial” (Option D) is a modified adjective that describes how the paintings are viewed by modern viewers.

E is the correct answer.

24. The sentence should read: “Lions and tigers may be identical in size, but the tiger is the fiercer animal and the lion ***the stronger***.”

We are comparing only two things here: lions and tigers. The word “strongest” would be used if there were more than two animals being compared.

D is the correct answer.

25. The sentence should read: “The decline in science education during the period had two causes: less funding for scientific research ***and a decrease*** in jobs related to space and defense.”

The sentence tells us there are two causes. “Less funding for scientific research with a decrease in jobs” is only one cause. By changing “with” to “and,” we now have two causes: less funding and a decrease in jobs.

C is the correct answer.

26. The sentence should read: “The number of awards given this year to biochemists ***accentuates*** the significant gains made in the study of the chemistry of living organisms.”

Our subject is “the number.” This is a singular subject, therefore, we need the singular form of the verb, “accentuates.”

B is the correct answer.

27. The sentence should read: “The novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen was once more widely read and was more popular in high schools in the United States ***than the novels of Charlotte Brontë.”***

It seems odd to say that Austen’s novel was more widely read and popular than Charlotte Bronte. How would one read a person like Charlotte Brontë? It makes more sense to refer to Brontë’s *novels* being widely read as opposed to Brontë herself.

D is the correct answer.

28. The sentence should read: “***Until they*** can be replaced by a faster, more efficient and more economical means of transportation, trucks will carry most of the freight within and through metropolitan areas.”

The noun that “it” is replacing in Option A is “trucks.” Since that is plural, we need the plural pronoun, “they.”

A is the correct answer.

29. The sentence should read: “Nearly all of the editors of the magazine agree that of the two articles to be published, Fujimura’s is the more exciting.”

There are no errors in this sentence. “Nearly all” (Option A) refers to the fact that most of the editors agree. “All” is a plural subject, so the plural form of the verb, “agree,” (Option B) is correct. The articles we are discussing are the ones that are to be published (Option C) meaning that they have not yet been published, and will be in the future. There are two articles being compared, so one will be *more* exciting (Option D) than the other.

E is the correct answer.

This next section tests your writing skills in a different way than the previous section. Whereas the last section asked you to find errors in grammar & usage, this section asks you to improve sentence structure or word choice, or how the passage is organized or developed. So, as you read the passage, think about whether it makes sense or it could be written better.

Keep in mind that while the SAT *reading* sections may require you to fully understand the point of a passage, this section tests *writing*. You are not going to be inferring answers from the passage, just looking for ways a sentence or section could be improved. So, take a look at the questions first to get a sense of what you’ll be asked. Then, quickly read the passage. Don’t too spend too much time reading as you’ll likely have to re-read portions more closely in order to determine the best answer.

30. The first sentence does seem odd if taken literally. How could there be a hidden microphone in the Middle Ages? The second sentence seems to be a response to the odd placement of a microphone in that setting.

1. The reader might think it odd that the author is talking about using a microphone in the Middle Ages. The second sentence reveals that the author understands that this idea is technically impossible and acknowledges that. This answer makes sense.
2. Sentence 2 does not contain any historical background. This is not the correct answer.
3. The first sentence references “listening in” on the Middle Ages with hidden microphones, so acknowledging that microphones did not exist at that time is not a restatement of the first sentence. Nope.
4. “Imagining microphones” in the Middle Ages and noting that they did not exist during that time does not represent contrasting views. This is not the best answer.
5. In the first sentence, the author expresses that he or she *felt* a certain way. The acknowledgment that microphones did not then exist does not correct an inaccuracy; it was the author’s *feeling.* This can’t be right.

A is the correct answer.

31. Our sentence needs to go at the beginning of the second paragraph. The end of the first paragraph discusses how letters from the Middle Ages speak to the author like voices. Then, sentence 4 introduces a book the author found that included letters. Which sentence would best introduce the second paragraph and flow with the first paragraph?

1. The first paragraph has introduced the idea of the letters. If we insert this sentence before Sentence 4, that would nicely tell us where the author found the book referenced in Sentence 4. This looks like a winner.
2. The reader is not left wondering if the author is dreaming at the end of the first paragraph. We already know the author has been reading the letters. This can’t be our answer.
3. The author has moved on from the microphone discussion. This option won’t work.
4. This introduces a library before we know the author found the letters in a book, so we can eliminate this answer.
5. If this sentence were correct, the author would then be telling us about the oldest form of communication, which does not occur in Sentence 4. This can’t be right.

A is the correct answer.

32. In context, this sentence tells the readers about the letters that the author found in the library. How could we combine these sentences to best describe the letters and their origin?

1. Sentence 5 is not a complete sentence. What about these people who lived in a remote part of England? Let’s keep looking,
2. The Pastons did what exactly while living in a remote part of England? This is not clear, so this can’t be the correct answer.
3. We know that semicolons connect two complete thoughts. We don’t have that here. Next.
4. This tells us the same information in a much more clear and succinct way. The letters were from the Paston family, who lived in a remote part of England. This looks like a good answer.
5. All the action is in the past (contained, named) so “living” can’t be right.

D is the correct answer.

33. Sentence 6 states that getting anywhere in the Middle Ages was hard. Sentence 7 then gives an example to demonstrate how hard this was. Which option gives us the best, grammatically correct example?

1. ”So that” is used when you want to state a hopeful result. “I ate a big meal so that I wouldn’t be hungry later.” An earl didn’t rebel so that a messenger could tell the Paston family some news. Let’s look for a better option.
2. This option also has no transition indicating that we are discussing an example of how hard it was to get around in the Middle Ages. Nope.
3. This option does add the “for example” transition, but did the messenger ride for days with the rebelling earl in London? Nope, that can’t be right.
4. Look at the verbs in this sentence. While the earl rebels (present tense), a messenger rode (past tense). We would need to say “a messenger rides.” This is not the correct answer.
5. The introduction of “once” sets us up for an example demonstrating how hard it was to get around in the Middle Ages. Both verbs, rebelled and rode, reflect the past tense. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

34. This sentence starts the last paragraph. The preceding paragraph discussed how it was difficult to get around in the Middle Ages. Sentence 8 lists what the reader can learn from the Pastons’ letters. Keep this context in mind when choosing your answer.

