

IES Test Prep Answer Explanations for SAT Grammar

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Test 1

Passage 1, "The Diva's in the Details"

1) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion explains an original usage of the term "diva," clarifying a point about the passage's central topic. C is thus the strongest answer; in fact, the application of the term "diva" to female singers is NOT mentioned earlier (eliminating A) and ENHANCES the passage's focus on the term "diva" and its origins (eliminating B). D is a trap answer: while the portion explains how the term "diva" has been used, no specific, named examples of divas are actually given.

2) Correct Answer: C

Consider the sentence structure: the correct answer requires use of the standard phrase "not only . . . but also" and should create parallelism with "to her onstage performing ability," which is linked by the standard phrase. Only C fulfills both requirements: B disrupts the standard phrase while A and C both use prepositions that break parallelism.

3) Correct Answer: B

First, check for agreement of tenses with the verb "is aware," since the sentence describes simultaneous actions. The use of the present tense makes B the best answer; although A is present tense, "is rested" means "has gotten physical rest" instead of "relies" and is inappropriate to the meaning of the sentence. C creates a fragment while D breaks agreement of tenses.

4) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph is about reasons why "the life of a diva is not easy," NOT about a diva's refusal to accept easy duties or love of challenge. Expect a negative answer: D is an effective choice, while C confuses the issue by indicating that divas are unfair (negative) rather than disciplined (positive). The sentence gives an example of refusal, not of how a diva sings (eliminating A); the sentence may indeed indicate that divas "make their lives more difficult than is necessary," but is still unrelated to the topic (eliminating B).

5) Correct Answer: C

Look for a concise phrase that stresses the concept of importance. C is an effective choice, while A and B are too conversational and D is too elevated in diction for the passage as a whole. "Intrinsic" is also closer in meaning to "innate" or "passed down by nature" than "important."

6) Correct Answer: B

The sentence is about "working in harmony," and B effectively lists a few of the other performers on whom a diva "relies." Answer A focuses on a diva's temperament while answer C focuses on a diva's aspirations. Unlike these answers, D focuses on cooperation, but does not give any "examples" of how a diva's cooperation works.

7) Correct Answer: A

The verb must explain how a diva reacts to “new companies and singers,” so that “adapt to” is a natural choice. B and C commit the diction error of using adept (skilled) for adapt (react and change), while “adapt by” in D is a faulty idiom.

8) Correct Answer: C

The sentence refers how “others” do not live up to a diva’s “high expectations.” The same plural “others” are mentioned here and require a possessive for “incompetence,” so that C is the only effective choice. A is a singular possessive, B keeps “others” as a noun, and D uses “other” to mean “different,” not to refer to the “others.”

9) Correct Answer: B

Singing in “alien languages” would be a challenge or new condition that a diva faces: “new companies and singers,” a similar challenge, is mentioned at the end of sentence 2. Answer A would create an ambiguous “she,” since “a diva” is only mentioned in sentence 1; C and D would both place the sentence in a portion of the passage that discusses a diva’s emotions and personality, not her working conditions.

10) Correct Answer: B

Pay attention to sentence structure and pronoun errors. A introduces a “she” who remains ambiguous until the next sentence, C needlessly repeats the pronoun “she” directly after its reference, and D creates a comma splice. Only B, which properly contrasts Maria Callas’s death and her continuing fame, creates a proper sentence structure.

11) Correct Answer: D

The author mentions that Callas is “regarded as the greatest diva in the realm of opera” and explains her accomplishments. Both A and C speak negatively about Callas, while B focuses on the term “diva,” not on Callas. Only D both speaks well of Callas’s talents and relates to the passage’s broader discussion.

Passage 2, “Juliet and Romeo: A Classic Revisited”

12) Correct Answer: A

Eliminate choices with poor sentence structure. B makes the phrase “With the possible exception of HAMLET” refer falsely to “people,” C creates a sentence fragment, and D introduces an ambiguous and redundant “that.” Only A creates a structure that properly compares ROMEO AND JULIET to HAMLET.

13) Correct Answer: D

Notice the parallelism in the sentence to create another phrase with “or” and “-ing.” Both A and B break parallelism, while C creates a parallel phrase (“or waking”) and a non-parallel phrase (“or to find”). Only D maintains perfect parallelism. (Chapter 2, Parallelism)

14) Correct Answer: C

The writer has already declared that Romeo “is onstage for the majority of the scenes.” The idea that Romeo “appears before his audience quite frequently” simply re-states this information, justifying C and eliminating both A and B on account of redundancy. The sentence does in fact neglect to quantify how often Romeo appears, but would be an acceptable description of Romeo if the information had not in fact been provided earlier: D thus provides a false reason for the needed edit.

15) Correct Answer: D

In the previous paragraph, the writer asks why Juliet gets more attention than Romeo. Here, the “answer” to the question is provided with the correct phrasing by answer D. A commits a redundancy with both “reason” and “why” (instead of “reason” and “that”), while B and C both create fragments.

16) Correct Answer: B

The sentence describes how Shakespeare knew “the make-up of his company.” The underlined possessive should refer back to “company,” which is a tricky singular and takes “its” (B) instead of the plural “their” (A). C and D are contractions (subject and verb), not possessives.

17) Correct Answer: A

The paragraph is about how Shakespeare responded to his “company” of actors based on the actors available and their strengths. A explains that Juliet was played by a boy actor, a fact necessary for understanding the later assertion that “the boy actor assigned to Juliet was a good-enough but certainly not great performer.” Other answers are off topic: C focuses on actors’ reputations, not the composition of the company, while D introduces doubt into an otherwise factual discussion. B, despite its reference to boy actors, does not make the needed link between boy actors and female roles.