1. We do not need to add “through one’s reading of” when we know this sentence mentions the modern reader, so we can eliminate this answer.
2. As the first sentence of the last paragraph, it would be helpful to clarify whose anxieties are referred to. In fact, the rest of this paragraph does not reference the Pastons at all, so replacing “their” with “The Pastons” would improve this sentence. Let’s keep this option in mind.
3. How would the modern reader record the anxieties of the Pastons? It seems “sense” makes more sense here, so this answer can’t be right.
4. What would be improved by deleting some of the examples? It would be shorter sure, but less descriptive. This is not the best answer.
5. Adding “etc.” would not fix the problem of the vague reference to “their.” This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. Read each of the strategies and try to find an area of the passage that would demonstrate such a strategy. You will likely be able to find examples of most of the strategies, and your answer will be the one that you cannot find an example of.
2. The description in Paragraph 2 that explains who the Pastons are and where they lived gives us background explanation. This is not the correct answer.
3. The first paragraph includes the author imagining himself listening in on the Middle Ages through a hidden microphone. This seems like an example of imaginative description, so we can eliminate this answer.
4. Do you see any question marks in this passage? Is there any place where the reader might be left to answer a question that is not answered by the author? Nope, so this looks like our answer.
5. The end of the passage contains a personal narration; the author describes sitting barefoot on a porch, reading a letter. This is not our answer.
6. Sentence 10 contains a direction quotation from one of the letters. This can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 5**

**Section 7: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. The phrase at the end of the sentence, “exchanging goods for goods,” defines our missing word. Which of the options could be defined in this way, considering the context (commerce on a remote island)?
   * 1. Credit - think credit card. You buy things under an agreement in which you promise to pay for them over time. This is not an exchange of goods, so let’s move on.
     2. If “loan” were the right choice, goods would be given with the expectation of being paid back later. This is not the correct answer.
     3. How would commerce be conducted by faith? The producer of the goods just believes that the receiver will pay him back? This can’t be right.
     4. Patronage is like charity in that one gives to the other. This does not describe an exchange of goods, so we can eliminate this answer.
     5. In a barter system, people will decide on a fair exchange, such as offering a friend your pudding in exchange for his candy bar. This looks like the correct answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Our missing word could have explained a view of the existence of environmental contamination at some time in the past. This view is no longer the case because government, industry and the public now agree it is a serious problem. So, we can conclude that at one point, at least one of these groups did not find this to be a serious problem. What word best describes this change in view?
2. If government, industry and the public felt that this was a serious problem, this would have been more than just a point of concern. Next.
3. We now have cooperation given that government, industry and the public all agree. So, the issue could not be one that’s *no longer* a point of cooperation. Let’s keep looking.
4. If this were no longer a point of urgency, the groups would be agreeing that the issue does not need to be taken care of right now. But the groups agree that it’s a serious problem, which would imply urgency. We can eliminate this answer.
5. If the issue were no longer relevant, government, industry and the public would not consider discussing it, much less agree that it was a serious issue. This can’t be right.
6. Government, industry, and the public may have once disputed whether or not it was a serious problem. They no longer dispute it; all agree that it is a serious concern. This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Our missing word has been defined in the clause, “The ability to perceive without conscious reasoning.” Take a look at each option to see which word could be defined in this way.
2. Autonomy is the ability to do things without outside help from others; it does not have to do with perceiving without reasoning. Let’s keep looking.
3. Incoherence describes something that cannot be understood, such as a poorly worded sentence. This is not the correct answer.
4. You would call it intuition, or a sense that something is right, lwhen you first meet someone and you know you like him, but can’t say exactly why you like him. This is similar to what we have in this context—you know how to climb the rocks without conscious reasoning; it’s intuitive. This looks like a winner.
5. Sophistry means deceptive reasoning. The word we’re looking for doesn’t involve reasoning. We can eliminate this option.
6. When a climber is receptive, he or she would be receiving input. From our definition, we know that our missing word notes perception without conscious reasoning, so this can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

1. Try looking for options for the second missing word first. It would make sense that this word would bring lab exercises and classroom teaching into the curriculum in a coordinated manner.
2. Lab exercises and classroom teaching could be integrated into the curriculum in a coordinated manner, so let’s check out the option for the first missing word. Computer labs could supplement, or add to, classroom instruction. This supplement would be useful when labs and classroom teaching are integrated into the curriculum. This looks like a fine answer.
3. If the curriculum undermined lab exercises and classroom teaching, this would not be effective, so we can eliminate this answer.
4. If the curriculum compromised, or hurt, lab exercises and teaching, we would also not have an effective way to remedy, or correct, classroom instruction. Nope.
5. The curriculum could reinforce lab exercises and classroom teaching, but not by using computer labs to disparage, or hurt, classroom instruction. This can’t be right.
6. A curriculum that curtails, or sets back, labs and classroom teaching would not foster instruction. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The second missing word describes how the people referenced in the first missing word might view Duchamp’s work. Look at the first option and ask yourself if such a person may view this art in a negative way, as is described in the second option.
2. People who are critical of this work may find it to be the epitome, or the prime example, of something they detest or hate. This answer makes a lot of sense.
3. Proponents, or supporters, of the work would not realize it as something they detest. Let’s keep looking.
4. Advocates support (or advocate) the work; they do not detest it. Next.
5. Debunkers are people who try to prove something to be false. How would this apply to art? This is not clear. It’s also not clear how the art would be a rejection of everything they hate. This is not the correct answer.
6. Belittlers would put down the art. They would not find it to be the reversal, or the opposite, of the type of art they criticize. Nope.

A is the correct answer.

1. The playwright, Mercy Otis Warren was known for her keen judgment and political insight. Which of our options would describe her given what we know about her from this sentence?
2. Partisanship means holding firmly to one’s own beliefs (e.g., the beliefs of one’s political party). This does not necessarily show keen judgment. Let’s eliminate this option.
3. If you keep your temper, you stay level headed. Intemperance would be the opposite of this. Warren shows keen judgment, not intemperance. Next.
4. Someone who shows acumen shows excellent insight. This looks like our answer.
5. Irreverence shows no respect or reverence to others, which would not be a trait of someone with keen political judgment. This can’t be right.
6. Someone could have political interest, but not keen judgment or insight. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Both of our missing words are adjectives used to describe writing that is “filled with obscure references” and “baffling digressions.” These are not good traits, so we can eliminate any options with favorable adjectives.
   * 1. Writing that is deceiving would make one believe something that is not true, but this is not something that fits with the clues given. Also, ingenuous means something that is straightforward—the opposite of deceiving. This can’t be right.
     2. Arcane means obscure and unknown to most. Abstruse is similar in that it means something is difficult to understand. Could writing that is filled with obscure references be arcane, or obscure (yes), and abstruse, or difficult to understand (yes)? This looks like a good answer.
     3. Spare writing would be short, not filled with obscure references. Didactic writing would teach others, which would be too favorable of a description for this writing. This is not the correct answer.
     4. Lucid writing would be clear, not obscure. Next.
     5. Concise would describe writing that is clear and to the point, not full of obscure references. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. The first missing word is preceded by the word “this,” so we can conclude that this word will sum up what we already know about the congresswoman. So, our first missing word will describe someone who is openhanded to others. The second word will be contrasting to the first as it is difficult to reconcile, or make compatible, the two characteristics.
   * 1. Selfishness does not describe someone who is openhanded with others. We can eliminate this option.
     2. Someone who is insolent is rude and insulting, not openhanded or giving. Let’s keep looking.
     3. A magnanimous person is very giving, which seems in line with the openhanded congresswoman. You would not think that someone who is so giving in public would be privately petty or narrow minded. These are two characteristics that would be difficult to reconcile. This looks like a good answer.
     4. Someone who is opportunistic would take from others, not be openhanded with others. This can’t be right.
     5. A solicitous person would full of concerns. This type of person would be openhanded with others. Our second missing word is generous, which would not contrast with solicitous, so this is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). This section includes paired, related passages. The questions following these passages may be based on one or both passages, or the relationship between them.

While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

Both passages discuss the names of SUV brands. The first seems to think SUVs are bad and that the rugged brand names fool the public into buying these unnecessary vehicles. The second passage focuses on the marketing involved with naming the SUVs and takes a slightly more positive position on this style of advertising.