18) Correct Answer: C

This sentence explains the role of the Nurse, which is introduced in Sentence 4. C is thus a highly effective answer. A and B must be eliminated because this explanatory sentence cannot precede the Nurse’s introduction, while D would interrupt a discussion of Juliet (also a main topic of the next paragraph) with a new, disjointed reference to the Nurse.

19) Correct Answer: D

Pay close attention to sentence structure and eliminate faulty constructions. A creates a comma splice, B creates a dangling modifier (since Romeo is not “examining”) and C wrongly places a sentence fragment before a semicolon. Only D is properly constructed, and rightly keeps the pronoun “you” in agreement throughout the sentence.

20) Correct Answer: A

In A, vocabulary such as “intricate” and “different” emotions gives “information about the complexity of Romeo’s character.” Other answers are not about this side of “Romeo’s character,” since B focuses on Shakespeare’s working process, C focuses on Romeo’s reputation, and D focuses on the opinions of scholars.

21) Correct Answer: D

The sentence needs to establish a contrast between Romeo and his “intricate” verse and the “one-note” Juliet. Eliminate A (similarity) because it creates the wrong transition; then, eliminate B on account of wordiness and C because it creates a sentence fragment. D both creates a contrast and uses proper grammar.

22) Correct Answer: A

This sentence contrasts “they,” actresses who play Juliet, with actors who play Romeo. Eliminate B and D because these answers use “then” (time), not “than” (comparison). Only A uses the proper phrasing and idiom: C would read as “than the actors of Romeo” when “actors” is slotted in for the pronoun “those.”

Passage 3, “Our ‘Always Connected’ World”

23) Correct Answer: D

This sentence about telephone use at mealtimes is an example of the telephone “etiquette” mentioned one sentence earlier. D properly introduces an example sentence, while B (“thereafter” or “after this”) creates a time sequence, C creates a contrast, and A would result in a sentence fragment.

24) Correct Answer: C

The pronoun “one” is introduced one sentence earlier in a discussion of telephone manners and guidelines: because the reference carries through to this sentence, use “one” yet again. Both A and B change to new pronouns, while D disrupts the past tense of the entire paragraph with the present tense “is.”

25) Correct Answer: A

Answer A correctly and concisely describes how one would feel if “one intuited that something awful must have happened.” Both B and C are too conversational for the passage as a whole (and B incorrectly introduces the pronoun “you” in a paragraph that uses “one”), while the excessively obscure vocabulary in D conflicts with the overall style of the passage.

26) Correct Answer: B

Answer B offers the correct idiom, since “within” indicates that something will happen “within a time period” such as a day. Do not misread the passage as saying “it in” instead of just “it.” A, C, and D all invite this trap, since “it in around a day” is a correct idiom while “it around a day” is not.

27) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph describes how “times have changed” from reserved telephone use to excessive, constant technology use. This sentence supports the point of the paragraph, but does not actually sum up the passage’s argument (C): iPhones and mobile technology are but one topic the author raises. Since the sentence supports the author’s criticisms of technology, and since using an iPhone on the street is not mentioned previously, eliminate A and B.

28) Correct Answer: D

The sentence describes how people continue or “proceed to” perform their texting activities. D is thus correct, while A and B both use precede (come before) and C uses the faulty idiom “in tapping.”

29) Correct Answer: C

The paragraph addresses the topic of “sending texts and posting about your life” and emphasizes that people perform these activities rapidly and constantly. C is thus perfectly on-topic, while other answers address loosely related topics: future gadgets (A) and phone infrastructure (D) are not major concerns here. B contradicts the passage: the author would see technological devices as having a strong impact on people’s lives, not as “tangential” or unrelated to well-being.

30) Correct Answer: A

This sentence employs the standard phrase “both . . . and”, so that A is correct. B, C, and D would all disrupt the standard phrase and should be eliminated immediately.

31) Correct Answer: B

This sentence provides a new example of how “My true love does not need me to be constantly in contact,” as described in the sentence immediately above. B, “Likewise,” creates the proper transition for a new example. Both A and C create contrasts, while D results in a sentence fragment.

32) Correct Answer: D

In this paragraph, the writer takes a negative stance on technology uses: D both refers to communication technology and dismisses it as “gibberish.” Other answers discuss in-person meeting (A) and new technological advances (B) instead of the author’s relationship to technology. C wrongly takes a positive stance on technology use.

33) Correct Answer: B

The sentence both refers to a claim (“this”) and introduces the topic of “romantic bonds.” Thus, it effectively bridges the claim about the “need for privacy” in sentence 2 and the discussion of “my true love” in sentence 3. A would make the “this” an ambiguous pronoun, while C and D would place the new sentence in the middle of the discussion that it should introduce.

Passage 4, “Measuring the Afterlife”

34) Correct Answer: D

Because several different types of people are named, try to get these nouns in parallel. D creates a parallel list and also places the verbs “interested and baffled in parallel.” A and C both distort the parallelism and use a faulty conjunction-comma-noun construction; B separates out the nouns that should be grouped together and uses “as well as” when “and” would be more concise.

35) Correct Answer: D

The sentence offers a list of “civilizations,” so that D, which rightly gives a colon before this list, is the best usage. Both B and C turn the second portion of the sentence into a sentence fragment, while A would require a connecting phrase such as “such as” after the comma to be stylistically correct.