1. Think about what these two passages have in common. Both discuss the marketing and naming of SUVs. Both argue that the rugged names given to these vehicles are meant to give the consumer a certain view of the vehicles. Yet, the first passage seems irritated by this marketing, while the second is more indifferent to it.
2. Passage 2 explicitly states that “most buyers will never venture into … [rugged terrain].” This can’t be right.
3. Neither passage mentions that the buyers of SUVs like to live in mountain ranges. Let’s eliminate this answer.
4. Passage 2 notes that there is a certain section of society that can afford SUVs; Passage 1 does not mention the wealth of the buyers or how expensive the cars are. Let’s move on.
5. We’ve already established that both passages discuss the marketing of SUVs. In each, the author seems to believe that these marketing strategies (i.e., naming of the vehicles) influence the buyers. This looks like a winner.
6. Both passages argue that the names of the vehicles denote “rugged individualism” (Passage 1) and the ability to “tame a different kind of wilderness” (Passage 2). This doesn’t indicate anything about the buyers’ social status, so we can eliminate this answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Start this question by reading each possible answer. Was this addressed in Passage 1? If not, you can automatically eliminate that answer. If so, then check to see if it is also included in Passage 2. If not, then you have your answer.
   * 1. Passage 1 describes SUVs with “front bumpers as big as battering rams.” So, bulk is addressed in Passage 1. Passage 2 does not address the size of SUVs. Let’s hold on to this answer.
     2. Passage 1 does not include any reference to cost. We can automatically eliminate this answer.
     3. Passage 1 mentions the “connotation of rugged individualism,” which is related to the psychology of the buyers. Passage 2 discusses buyers’ “fears both real and imagined,” so this also mentions the psychology of the buyers. Next.
     4. Passage 1 does not mention anything about gas consumption, air quality or other environmental factors, so we don’t need to go further with this option.
     5. Passage 1 attributes the SUV’s popularity to the “fake Western names,” so the significance is discussed here. It is, however, also discussed in Passage 2 (an SUV named for an Alaskan mountain), so this can’t be the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. First, let’s look at the subtleties listed in Passage 2. They refer to the message sent by naming an SUV after an Alaskan mountain. Now, run through each possible answer to see which one is mentioned in Passage 1 and refers to the marketing behind the naming of SUVs.
2. The “advance” here refers to the popularity of SUVs, not how they are named. Next.
3. The “battering rams” are a description of how big the bumpers on SUVs are—not a reference to their names. Nope.
4. This is close. The lakes, frontier towns and mountain ranges are denoted in the names of the SUVs. Yet, the point made by the subtleties is not that they are named after rugged elements (which most people don’t care about), but what those rugged elements represent. This description is too literal to be a representation of the subtleties mentioned in Passage 2. Let’s keep looking.
5. This answer looks better. The things mentioned in Option C connote that the SUVs are rugged, much like the subtlety of naming an SUV after an Alaskan mountain. This answer looks like a winner.
6. The “concoctions” mentioned here refer to the SUVs themselves (i.e., similar to monsters), not the message sent by naming an SUV after a mountain. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Both passages seem to argue that the imagery used to market SUVs sends a certain message to buyers. Note the virtues used to describe the marketing in each passage: Rugged individualism, mastery and cowboy endurance in Passage 1. Rugged terrain, protect and wilderness in Passage 2. Which of the following options best describes these virtues?
2. While “rugged” may seem primitive, it doesn’t account for the mastery or protection noted in both passages. Let’s keep looking.
3. A simpler way of life would not usually call back to wilderness and endurance. This can’t be right.
4. Individualism, mastery, endurance and protections all refer back to power and control. This looks like a good answer.
5. The virtues described in these passages refer more to the driver and what driving an SUV says about them, rather than the beauty of nature. Let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Individualism is noted in Passage 1 and would point to nonconformity. Passage 2, however, refers to SUVs owned by those living in a limited access community, which would point to an element of conformity. This is not the right answer.

C is the correct answer.

The next two passages discuss World War I. The first describes how depictions of the war that were sent back home were inaccurate due to the censorship of letters and the position of the media. The second describes how men and women (in particular) changed in different ways over the course of the war.

1. What are the major differences between the two passages? The first focuses on media depiction of the war, while the other focuses on how the war changed men and women.
2. Both passages deal with the negative impact the war had on humans, so let’s move on.
3. Passage 2 largely discusses the “unofficial female history,” not any official view of the war. Next.
4. Passage 1 focuses on the overall depiction of the war by the media and does not include the story of women during this time, as Passage 2 does. This looks like a good answer.
5. Neither passage discusses the root causes of the war. This is not the correct answer.
6. Passage 1 addresses censorship of war information; Passage 2 does not, so we can eliminate this answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. The “fissure” is noted in the first paragraph of Passage 1; it refers to the difference between the true experience of the war and the view of war that those at home experienced. Which of the following options fits with this difference?
2. The civilians at home were ignorant of the soldiers’ experience due to the lack of real information. Therefore, this ignorance led to a fissure, or divide, in viewpoint between citizens and soldiers. This looks like a good answer.
3. This passage does not discuss the experience of women in the war, so this is not the correct answer.
4. The problems discussed in this passage are attributed to the censorship of information and not the behavior of officers in battle. Let’s move on.
5. The passage does not discuss guilt felt by civilians because young men were sent off the war. It is focused more on misinformation rather than guilt. Next.
6. The fissure described here is not between soldiers and war correspondents; it is between civilians and soldiers. We can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. The footnote tells us that the Battle of Somme resulted in the most casualties in a single day in the British army’s history. From this, we can conclude that this battle was devastating. This contrasts with the publisher’s description of the situation there as “favorable.”
2. The publication noted in this passage is from the time of the war, not afterward. This is how history was being written at the time, not how it was re-written after the fact. Let’s keep looking.
3. The fact that this battle was so disastrous does not trivialize or minimize the dangers—it does the exact opposite by showing how dangerous the situation truly was. We can eliminate this answer.
4. Knowing how terrible this battle truly was demonstrates the great inaccuracy of the description of the situation as “favorable.” This looks like our answer.
5. The passage does not introduce any benefits of the war, so the information in the footnote could not show that the costs outweighed the benefits. Nope.
6. This footnote gives us historical data, not a journalist’s personal reflection. This can’t be right.

C is the correct answer.

1. Which of the possible answers is cited in the passage as a reason for the fact that citizens at home had a different (and misinformed) view of the war compared to the experience of those who actually were there?
2. Line 11 states that “The press was under rigid censorship.” So, we can’t conclude that the government’s control over propaganda was inadequate. Let’s keep looking.
3. The first sentences in second paragraph note that soldiers were able to write home, but they would or could not tell the truth. We can eliminate this option.
4. It is Passage 2 that deals with the different views of men and women. This question refers specifically to Passage 1, so this can’t be the right answer.
5. There is no mention made of efforts to end the war. This is not the correct answer.
6. The rigid censorship of the press, cited in line 11, is a factor that affected how “those at home” felt about the war. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Let’s look at more of the line to get a better idea of the context. This sentence refers to “those who could credit prose like that as factual testimony.” This refers to those who felt that the inaccurate reports were true. Which of the following words would have the same meaning?
2. The people here are not giving prose as an award; they are accepting it as fact. Let’s keep looking.
3. This passage refers to those who believed such prose to be fact. This fits with the meaning of the word “credit” here, so this looks like a winner.
4. How would one enter prose? It is not being entered into a contest in this scenario. This can’t be right.
5. The people supplying, or writing, the prose are not the same as those who are being discussed in this sentence. We are discussing the people reading the prose, not those supplying it. Let’s move on.
6. The prose is not being enriched; it is being accepted as fact. We can eliminate this answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Vera Brittain noted a barrier between herself and her soldier fiancé that developed as a result of the war. Given that this passage attempts to demonstrate the difference between male and female experiences in the war, how might her experience relate to the main point of the passage?
2. By noting Brittain’s reflection on how her relationship with her fiancé changed due to the war, the author of the passage provides support for the argument that the war changed men and women in different ways. This looks like a good answer.
3. The mention of Brittain does not reference any powers that women gained during the war. We can eliminate this option.
4. The author does not challenge the facts Brittain presents, nor does the author insinuate that she had manipulated these facts. This can’t be right.
5. The point of the passage is not to discuss women’s wartime literature; it is to demonstrate how men and women, in particular, experienced the war. While wartime literature produced by women is mentioned, it is not linked with Brittain’s comments. Let’s move on.
6. It’s not clear if Brittain was a historian, and the focus of Passage 2 is not on how historians viewed the war. The focus is to contrast the historical views of the war from the male and female points of view. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. Let’s look at more of this section of the passage for a better idea of the context. “As nurses, as munitions workers, as bus drivers, as soldiers in the agricultural ‘land army,’ even as wives and mothers, these formerly subservient creatures began to loom larger.” Here, the author seems to be saying that though many women worked outside the home, even those whose work remained in the home found a less subservient role during the war.
2. This sentence focuses on the effect on women themselves, not their families. We can eliminate this answer.
3. In this sentence, the author doesn’t indicate whether or not soldiers were aware of the changes taking place back home. This can’t be the best answer.
4. While the sentence notes that women began to loom larger (their importance in society increased), it does not indicate if this change was embraced or not. Let’s keep looking.
5. Wives and mothers are mentioned because their roles were expanding outside of traditional family life, not because the women were anxious to fulfill family responsibilities. This is not the correct answer.
6. We can assume that these women had previously exercised little authority since they are described as “formerly subservient.” In addition, women in these familiar roles are described as “looming larger,” denoting a change in status. This answer makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. The remainder of this sentence gives us a good clue as to what the revolution refers to here. It is a revolution, “… by which the First World War at least temporarily dispossessed male citizens of the primacy . . . .”
2. The revolution here is not women’s literary output, but rather women’s rise in status in society. This can’t be right.
3. The revolution refers to rights previously unavailable to them (e.g., having jobs outside the home and being able to vote). This is a good answer.
4. The revolution refers to women taking on a larger role in society. This answer can’t be right as it implies that the revolution refers to changes experienced by men. Next.
5. This passage concerns a shift in power between men and women, not social classes. We can eliminate this answer.
6. Wages are not addressed in this passage. This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. Why might enthusiasm during wartime be seen as gloating? Some are benefiting while others are suffering, perhaps?
2. Is there anything in the passage that would point to the deterioration of men’s status as a result of women’s enthusiasm for their new role in society? Nope, so we can eliminate this answer.
3. The role of women is not described as being a peacemaker; it is only noted that the role of women in society increased. This is not the correct answer.
4. Women did not take on this role in order to win the war; it was taken out of necessity while men were out fighting the war. Let’s keep looking.
5. The author does not discuss whether women wanted to fight in the war. This can’t be right.
6. It would seem awful to show enthusiasm for the fact that men were off losing their lives in the war. Therefore, the enthusiasm for the new opportunities could be confused as gloating, as women would not be expected to be happy about men being off fighting the war. This answer makes sense.

E is the correct answer.

1. The menial tasks and fatal fascinations here are described as a means to escape “the education of the private house.” This passage seems to describe women’s desire to find any excuse to leave their traditional lives inside the home.
2. Tasks and fascinations do not describe consequences; they describe sought-after activities that helped women escape the home. This can’t be the correct answer.
3. The tasks and fascinations women took on are described in such stark terms to emphasize the lengths they would go to in order to leave the house, as they were stifled by their roles within the home. This seems like a logical answer.
4. These words do not refer to how women idealized the war; they refer to activities women took on to escape the home. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Women are not escaping war here; they are escaping “the private house,” or traditional roles. This is not the correct answer.
6. These words do not describe women’s work in the war; they describe their work on the home front during the war. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. *Behind the Scenes of the Front* is an inaccurate portrayal of the war that describes soldiers as better off at war than at home. The wartime poems, stories and memoirs mentioned in Passage 2 describe the “revolutionary” effect the war had on women. Both seem to paint a more positive outlook on the effects of the war.
2. *Behind the Scenes of the Front* was meant to set the public at ease, not cause uneasiness. And it is not clear what effect the poems, etc. had. Let’s eliminate this answer.
3. While *Behind the Scenes of the Front* did reflect the views of the government due to its control over war reports, there is no indication that this was true of the poems referenced in the second passage. This can’t be right.
4. It is not clear how the inaccurate reporting in *Behind the Scenes of the Front* changed things for women as this is not a focus of the first passage. Let’s keep looking,
5. Neither passage focuses on the effect on the writers of these publications. Next.
6. *Behind the Scenes of the Front* painted a rosy picture of the battlefield, when the realities of war were horrific. The poems, stories and memoirs in Passage 2 focused on women back home, so they also did not reflect battlefield realities. This looks like our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Read each possible answer and ask yourself if the author of both passages would agree with the statement about the effect of World War I.
2. Neither passage focuses on how officers felt about the war. This is not the best answer.
3. The author of the second passage would certainly agree that women gained independence in postwar Britain. But Passage 1 does not make mention of how women were changed by the war—only that the information they received about it was inaccurate. Let’s keep looking.
4. Passage 1 cites the misinformation passed on to wartime civilians as a reason for a “fissure” between soldiers and citizens. So, we can conclude that this author would agree with this statement. Passage 2 uses an example of Vera Brittain’s barrier with her soldier fiancé, so the author of this passage would also likely agree that soldiers felt isolated from parts of civilian society. This looks like a good answer.
5. The author of the Passage 1 would certainly agree with this statement, but it is not clear how the author of the Passage 2 felt about the ability of writers to describe the atrocities of war. Let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Neither author focuses on whether the war was appropriate or if it resolved the European conflict. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 5**

**Section 9: READING**

This section tests your ability to infer a sentence’s meaning. A sentence is provided, but key words have been omitted. Our job is to determine which set of word choices fits best in the sentence.

Try to fill in the blanks with your own word(s); then look for that word or one that’s similar in the answer choices.

The sentence itself will often provide valuable clues to the answer. Look out for words that would indicate comparison or contrast such as “similarly” or “otherwise.” This could indicate that there are synonyms or antonyms for the missing word in the sentence.

There may be words whose definitions you don’t know. In this case, first evaluate the words you *do* know to determine if they could be correct. If you are still left with a word you don‘t know, pay attention to the root of the word or suffix that may indicate the word’s meaning or at least part of speech.