36) Correct Answer: D

The subject of the underlined verb is “notions,” so that the singular A and B must be eliminated. C should be eliminated because it is wordier than D, even though the two answers are almost the same in meaning.

37) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph explains the views of occultists, but does NOT focus on the history of occultists or the origins of the term occultist. Thus, D is the strongest answer. Since the views of occultists are explained, the reader should develop an understanding of the term without this sentence (eliminating A). However, occultists are mentioned only in this paragraph of the passage (eliminating B and C).

38) Correct Answer: B

The sentence describes the fields that focus on “essence”: Asian intellectual history and the supernatural. Use a transition word that indicates similarity, such as “also” in B. C creates a contrast, D suggests a cause and effect, and A disrupts the structure of the sentence. The word “as” should compare two nearby phrases or could occur in the phrase “just as,” but A fits neither of these conditions.

39) Correct Answer: B

The pronoun should refer to the singular “human body.” Eliminate C and D and keep in mind that “it’s” in A is the contraction of “it is.” Thus, the possessive in B is correct.

40) Correct Answer: D

Eliminate false answers with faulty sentence structures: A involves a comma splice while B places a fragment after a semicolon. Although C is grammatically correct, the phrase beginning with “although” should simply describe the “quantity”; a contrast is the wrong sentence relationship. Only D both follows proper grammar and uses the proper transition type.

41) Correct Answer: A

According to the graph, few people have hearing and feeling sensations at 12Hz; feeling sensations escalate at 16 Hz, while hearing sensations begin at 20Hz. In other words, reactions become strong in the range beyond 15 Hz, a fact that justifies A. B wrongly assumes that strong sensations take place in the 12 Hz range (since 12 Hz would still be higher than 10 Hz), while C and D both invert the data and mistake the low sensation range for the high sensation range.

42) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion in A states a “known” fact about how vampire bats use infrared wavelength traces: this would be the kind of “compelling” scientific evidence about wavelength detection mentioned earlier in the sentence. Other answers are too vague to be effective. B simply states that scientists are interested in a field, C wrongly (and negatively) indicates that the passage’s claims are “unprovable,” and D mentions “plants and animals” without specifying which ones or how they react to wavelengths.

43) Correct Answer: B

The chart shows that people can perceive waves at frequencies of 16 Hz and higher: such perception is defined as “noticing the sound itself,” NOT its effects by the sentence. Hearing only begins at 20 Hz, which makes B the best answer. A, C, and D would all encompass the 24 Hz frequency: hearing is possible in this range, making these answers wrong.

44) Correct Answer: C

The long clause “whether these occurrences coincidentally fit our wildest imaginings” is meant to be taken as a statement of one idea, and functions as the singular subject of underlined verb. For this reason, C is the best answer. A and D both use plural verb forms while B creates a sentence fragment.

Test 2

Passage 1, "Rationality in the Golden Age of Greece"

1) Correct Answer: C

The underlined phrase should describe HOW the cultures mentioned earlier "leaned" and should thus use an adverb, as in C. Both A and B wrongly use the adjective "heavy," while D changes the meaning of the sentence in an illogical fashion: there is no context to indicate how or why the gods would be "heavy."

2) Correct Answer: B

The underlined phrase should line up with the earlier description of individuals "telling themselves." The "Greek philosophers" mentioned in B would line up properly with the modifier at the beginning of the sentence, while A and D both create dangling modifiers by mentioning "forces" instead of people. C, however, should be eliminated because "have determined" indicates an ongoing action begun in the past: the Greek philosophers described in the sentence lived and died long ago.

3) Correct Answer: D

The underlined possessive should refer back to the "Greeks" mentioned earlier in the sentence, making "their" in D the only effective choice. A is singular, B is the contraction of "it is," and C is the contraction of "they are."

4) Correct Answer: D

Eliminate false answers on account of sentence structure errors: A involves a comma splice, B places a fragment after a semicolon, and C involves a comma splice. In addition, there is no need for the contrast relationships in B and C, since Empedocles and Plato were actually working at the same time and followed the overall idea of reason. D captures this sentence relationship effectively.

5) Correct Answer: A

The previous sentence describes "an order that would transcend myths of ancestors and gods," and the underlined sentence simply re-states this idea using different vocabulary about "ancient stories" and "a different ordering method." While this information is related to the author's topic (eliminating B and C), this information is still redundant (eliminating D, since no new or essential background is introduced), so that A is correct.

6) Correct Answer: D

In answer D, it is explained that "immutable" or unchanging laws replaced the unpredictable "whims and caprices of the divine." Thus, the author makes it clear that the Greeks "preferred reason to mythology" because reason offered predictability. Other answers are only loosely related to the task in the prompt: A states that the Greeks abandoned mythology, but does not explain WHY. B depicts the new "physical principles" in a wrongly negative manner, while C deals mostly with the future reputation of such principles.

7) Correct Answer: C

For this question, check for errors in sentence structure. Both A and B introduce comma splices, since “however” and “moreover” must follow semicolons when introducing new sentences. C properly uses “however” with a semicolon, while D commits an error in parallelism: the conjunction “but” should introduce a new subject-verb clause that is in parallel with the first part of the sentence, but simply introduces a series of –ing phrases.

8) Correct Answer: D

This sentence follows a question about Greek civilization: look for an answer that describes “an answer” to this question while using proper grammar. A is excessively wordy and commits a redundancy with “reason” and “because”; B uses the faulty idiom “answer is because” instead of “answer is that”; C creates a sentence fragment. Only D properly coordinates the necessary answer.