Time saver: When there are two missing words, focus on the first one. If the first word in the pair of suggested answers doesn’t work, you can eliminate that entire answer choice quickly.

1. The two missing words here have a direct relationship. “Because divers are [first word] to more dangerous depths, the potential for injuries is [second word]. We have an action leading to a potential reaction.
2. Because divers are swimming to dangerous depths, the potential for injuries is lessening. Swimming is not usually something that is associated with depth. You would normally swim *long distances*, not swim to dangerous depths. This answer doesn’t quite work.
3. Because divers are descending to dangerous depths, the potential for injuries is increasing. This one makes sense. Descending is associated with depth, and diving in deep waters could increase the risk for injury. This looks like a fine answer.
4. “Removing to dangerous depths” does not make sense. How would one remove to dangerous depths? Let’s eliminate this answer.
5. Divers could return to dangerous depths (although why is not clear), but would they return to retrieve the urchins, seeing the potential for injuries? This can’t be right.
6. One would climb to greater heights (going up), not to dangerous depths (going down). This is not the correct answer.

B is the correct answer.

1. This question is looking for an adjective to describe the manner in which John boasts about his wardrobe. Let’s find word would best describe a boastful or bragging manner.
2. Can we conclude that John’s manner is erratic, or unpredictable, because he brags about his clothing? Nope.
3. If John has a large ego, or is egotistical, that would explain his tendency to brag about his clothing. This looks like a good answer.
4. A flexible person would be open to many options. Being flexible has little to do with John’s bragging about his wardrobe. Let’s keep looking.
5. Someone who is tactful would show grace in dealing with others so as to avoid offense. This does not describe John’s boasting. We can eliminate this answer.
6. A person who boasts about his wardrobe is looking for attention, as opposed to someone who is inconspicuous, or keeping a low profile. This can’t be right.

B is the correct answer.

1. The first word here will describe someone who is steadfast, or firm, in his beliefs. The second word will describe someone who is tactful, or skilled, in his negotiations.
2. Resourceful usually refers to someone who uses resources in an efficient manner—not really someone with firm beliefs. Let’s keep looking.
3. Someone who is tenacious keeps going after what he wants, so perhaps this could work. But, someone who is manipulative may lie to get what he wants, which is not at all tactful. This can’t be right.
4. A determined person could be steadfast or firm, so let’s move on to the second word. Demonstrative means emotional or freely displayed, which is not similar to tactful or skillful. This is not the best fit.
5. Someone who is resolute is sure of his beliefs, so this certainly fits as the first missing word. A diplomatic person easily finds solutions without hurting feelings, which would describe someone who is tactful in negotiations. This looks like a good option.
6. Outspoken and indiscriminate would not describe someone who is firm in their beliefs and tactful. This can’t be the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. The key word here is “considering.” It can indicate an unexpected result. “Considering how cold it is today, the sun actually makes it feels quite nice.” Our missing word indicates an unexpected result considering that many women had little control over their own lives.
2. Consecration is usually associated with religious worship. Considering the little control women had over their lives at the time, would an autobiography by a woman at that time show a great deal of consecration? This answer doesn’t make sense.
3. Would you be surprised that a book would be rational or levelheaded considering the lack of control women had at the time? Nope, this one won’t work.
4. Given the lack of control women had at the time, a woman writing an autobiography would show a great deal of autonomy, or independence. This action would be surprising, so this looks like a good answer.
5. We would actually expect effacement, or modesty, from a woman who had little control over her life, and would not be surprised by it. Remember the key word, considering, which means we are looking for a contrasting description to categorize the remarkable act represented by a medieval woman writing an autobiography. We can eliminate this answer.
6. Again, simplicity seems a likely trait for those with little control over their lives. We are looking for a description that would demonstrate something remarkably different, so this answer is not correct.

C is the correct answer.

1. The two missing words here will be related. The types of acts that are banned describe the type of suspects that would be forcibly detained. For example, if funny acts were banned, comedians could be detained. Let’s look for an option with a similar relationship.
2. Would a conformist, or someone who follows the rules, likely be considered someone who commits a rebellious act? Nope.
3. An apolitical or neutral act would not be carried out by loyalists, as loyalists would likely be true to one party. Let’s keep looking.
4. A seditious act would be one that defies authority. An insurrectionist would be someone who leads an insurrection or revolt against authority. These words look appropriately related, so let’s keep this answer in mind.
5. An example of a subversive act would be an attempt to overthrow the government. Nonpartisans are those who do not take sides. This type of person would not likely be part of a subversive act. We can eliminate this answer.
6. Why would a supportive act be banned? And would an opponent be someone who is going to be in favor of such act? Nope, so this is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. As a result of Leguizamo’s show, what would change in terms of the theater’s tendency to offer a limited range of roles to Latino actors? That tendency may lessened or challenged, perhaps.
2. Would it make sense that a tendency to provide limited roles to Latino actors would be corrected by this show? It shows that a Latino actor (Leguizamo) can play a variety of roles. This answer looks promising.
3. Would Leguizamo’s play, one that employs a Latino actor in many roles, be a tribute to theater’s tendency to provide limited roles for Latinos? Nope, this can’t be right.
4. Would this play be a corollary to, or result of, the theater’s tendency to have limited roles for Latinos? This wouldn’t make sense. We can eliminate this answer.
5. Is it possible that this play would provide a stimulus, or incentive, for the lack of these types of roles? Not likely, so let’s move on.
6. This play, which allows a Latino actor to play many roles, would not serve as a precursor, or pre-date, this tendency, which has offered such actors limited roles. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

This section tests reading comprehension. You must read each passage and answer questions based on the content (stated or implied). While you may not find the answer directly in the passage, you will likely find clues to help you determine the answer.

Read the questions first to get an idea of what you will be looking for. Then read each passage, focusing on the overall theme and point.

This passage is told from the point of view of Virginia, a cellist in a college orchestra. She has admired Clayton, a fellow cellist, and spends time with him after a rehearsal.

1. Read each of the following answers and determine which provides the best description of this passage.
2. Social commentary would express some position on social issues like poverty or gender. This passage doesn’t take a position on social issues, so we can eliminate this option.
3. This passage is certainly a depiction of students in college orchestras, but is it nostalgic? Does it give you any impression of students in college orchestras in the past? This is not the best answer.
4. Is the main point of this passage to show an inspirational person? Who would be the inspirational person? It seems like a simple interaction between two peers rather than a portrait of an inspirational person. Let’s keep looking.
5. While this passage is told from the perspective of Virginia, it gives us much more information on Clayton than Virginia. Therefore, it could be described as an introduction to a character (Clayton) through the perspective of another character (Virginia). This looks like a good answer.
6. We can’t conclude that this relationship is strained or enduring as it seems this is the beginning of their relationship, not one that has been going on for some time or has become strained. Nope.

D is the correct answer.