9) Correct Answer: B

The sentence refers to a form of decentralized yet effective governance that “the Eastern world could not comprehend.” Sentence 2 already describes the “power” of the Greek alliance, while Sentence 3 formulates a question of point of incomprehension about the Greeks. B is thus the most effective answer. A, C, and D are all impossible because the rest of the paragraph is factual; no other points of possible incomprehension are explicitly raised and only the middle of the paragraph describes Greek military power.

10) Correct Answer: A

Despite the changing sentence structure and difficult vocabulary “hegemony” (dominance), this question tests fundamental subject-verb agreement. Simply line up the singular “hegemony was” to choose A and eliminate B, C, and D.

11) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion explains how the Greeks justified their actions by relying on their philosophic leanings and logical principles. Thus, the sentence is on-topic and should not be deleted (eliminating A) and should be kept where it is because it explains the reasons behind a behavior (eliminating B). Although the term “philosophic” is introduced, this term never appears in the next sentence (eliminating D). Thus, A is the best answer.

Passage 2, “Making Poetry Matter”

12) Correct Answer: A

The “disorienting quality” designated in the sentence is a quality of “poetry.” The singular possessive “its” in A is the only acceptable choice. B is the contraction of “it is”; C can only be a plural possessive; D does not actually exist in English.

13) Correct Answer: B

Check for parallelism and standard phrases: in B, “soothes” and “challenges” are correctly connected by the standard phrase “not only . . . but also.” Other choices commit different errors: while C creates subject-verb disagreement and D creates a dangling modifier (since poetry, NOT “many people,” is “Soothing but a challenge”), A adds a redundant “too” to the sentence.

14) Correct Answer: D

Any sentence that uses a colon requires a full subject-verb clause before the colon: A and C both place fragments before the colon and must be eliminated. B does not commit this error, but involves faulty parallelism, since “winner” (noun) and “offering” (adjective) cannot be placed in parallel. Only D successfully avoids all of these errors.

15) Correct Answer: D

This sentence refers to Dickey’s reputation, not to Dickey’s views on poetry and the frame of mind it requires (which are the main focus of this paragraph). Although people may disagree about poetry (A) and although the sentence is a fact about Dickey (B), adding such information nonetheless distracts from the topic. C uses faulty logic: the sentence shows that some people dislike Dickey, NOT that he is an unreliable source on the art he practices.

16) Correct Answer: B

Make sure that the words listed in this phrase are in parallel. Answer A distorts the parallelism with the phrase “by following rules,” while C is needlessly wordy and colloquial (“like you might do with”). D creates an illogical comparison, “rules like other forms of communication,” when the rules of poetry are in fact different from the rules for “other forms of communication.” Only B avoids these errors and effectively creates parallelism.

17) Correct Answer: B

Test the underlined portion for the standard phrase “both . . . and”. While B effectively employs this phrase, A and D both depart from the needed usage. In fact, both A and C distort another standard phrase, “not only . . . but also” with improper combinations.

18) Correct Answer: C

The previous sentence is about the idea that poems will mean different things under different circumstances. Answer C adds to the discussion by indicating that love and war can create “two entirely different outcomes” in the reading of a poem. Other sentence are only loosely related to this theme of different conditions and different meanings: A is about memorization, not analysis and meaning; B is about different interpretations by different people, not different interpretations by one person; D is about trying to interpret a poem, not about how different interpretations can naturally occur depending on circumstances.

19) Correct Answer: B

The paragraph as a whole is about how poetry is transformed by “daily reflection and human experience.” B, which discusses the “viewpoint of the reader,” addresses exactly this theme. Other answers deal with entirely different aspects of literature: A is about the renown of specific famous poets, C is about the intimidating aspects of poetry, and D is about how literary plots are constructed.

20) Correct Answer: B

The previous sentence takes a negative stance on university classrooms as places to learn poetry; B mentions a discouraging “right-and-wrong” atmosphere as a reason that justifies such a negative stance. A and D are neutral sentences about academic institutions and James Dickey, respectively, while C simply states the preferences of students (both positive and negative) in a way that does not directly support the author’s point.

21) Correct Answer: D

The idea of poetry as a “form of expression” must contrast with earlier statements about poetry in formal academic courses. D both uses an effective transition word and effectively puts forward a recommendation about absorbing poetry outside “required” courses. A introduces a misplaced modifier, B uses the wrong transition phrase (“On the other hand” normally introduces a reasonable alternative, not a contrast to a negative, and should in many cases follow “on the one hand”), and C indicates similarity (“Furthermore”), not contrast.

22) Correct Answer: D

Establish noun and pronoun agreement by finding the right possessives for “encounter” and “experience”. A confuses “you’re” for “your”; B switches from the singular “person’s” to the plural “their”; C switches from “your” to “one’s”. Only D appropriately refers back to “person’s” with the singular “his or her”.

Passage 3, “The Fascinations of the Peregrine Falcon”

23) Correct Answer: A

This paragraph deals primarily with the flying and hunting behaviors of the peregrine falcon; in contrast, the underlined sentence introduces another bird, the American kestrel, that does not necessarily interact with the peregrine. A is thus the strongest choice, while B is wrong because the kestrel is mentioned nowhere else. Eliminate C because the kestrel is not defined as a diving bird; eliminate D because no new information about the peregrine falcon, only about the kestrel, is given.

24) Correct Answer: A

The sentence contrasts the meat preferred by the peregrine falcon with the meat it is “willing” to eat when no other food is available. Answer A creates the correct contrast with effective grammar: B and D create sentence fragments after “birds” while C introduces a similarity (“and”), not a contrast.