1. In this section of the passage, Virginia is described as “peeking in on” Clayton. So, keep in mind the scene of Virginia secretly watching him and noting how the color of his skin changed in the light of the room.
2. In this section, Clayton does not know Virginia is nearby, so it does not seem likely that he would brighten due to her presence. Let’s move on.
3. What part of the passage would point to Clayton’s restraint and Virginia’s passion? We really know very little about both characters at this point in the passage, so this doesn’t seem to be the best answer.
4. Attentiveness would be noticing changes in the color of one’s skin based on the lighting in a room. So, this could be described as the attentiveness with which Virginia’s regarded Clayton. This looks like a good option.
5. At this point in the passage, Virginia’s description is only of Clayton. We don’t know Clayton’s routine. We can eliminate this option.
6. Virginia describes Clayton’s beauty as having an uncanny, or mysterious, complexion, a result of the lighting through which she sees him. The lighting does not describe the superficiality of his beauty. This is not the best answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. These lines are written about Clayton’s complexion as it appears in the practice room. The fluorescent and natural light mix together to reflect different skin tones that are described as swirling under the surface. How would this imagery describe Clayton?
2. The description of his complexion as uncanny, or mysterious, plus the reference to different skin tones would suggest that he is complicated. This looks like a good answer.
3. In these lines, can we find reactions that would be described as erratic? Nope, so let’s keep looking.
4. Would someone who practices so much that he is described as “obsessed” be complacent, or self-satisfied? Nope.
5. What would swirling shades of color have to do with passionate loyalty? This can’t be right.
6. This part of the passage doesn’t suggest that Clayton has a tendency to argue. We can eliminate this answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. This line changes the tone of the passage. The description of Virginia secretly watching Clayton perform and her detailed description of him and his unique style contrast with the statement made by the friends trying to set up a physical and musical relationship.
2. We could describe Virginia’s initial detailed description of Clayton as abstracted musing, reflecting and thoughtful. The friends’ advice to “make hot duets” is lighthearted and breaks that mood. This looks like a fine answer.
3. Foreboding usually hints that something bad is about to happen. Does this comment from Virginia’s friends give you that impression? Nope.
4. The friends may be poking fun, but it is at Virginia’s crush, not at romantic music. Let’s move on.
5. Virginia’s friends seem to like the idea of her dating Clayton (consider the reference to advice on “how to get him”). No contradiction here. Next.
6. The comments of Virginia’s friends are not a counter to Clayton’s offbeat sense of humor. We only are told that he has a quirky sense of humor, but we don’t know enough about it to conclude that this is true. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. Pay attention to the descriptive words in this section: *Lined up; Reverence; Cool serenity*. Now, check each answer to see which one best fits with these descriptive words.
2. A creative space would be described with words that signaled creativity such as inspired, imaginative, etc. “Serene” and “lined up” do not typically denote creativity. Let’s keep looking.
3. The description of cellos lined up in order does not suggest emptiness. This can’t be right.
4. In an urgent atmosphere there would be an immediate need of some sort. The words used to describe the room don’t give us an urgent feeling. We can eliminate this answer.
5. “Sanctity” is related to religion and holiness. The use of the term “novitiates,” which refers to persons entering a religious order, tells us that “‘sanctity” is our answer.
6. We cannot conclude that the practice area conveyed a sense of accomplishment, because that is not conveyed by the description of the place having a serene and reverent feel. This is not the correct answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Each of these answers gives us a different meaning of the word crush. Your task is to determine which of the definitions best represents how the word is used in the context of this section of the passage.
2. This section of the passage describes Clayton and Virginia rushing through school hallways to get to rehearsal. It does not describe any form of pressure. Let’s keep looking.
3. Our characters are described in the next line as “sailing above the mob,” which would fit with the “crush” being negotiated as a crowd. This looks promising.
4. What power would be negotiated here? Power from an authoritative force? It’s not clear, so let’s eliminate this answer.
5. The passage itself may describe Virginia’s crush or infatuation with Clayton, but what is described in this sentence is weaving through a crowd of students to reach rehearsal on time. This is not the best answer in context.
6. This crush is not a critical condition, as in one resulting from a destructive act. This is not right.

B is the correct answer.

1. This line describes Clayton as moving through a mob of people while humming. This nonchalant action makes him seem quirky—who would hum a classical tune while rushing? Also, it makes him seem calm in the face of pressure.
2. This is not a situation where he would be expected to make conversation, so it doesn’t seem likely that he would hum to avoid engaging in conversation. Let’s move on.
3. What would be the plight or trouble suffered by other musicians? And is Clayton paying attention to anyone? Let’s eliminate this answer.
4. Clayton’s humming while navigating the crowd does not demonstrate that he is unaware of other people, more likely that he is just ignoring or is oblivious to them. Let’s see if there is a better option.
5. There is no showing off described here—only an ability to stay calm while navigating a crowd. Let’s keep looking.
6. Clayton is unfazed by the need to navigate through a crowd of people in a timely fashion. He is so unfazed by the situation that he manages to hum a tricky musical passage while doing so. This would indicate that he is in his own world. This is our answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Clayton’s statement that he would like to practice and his invitation to Virginia to listen comes directly after rehearsal. This would indicate dedication to practice. It also comes after Virginia reminds him that her books are in his locker. The invitation would seem an odd response to Virginia’s request for her books.
2. This non-response to Virginia’s request for her books does not seem motivated by a need to make a first impression. And besides, wouldn’t she have already had an impression of him while getting to the rehearsal (or some earlier point)? Let’s keep looking.
3. It is not clear if Clayton’s practicing after rehearsal is outside of his normal routine. We don’t know enough about him to know what his routine is. This can’t be right.
4. Someone with a consuming interest in music would be more likely to want to practice directly after rehearsal and would be oblivious to any other request. This looks like our answer.
5. This passage does not focus on competition among musicians. Let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Clayton seems comfortable around Virginia, who is also a cellist. There is no indication of any insecurity around other musicians. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. Virginia’s “agonizing bliss” describes her walk back to Clayton’s house after rehearsal. She is excited that she has been invited to spend time with him, but she is very cold, describing the “wind off the lake whipping her blue.”
2. It doesn’t seem as if Clayton is displaying a cold manner toward her. He’s just oblivious to her being cold. This can’t be right.
3. We wouldn’t think Clayton is feeling uneasy as he’s describing music during the walk. Let’s keep looking.
4. Virginia is happy to be walking with Clayton, but she is very cold. Her physical discomfort during her walk with Clayton leads to the “agonizing” nature of her bliss. This is a good answer.
5. The mention of the wind making her cold points to physical discomfort rather than self-consciousness. This is not the correct answer.
6. The words “agonizing bliss” do not represent Virginia’s sense of how long her happiness would last. She is not completely happy because she is so cold. We can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. Virginia felt sated, or satisfied, before eating the first bite of food. Even though Clayton apologized for it not being much, she was happy with what she was being offered.
2. This is stated clearly in Lines 60-61—she was sated before the first spoonful. The food is not what made her happy—she was already happy without the food. This looks like a good answer.
3. There is no indication that Virginia laughed or found Clayton’s offer of cheese and soup amusing. We can eliminate this answer.
4. Her reaction to the meal had nothing to do with the kitchen. She described herself as “sated” before even mentioning the state of the kitchen. Next.
5. Virginia was sated or content—not feeling guilty. This can’t be right.
6. The disarray of the kitchen does not seem to affect her feeling of contentment in being there. This is not the correct answer.

A is the correct answer.

1. These lines present an analogy between Clayton’s looks and the physical attributes of the cello. This links Clayton’s musical ability to his personal and physical traits.
2. Clayton is compared to a cello here, not a famous musician. This can’t be the right answer.
3. How would the resemblance of Clayton’s features to a cello imply that he is awkward in social situations? This answer does not make sense. Next.
4. How would Clayton’s physical resemblance to the cello indicate how he had been affected by music? Has the music affected his skin color? Nope.
5. This line describes how Virginia sees Clayton—not necessarily how others see him. This shows how Virginia associates Clayton with his instrument—so closely that he begins to resemble it. This looks like a good answer.
6. What is Clayton’s situation? The passage seems concerned more with his characteristics than any situation he may find himself in. This is not the best answer.

D is the correct answer.

1. Earlier in the passage, Clayton says that he was considered too tall to be a cellist. When asked how he handled this criticism, he says he would “Remember the bumblebee,” noting that the bumblebee is technically too large to fly, but is able to do so anyway.
2. If this passage were to point to Clayton being superstitious, it would show him doing unnecessary things because he believed somehow they would have some supernatural power (much like a baseball player who wears purple socks because he thinks they are lucky). This statement about bumblebees does not demonstrate a superstitious action like this, so let’s keep looking.
3. Instincts would be demonstrated by an uncanny ability to know exactly how to handle a particular situation. We don’t have anything to indicate that Clayton instinctively knew how to play the cello. Next.
4. The story of the bumblebee does not show that Clayton is proud of his ability to play cello despite his size. He is just describing how natural it was for him to play cello regardless of what others thought, likening it to the bumblebee’s situation. This is not the best answer.
5. Clayton is so determined to play cello that he likens it to a bee that is determined to fly even though others think that is impossible. This line pretty well conveys Clayton’s resolute determination. This looks promising.
6. Nothing in this passage makes Clayton seem volatile or unstable. And a bumblebee is not volatile—it just manages to fly even though others may think it impossible. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. The use of the word “but” shows that his actions in the kitchen will be contrasted by his actions behind his instrument. In the kitchen, he is “fidgety” and “awkward,” but behind his instrument he is “at ease” and has “irresistible beauty.”
2. Clayton is not described as chaotic—that word is used to describe the kitchen, not Clayton. The fact that he is awkward in the kitchen does not mean he is chaotic. This can’t be the right answer.
3. The description of Clayton as “awkward” does not necessarily equate to being mediocre, or just okay. And the quality of his music is not addressed in these lines. Let’s keep looking.
4. Clayton is never described as pretentious or snobby—just uneasy. This is not the correct answer.
5. Clayton is described as awkward, not lazy. These do not mean the same thing. Let’s eliminate this answer.
6. Clumsy would be another word for fidgety or awkward, and graceful and beautiful describe Clayton when playing the cello. This looks like a winner.

E is the correct answer.

**Practice Test 5**

**Section 10: WRITING**

Congrats, you’re in the final stretch. You’ve now reached the final section of the test. You can see the end. But don’t be tempted to race through. Yes, you’re tired. You’re ready to be done. But still, take a deep breath and try to concentrate for these final 10 minutes. You’ve worked hard to get this far; don’t blow it by getting lazy at the end.

In this section, you are asked to identify the best way to express the sentence. You’ll need to be able to identify correct sentence structure and grammar. Keep in mind the mistakes you’ve seen in the past: unnecessary words, passive voice, incorrect subject/verb agreements, etc.

The underlined portion of the sentence is either correct or not. In each question, answer choice A is exactly the same as the underlined portion. So, first read the sentence as a whole, concentrating on the underlined section. Does it sound right to you? If you think so, skim the other answer choices just to be sure none improve upon the original sentence. If you have no further doubts, select answer choice A. If you think the sentence could be better expressed, try to identify the problem. Is it in the sentence structure? Is there a problem with subject/verb agreement? Once you identify the problem, check answers B - E to see which one improves the original sentence.

1. When the Allies drafted the treaty, they believed something about it. The action is in the past. Let’s look at a similar example. When I was a child, I made a card that I believed would make my mother smile. Using this example, if we insert the elements from our original sentence in the following structure, we would get: “When [they signed the treaty], they [drafted a treaty] that they believed [would ensure permanent peace]. The verb forms here do not match those in our original sentence, so we know Option A is incorrect.
   * 1. This sentence matches how we would rewrite the original sentence above. This looks like our correct answer.
     2. Remember, while the drafting of the treaty and the Allies’ belief took place in the past, at that time, they were thinking the treaty *would have an effect in the future*, not in the past. So, this form of the past tense, “had ensured,” does not work in this context.
     3. Using the present tense: “I think that my card will make my mother happy.” But using the past tense: “I thought the card would make her happy.” In our sentence, the main action does not occur in the present, so this answer is not correct.
     4. “Ensures” is the present tense, so this cannot be the correct answer for an action that occurred just after World War I. Nope.

B is the correct answer.

1. What is the “and” in this sentence combining? If the phrases “consisting … tideland” and “is protected by the state” both describe the sanctuary, then the verbs “consisting” and “protected” should match in tense. Let’s look for a better answer.
   * 1. Here, we need a conjunction like “and” to hook together the two bits of information about the sanctuary. This is not the correct answer.
     2. The phrase “consisting … tideland” gives us a description of the sanctuary. It is set aside by commas, so we could take that phrase out and the rest of the sentence, “The new bird sanctuary is protected by the state” would make sense on its own. This looks like a good option.
     3. Does the state consist of one hundred acres of unspoiled tideland? Nope, that’s the sanctuary, so we can eliminate this option.
     4. This is not a complete sentence. It has no verb. This is not the correct answer.

C is the correct answer.

1. As written, the underlined section seems redundant. If one loses weight permanently, then that means one has kept it off. Let’s find a grammatically correct answer that eliminates this redundancy.
   * 1. One would lose weight *permanently*. We would use an adverb to modify the verb “lose.” One would not lose weight *permanent*. That’s an adjective and it would modify a noun. This is not the correct answer.
     2. This is an awful lot of extra words (“have it be off”) to express losing weight permanently. This is not the best answer.
     3. Again, we need a phrase with an adverb to describe the act of losing weight, rather than one with an adjective like permanent. “Make it permanent” would describe the weight loss itself, not the act of losing it. Let’s keep looking.
     4. This sounds right. There are two actions occurring here. They lose weight. They keep it off permanently. This eliminates the redundancy of the original sentence and it uses the correct adverb.

E is the correct answer.

1. The phrase “no sooner” is usually followed by the word “than.” No sooner had he crawled into bed than the alarm sounded. This is just a rule of grammar you have to know.
   * 1. This option does not include the word “than.” Let’s eliminate it.
     2. This option does add the word we are looking for, but it has two different tenses: “was persuaded” and “will return.” Next.
     3. There is no “than” in this sentence. Nope.
     4. No sooner had he left than his wife persuaded him to return. This sounds like what we are looking for.

E is the correct answer.