25) Correct Answer: C

Check for sentence structure and make sure that all descriptions are properly coordinated. While both A and B introduce dangling modifiers (referring to an abstract “it” instead of the peregrine falcon as a fierce predator), D introduces faulty parallelism, since “the peregrine” is paired with “and come”. Only C is properly coordinated to describe the peregrine falcon as “a fierce predator”.

26) Correct Answer: A

The chart indicates that female peregrine falcons have a significantly larger average wingspan than males, supporting A and contradicting both B and D. While wingspan relates to a falcon’s overall size, it does not in any clear way determine how territorial a falcon is: C thus relies on a faulty inference.

27) Correct Answer: D

Keep in mind that the chart indicates a significant difference in wingspan between male and female peregrine falcons, with mature females having wings that are several inches larger than those of mature males. D properly captures the expected difference, while both A and C mistakenly state that females have smaller wingspans. B wrongly states that the difference will be only “an inch or two”, though in fact it is much greater.

28) Correct Answer: B

The sentence refers to “this sexually dimorphic peculiarity” and should thus be placed after the peculiarity is explained: only in sentence 2 is the size difference between males and females fully established. Moreover, the reference to “other raptors” indicates that this sentence should occur before the paragraph returns to an exclusive consideration of the peregrine falcon. B is thus the best choice: A would place the sentence before its explanation (sentence 2) while C and D would disrupt the discussion of peregrine falcons alone.

29) Correct Answer: C

Check for sentence structure: answers A, B, and D all introduce comma splices. Only C, which properly refers to “structures” using “which”, avoids this error.

30) Correct Answer: A

The sentence describes how peregrine falcons fit into or “adapt to” city life, so that A is the correct answer. Both B (adopt, to take on) and C (adept, skilled) feature diction errors, while D introduces a faulty idiom.

31) Correct Answer: C

The sentence requires a description of HOW peregrine falcons have adjusted to city life: C demonstrates that peregrine falcons can fit in by building their nests in city structures and is thus the best answer. B contradicts the prompt by indicating that peregrine falcons in fact “prefer to stay away” from humans and cities; A and D both state that peregrine falcons can be found in cities, but do not say anything about the measures that peregrine falcons take to fit in.

32) Correct Answer: D

Because the underlined portion presents a list, check for parallelism. In A, although it adapts” is out of parallel with the nouns provided; in B, the phrase “as well as speeding” ruins the perfect parallelism with the earlier nouns and possessives and creates a run-on sentence; in C, descriptions such as “adapting” and “locating” are out of parallel with the noun “speeds”. Only D puts “adaptability”, “locations”, and “speeds” in parallel.

33) Correct Answer: B

The peregrine attacks are “called” stoops by field biologists, so that B is the correct form of the verb. Both A and C create dangling modifiers, since “calling” and “having called” make it seem that the “attacks” are performing an action. D introduces a comma splice.

Passage 4, “France’s Historic Vacation”

34) Correct Answer: C

The sentence refers to the “eagerness” of the French (plural, referring to the whole people), and thus needs the possessive “their” in C. A introduces a singular possessive, B would introduce the contraction of “it is”, and D would introduce “there”, which designates place instead of ownership.

35) Correct Answer: C

The underlined word occurs in the context of a discussion of the easygoing lifestyle of the French, who would be seen as “idle” or avoiding work. C is the best answer. An idol (A) is an object of worship, “idling” is most often used to mean “functioning but not moving” in reference to vehicles (B), and “idolizing” means “worshipping idols” (D).

36) Correct Answer: C

Sentence 3 describes how the French leave their everyday occupations and group together on beaches: this process would be the “annual vacation” referenced in the sentence that is to be added to the paragraph. Thus, C is correct. Because “Thus” indicates the conclusion of an explanation, A and B would place the sentence much too early, since the author is still laying out the topic in the first few sentences. D would interrupt the connection between sentence 5 (French priorities) and sentence 6 (clarifying relaxation as a priority).

37) Correct Answer: B

Watch for redundancy. Because “annually” and “every year” mean exactly the same thing, they should not be used together in a single sentence. Eliminate A and C, and eliminate D because this choice creates a fragment. B is thus the strongest answer.

38) Correct Answer: A

The sentence describes the “beginning of modern France” as commemorated by “Bastille Day”. These two ideas do NOT contrast, so that C and D must be eliminated automatically; B would create a comma splice, since “moreover” must be introduced by a semicolon when introducing a new subject-verb clause. Only A is appropriate, and emphasizes the similarity of the ideas in the sentence.

39) Correct Answer: B

Look for parallelism, since the two parts of the sentence are connected by “and”. B would pair “the broad avenue itself is lined” with “smaller versions flutter”, repeating a subject-verb structure. Both A and D would wrongly pair the earlier phrase with a construction that uses “fluttering,” while C wrongly uses “meanwhile” (which, like “however”, should be accompanied by a semicolon when introducing a subject-verb clause) in place of “and”.

40) Correct Answer: B

At this point in the paragraph, the author is describing how the “President of France progresses” during a parade. This detailed sentence should be kept, not because it describes the French Revolution (A, a subject concluded in the previous paragraph) but because it refers to the aspects of the parade that the President sees. It is not necessary to describe a parade from 1790 (C) or give the name of the current president (D) because the author is describing regular features of the modern parade that any President of France would witness.

41) Correct Answer: B

Find an answer that accurately describes the jets. Answer A introduces both a misplaced modifier (the jets are not cheering) and the ambiguous pronoun “them.” C and D both involve redundancies, because the crowds are necessarily “under” if the jets are flying “over”. Only B is sufficiently concise.

42) Correct Answer: D

At this point in the passage, the author is simply listing a series of events. The second sentence in the paragraph already features the effective time transition “Later”, so that an earlier sentence is not necessary. Because A, B, and C do not introduce any new facts about the events in the passage, eliminate these answers and choose D for a quick and highly effective transition.

43) Correct Answer: B

The author’s primary topic in this passage is Bastille Day; the underlined portion is concerned primarily with the State of the Union Address delivered in the United States. This information in fact explains information presented previously (eliminating A) but does not relate to the main topic. B is thus the best answer, while “important speeches throughout the world” (C) and “how the two speeches differ” (D) are in no way primary topics of the passage.

44) Correct Answer: B

Since it is not essential information, the phrase “of course” should be offset by two commas, one of which is already provided. B provides the second comma. A combines a comma with a dash, C combines a comma with a semicolon, and D omits the second comma, dividing the noun “display” from the “and” that is needed to connect it to the other items in the list.

Test 3

Passage 1, "Relatively Speaking: Einstein's Theory of Experience"

1) Correct Answer: D

Make sure to select an answer that correctly structures the sentence to explain WHY people "cannot break down" certain time signatures further. D correctly uses "because" to create a smooth cause-and-effect transition, while A creates a comma splice. B and C distort the sentence by introducing addition ("and") and contrast ("but") into an otherwise concise and effective transition.

2) Correct Answer: B

The proper idiom when comparing two things is "different from," which is provided by B. While "over" (A) and "about" (C) are not typically used when comparing and contrasting, "than" (D) is; however, "different than" is not standard English usage.

3) Correct Answer: C

The paragraph explains how Einstein attempted to conceptualize time and experience: beginning the paragraph by mentioning Einstein's overall "attempt to understand time more objectively" in C is an effective measure. A ("Unfortunately"), B ("who knows why"), and D ("bothersome") all introduce inappropriate negative tones into this objective paragraph. In addition, B is too informal for the style of the essay as a whole.

4) Correct Answer: B

The original answer would yield a sentence fragment, "number being." Eliminate A and find a verb that agrees with the tricky singular "number" for grammatically correct phrasing. C and D are both plural, so that B is the only acceptable choice.

5) Correct Answer: C

The sentence immediately before the underlined sentence refers to "number associations," while the underlined sentence itself shows how specific number associations ("34th", "7th") are "different for different people." This information supports the earlier sentence, justifying C and eliminating D, which wrongly describes the information as a "counterargument". A and B wrongly state that the information, which illustrates the author's point using details, would contradict or distract from (respectively) the discussion of number associations.

6) Correct Answer: C

The underlined word should describe how people "tend to believe" and must thus be an adverb. B and D both clearly provide adjectives, while A rightly introduces a comparison but is still an adjective: a process itself can be "easier" but must still happen "more easily." Only C is an adverb.

7) Correct Answer: A

The underlined verb “makes” should refer to the singular “tendency,” so that B must be eliminated immediately. Then, pay close attention to the verb “feel”: idiomatically, “feel” is used alone when it leads into an adjective (“feel good”), while “feel like” is only used to lead into a noun or a clause (“feel like a million bucks,” “feel like I am falling”). Eliminate C and D and stay with A.

8) Correct Answer: A

The previous sentence describes a phenomenon that “we can all experience and relate to”. Answer A, which creates a contrast between these earlier ideas and the idea of “unique experience”, is an effective answer. C distracts from the issue of experience by introducing “scientific fields”, while D presents the distracting issue of “many cultures” rather than specific individuals. B, which describes time as “immutable” or constant, contradicts the idea of “individuated experiences” that begins this paragraph.

9) Correct Answer: D

The sentence must describe a thing that is “real and in front of our faces”, or “what is” real and in front of our faces. D, “what’s”, simply provides the correct phrasing as a contraction. Neither A nor B exist in English, while C creates a longer construction with the word “being” without improving the meaning or clarity of the sentence in any way.

10) Correct Answer: D

In sentences that pair off two words or phrases, the words “not only” must always be accompanied by “but also” to form the expected standard phrase. A and B feature “not only” in isolation, while C features “but only” alone. Only D provides the correct pairing.

11) Correct Answer: C

This sentence questions the idea that science can exist without philosophical thought. The drawbacks of incorporating philosophy and science is exactly the topic of both sentence 3 and sentence 4; sentence 5, however, addresses how phenomena can be rationalized and applied “to our lives,” processes associated with philosophy rather than science. The new sentence is best placed after sentence 4, since this new sentence offers a skeptical note on isolated “science” and an effective transition to a more positive stance on philosophy. A and B would both misplace this questioning sentence in an objective discussion of Einstein; D would wrongly end the essay with a question that is answered in preceding sentences.

Passage 2, “No Exam Left Behind”

12) Correct Answer: C

The preposition “of” signals the need for an object pronoun: thus, eliminate A. Furthermore, the author uses “we” in the previous sentence: this pronoun reference should carry through, so eliminate B and D and choose C, since the same group of exam-takers (“we”) is referenced throughout the paragraph.

13) Correct Answer: A

The previous paragraph, which describes how the Inquisition “invented” tortures, indicates that the Inquisition was a past event. Thus, eliminate the present-tense B and the plural D and choose the past-tense A. Although C is a past tense, the “had” form used here is unnecessary: “had comprised” would be used for the earlier of two actions that happened in the past, but no second, later action is designated by the sentence.