1. We seem to be missing a verb here. If someone asked you to name one reason you like cake, wouldn’t you say “One reason is that it is sweet.” This option leaves out the important verb “to be,” namely, “was.” Let’s look for a better answer.
   * 1. This option only moves the placement of the word “nationwide”; it does not fix the missing verb issue. Next.
     2. Here, we do have “was,” a form of the verb “to be.” But is the word “there” necessary? Would we say, “One reason highways became safer, there was . . . .” Nope, so let’s see if we can’t do better than this.
     3. Would you say that “ever since they increased seat belt use” is a reason for safer highways? Nope.
     4. One reason was that the use of seat belts increased. This gives us the verb we are looking for, so let’s stick with this answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. Who is the “they” referenced in the underlined section? There are two things here that will not happen. Chaplin will not be remembered for supporting radical causes. Wayne will not be remembered for endorsing candidates. The subject in each case is the person being remembered, Chaplin or Wayne, not the people remembering them, as this option would make it seem. Let’s hunt down a better option.
   * 1. “As will Wayne not be remembered” does not match in structure with “Chaplin will not be remembered.” Let’s keep looking.
     2. This option correctly compares the two memories. “He will not be remembered for [that] any more than he will be remembered for [this].” The structure of the phrases match, and the sentence is quite clear, so this answer makes sense.
     3. This does not fix the original problem of having the people who are remembering as the subject of the sentence rather than the ones being remembered. This is not correct.
     4. We have a double negative in this option. “He will not be remembered no more than . . . .” Option C, which states, “He will not be remembered any more than,” does not have this problem. We can eliminate this option.

C is the correct answer.

1. Let’s simplify this sentence to isolate the underlined section as much as possible. He believed that if you represented historical events on stage it could have a greater effect. What exactly is “it” referring to in this sentence? Presumably staging events, but isn’t it already obviously what would have the greater effect without using the word “it”? There should be a simpler way to state Du Bois’ opinion, so let’s take a look at the other options.
   * 1. This option essentially replaces “it” with “they,” so this doesn’t really solve our problem. Let’s keep looking.
     2. How would events be represented historically? Don’t we mean “historical events that are represented”? This answer does not make sense.
     3. Piece this all together in our simplified format. He believed that by representing historical events on stage could have greater effects. *What* exactly could have great effects? This can’t be right.
     4. He believed that representing historical events on stage could have a greater effect. Here, we know what produces the effect (the stage representation of historical events). This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.

1. The programs referenced in this sentence do what exactly? They *offer* practical advantages. We know right off the bat that Options B, D and E are incorrect as they use the singular form of the verb “offers.” In Option C, the programs offer both advantages to students plus something that is not clear to the institutions. The original sentence sounds much better. The programs offer advantages to the students. They offer advantages to the institutions. They offer advantages to both the students and to the institutions. This sentence is correct as written.

A is the correct answer.

1. What do we know about Jessie Faucet? She was an editor at *Crisis* magazine. She publishing Hughes’s poetry. Hmm, that second one doesn’t quite sound right, does it? Let’s look for an option that clearly states that Faucet was an editor and that she published Hughes’s poetry.
   * 1. For this answer to be correct, there would need to be a “was” before the underlined section. One of the first people *was* Jessie Faucet who edited the magazine and published his poems. As there is no “was” here, we have an incomplete sentence. We can eliminate this answer.
     2. “Who” normally takes the place of a person, but here it takes the place of the magazine. Try this one in the sentence as a whole. One of the first people, Jessie Faucet edited *Crisis* magazine who published his poems. This one just does not sound right. Moving on.
     3. Jessie Faucet was one of the first people to recognize Hughes’s talent. She was an editor at *Crisis* magazine. She published Hughes’s poems. The phrase “an editor at *Crisis* magazine” is offset by commas, so could be removed and the sentence would still make sense. This looks like the best answer.
     4. This answer is no good. It is not clear that Faucet was the editor. It also makes no sense to say “… published at Crisis magazine Hughes’s poetry in 1921.” We can eliminate this option.

D is the correct answer.

1. Let’s pay attention to the word “its” in the underlined portion of the sentence. What does this pronoun refer to? Walruses. Walruses is a plural noun, while “its” refers to a singular noun. Let’s look for another answer where the pronoun matches the plural noun it refers to.
   * 1. This option still uses “its” to refer to walruses. Nope.
     2. Here, we do have the pronoun “their,” which correctly refers to the plural walruses. But the phrase “up to them being” sounds awkward, doesn’t it? Shouldn’t “them” be “their”? Let’s keep looking.
     3. This answer also correctly uses “their” to refer to the plural noun. If you rearrange the sentence, you can easily see how this answer is correct. Walruses were plentiful until they were widely hunted for their ivory and blubber. This sounds a whole lot better than “Walruses were plentiful up to them being hunted,” which was Option C. Option D is the correct answer.
     4. Here, we have the correct use of “their,” but again, we have a problem. Let’s rearrange the sentence. “Walruses were plentiful before they have been widely hunted . . . .” There is an issue with the verb tense here. “Have been” points to a continuing action (e.g., “They have been baking all week.”), while the point in time when walruses were hunted should be a fixed, past point in time. This is not correct.

D is the correct answer.

1. Since the two ideas in this sentence are joined by the conjunction “and,” let’s make each one a separate sentence to see if each makes sense on its own. We know the first sentence is correct as it is not underlined: “Jesse passed the California bar examination last year.“He has been practicing law in California ever since.” This is a continuing action, so the verb tense of “has been” is correct. The two ideas are related, so joining them with a conjunction is appropriate and keeps the thoughts clear. Everything in this sentence is correct.

A is the correct answer.

1. Who is persuading readers to spend hours learning about invertebrates? Richard Conniff is. This sentence makes it sound as if it’s *the effects*. Let’s find a better written sentence.
   * 1. With this option, it is now clear that Conniff persuades readers to spend hours learning about invertebrates, and he renders the repulsive beautiful in *Spineless Wonders*. This option works a lot better than the original sentence. Let’s keep this one in mind.
     2. This option only changes the placement of the author’s name without correcting the problem we noted in the original sentence. This can’t be right.
     3. It is not the author himself that has this effect, as this option indicates. It is through his book, *Spineless Wonders*, that the effect of “rendering the repulsive beautiful” occurs.
     4. “Has effect in rendering” is wordy. It would be better to say “effectively renders.” This is not correct.

B is the correct answer.

1. According to this sentence, most drivers know two things. They know that excessive speeding on highways wastes gasoline. They know that excessive speeding on highways is dangerous. Let’s look at the first thing they know as this is the underlined section. The use of “not only that” serves to tell us that there will be two true statements. The verb tenses match, as “know” and “wastes” are both present tense verbs. There is no problem with this original sentence.

A is the correct answer.

1. Imagine something your teacher made you do. Your teacher made you write an essay, perhaps. In explaining this, would you say “My teacher made me write an essay”? Or “I was made to write an essay.” Probably the first one, right? The same goes here. We would normally say “He made Mickey talk” rather than “Mickey was made to talk.”
   * 1. What exactly is making Mickey talk in this sentence? And this phrase is not in the past tense, which would be needed to match with “produced.” Let’s eliminate this option.
     2. Would you say “with the result being me writing an essay?” Nope, so this answer won’t work.
     3. The word “where” typically refers to a place, yet here we are talking about a cartoon, not a place. This can’t be right.
     4. Disney did two things here. He produced a cartoon with sound. He made Mickey talk. Much like your teacher made you write an essay. This looks like a good answer.

E is the correct answer.