14) Correct Answer: B

The graph indicates that the number of exams remained constant between 2005 and 2010 and only increased slightly between 2010 and 2016. To “plateau” means to remain relatively flat or constant, so that B is the best answer. Both A and C would be appropriate for much more consistent or dramatic increases, while D is completely contradicted by the rising graph.

15) Correct Answer: A

The number of standardized tests administered doubled between 2000 and 2005, the period of the “No Child Left Behind” Act (2001). Neither C nor D indicate an increase, while an increase from 10 to 20 would be best described as “marked” or very clear, not as slight. Thus, eliminate B and choose A as the most accurate answer.

16) Correct Answer: B

The underlined phrase should describe HOW Michael Morpugo “puts his finger” on a limitation: he does so “accurately,” as described in B. Both A and D are awkward constructions that wrongly describe the finger itself as “accurate,” while C introduces a faulty parallelism between “is accurate” and “putting”.

17) Correct Answer: A

The underlined phrase should refer back to the “people” who have been successful and who are mentioned earlier in the sentence. Eliminate the singular possessives in B and D and choose “their” in A as the correct plural. Do not mistake “they’re” in D for a possessive, since this word is actually a contraction that means “they are”.

18) Correct Answer: D

The subject of this sentence is “one”, since “of life’s major ironies” is an interrupting phrase and cannot contain the subject. Eliminate A (which is plural) and C (which creates a fragment). While “one . . . is” in D correctly describes one of “life’s major ironies”, “one . . . will be” in B warps the sentence. As described in the paragraph, the “irony” is a present fact of life, not something that will happen at a later time.

19) Correct Answer: C

The verb “are” refers to the many individuals (starting with “actors”) mentioned earlier in the sentence. The sentence must thus be coordinated so that this relation is clear: A and B both divide the verb from its subject with strong units of punctuation and must thus be eliminated. D makes it seem that the “exams are offered” honorary degrees, creating a misplaced modifier. Only C creates subject-verb agreement while properly setting off the phrase “who never made it into universities because they failed exams”.

20) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph needs to end with a negative tone, as indicated by the word “flawed”. Eliminate the neutral and open-ended C, but be cautious of the remaining negative answers: A and B simply raise the possibility that people despise “exams” and “academia”, but do not indicate WHY “the practice of bestowing honorary degrees is flawed”. D, which points out that it is “condescending” or insulting to use exams as a false standard of excellence, provides an effective reason.

21) Correct Answer: B

Since this sentence offers a list, try for the best possible parallelism while paying attention to punctuation. A and C divide up the expression “and even morally,” which should be the final adverb phrase in the list: there is no reason why a quick qualifying word such as “even” should be set off by two commas. D introduces two “and” phrases, while the convention when listing three or more things is to use “and” to connect only the final one to the rest of the list. B most effectively avoids these traps to create effective parallelism.

22) Correct Answer: D

The sentence introduces the pronoun “we,” so that a natural placement would be near sentence 1 or sentence 4, which use the same pronoun. However, the sentence most effectively introduces the idea that people should not “conform”, as argued in sentence 4. Choose D and eliminate A, B, and C, which wrongly position the sentence within the writer’s less opinionated explanation of elitism.

Passage 3, “More than Meets the Eye: Excellence in Detective Fiction”

23) Correct Answer: B

The underlined portion forms part of an infinitive beginning with to: “to create” should be modified by the adjective “convincingly”. Eliminate A and choose B; C wrongly applies an adverb to “detective fiction”, and D indicates that the detective fiction (which is inanimate) can be convinced.

24) Correct Answer: D

The sentence that contains the underlined portion describes Italian detectives: although unlike Swedish detectives, the Italian detectives are not directly CONTRASTED with them. (Swedish detectives are depicted in wintry conditions, while Italian detectives react to corruption.) Eliminate A, B, and C (which all involve direct contrasts) and choose D as the best answer.

25) Correct Answer: C

The underlined pronoun should refer to “Italian detectives”, who spend their time in particular ways. Choose C and eliminate A, B, and D, which are all singular.

26) Correct Answer: B

The original sentence contains the ambiguous pronoun “it” and is awkwardly worded. Eliminate A: B avoids such errors while correctly introducing “English detective fiction”. C lacks an effective transition and places too much emphasis on other nationalities, while D is awkwardly phrased and mistakes the adverb “truthfully” (closer to “honestly”) for “truly”.

27) Correct Answer: C

Because it introduces the topic of an “American” writer and a new character, this sentence distracts from the paragraph’s overall emphasis on English detective fiction. Choose C and eliminate D (since the sentence CONTRADICTS the idea that Lupin came first). A contradicts the earlier argument that Lupin was the first detective hero, while B is contradicted by the fact that Dupin is never again mentioned.

28) Correct Answer: A

The underlined word should refer to the actions of the English, who were early and influential detective fiction writers, or “pioneered” detective fiction. Choose A and eliminate B (“lead on” instead of “lead in”), C (awkward), and D (“forefront on” instead of “forefront of”) as needlessly wordy expressions that break standard English usage.

29) Correct Answer: B

Since the general situation of “the English” is considered in this sentence, the underlined portion should refer to plural English “authors”. Choose B and eliminate A and C (inappropriate possessives) and D (wrongly singular).

30) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion refers to a single “surprising” fact: “It’s” for “It is” would be appropriate for explaining that “It’s surprising”. Choose D and eliminate A (a possessive), B (plural), and C (nonexistent).

31) Correct Answer: B

The original sentence introduces a misplaced modifier, since it wrongly describes “Poirot” (a character) as a crime writer. Eliminate A and choose B, which describes Agatha Christie (defined later in the passage as a creator of detective characters) as a writer. C uses a new structure but still wrongly refers to Poirot as a writer, while D introduces a sentence fragment.

32) Correct Answer: B

The paragraph as a whole calls attention to the important role of Miss Marple despite the “male domination” of crime fiction. B raises these major topics, while A simply praises Miss Marple’s intelligence, C refers to male detectives who are not analyzed at length in the paragraph, and D focuses on Miss Marple’s age (NOT on the detective fiction genre).

33) Correct Answer: B

While sentence 2 introduces Miss Marple, the new sentence indicates why Miss Marple is important: B thus allows the new sentence to build on the exposition related to Miss Marple, while A places the discussion of Miss Marple BEFORE her needed introduction. C and D would interrupt a specific analysis of Miss Marple with a general statement, and should thus be eliminated.

Passage 4, “Here, There, Everywhere: A Brief History of Travel”

34) Correct Answer: D

In context, the writer is contrasting the new mobility of the nineteenth century with the tough ways of traveling “from one place to another” before the nineteenth century, or “Before 1800”. Choose D and eliminate A, B, and C as redundant: it is clear from the context that “1800” is a “year”.

35) Correct Answer: D

The writer is listing three adjectives in series, and is modifying them with the adverb “excruciatingly”. Choose D and eliminate B and C, which break English convention and create awkward phrases by using “and” where commas are most appropriate. A is incorrect because “excruciating”, if used as an adjective, would need to be accompanied by a comma and included in the list.

36) Correct Answer: D

The writer begins by describing an inconvenient period for travelers, which was followed by the improvements of the “Industrial Revolution”. “Then” (D) rightly lists sequence in time. A wrongly indicates a reversal (NOT a progressive improvement), B appears to dismiss the earlier information, and C introduces a faulty cause and effect.

37) Correct Answer: B

While A simply notes that improvements took place generally (and is therefore redundant), B specifically indicates that the improvements involved paved roads. Choose this answer and eliminate C (which ONLY indicates that there were problems) and D (which refers to the improvements in an extremely general manner).

38) Correct Answer: C

In context, the sentence should refer to two separate improvements: steam rail traffic was “introduced” and travel speed was “increased”. C creates the right meaning and the best parallelism. Both A and B wrongly assume cause and effect relationships, while D introduces redundant phrases into the transition.

39) Correct Answer: A

The second sentence of the paragraph describes “port-to-port” or sea-based transport, while the paragraph as a whole deals with vast stretches of global area. A, which moves the scope of the discussion beyond “land”, is the best answer. B wrongly addresses the idea of invention as opposed to travel (and is rather vague), C introduces the topic of the “sky” (which is never mentioned), and D would begin the paragraph with a statement of evidence, NOT with an effective transition from the previous paragraph.

40) Correct Answer: D

The underlined word refer to the singular noun “traffic”: eliminate A and C, wrongly plural. Since the entire paragraph describes past events, eliminate B and choose D as the correct answer.

41) Correct Answer: A

The adjectives “new” and “independent” both refer to “states” and are rightly separated by a comma: choose A and eliminate B (which should indicate a list or a new clause), C (which should only indicate a strong change of tone or emphasis), and D (which should ONLY be used if two full clauses are being combined).

42) Correct Answer: D

The correct idiomatic phrase for how a century would be perceived, in this context, is “regarded as” (“as a time of peace”, “as prosperous”). D is the best answer: A and B use the wrong preposition, while C introduces the word “being” (which is redundant, since it is already clear that a century involves a state of being).

43) Correct Answer: C

It is clear from the context of the discussion that a trip, which takes time, is being described: A, B, and D all introduce redundant and awkward references to “time”, while C is both concise and grammatically correct.

44) Correct Answer: C

In this paragraph, the writer describes a sequence of events from a hypothetical trip: the passenger navigates the departure airport (sentence 4), boards the plane (sentence 5), and navigates a destination airport (sentence 6). The act of “Arriving” would naturally take place after boarding and before the sequence in the destination airport: C is the best answer. A and B position the “destination” too early, while D needlessly describes the “destination” after it has been reached.

Test 4

Passage 1, "Show Me the Sports Money!"

1) Correct Answer: B

The paragraph describes how budding athletes must "reallocate" time and face challenging training: B rightly refers to such necessities, while A does not refer to athletes (the major topic), C wrongly criticizes athletes, and D raises a comparison between athletes and other individuals (a topic that is not pursued in this paragraph, beyond the topic of wealth).

2) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should describe a hypothetical situation (since the time is NOT in fact spent on schoolwork and recreation, but would be under other conditions) and must present parallel -ing forms. A introduces a present tense, B a future, and C a past: only D, the correct answer, correctly states a hypothetical condition.

3) Correct Answer: B

The underlined sentence should connect two independent clauses ("Talent isn't", "the same goes"): A and D both introduce comma splices, while C wrongly places a sentence fragment after a semicolon. Only B correctly uses a semicolon to connect the two clauses.

4) Correct Answer: D

In the original portion, the verb "are" wrongly refers to "athletic ability": eliminate A in account of subject-verb disagreement. B wrongly introduces a past tense into a primarily present-tense discussion, while C is needlessly awkward and wordy. D is a concise, grammatically correct answer.

5) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should describe a situation that "is" natural, so that the contraction "It's" is correct. Choose A and eliminate B (which is a possessive), C (which is plural), and D (which is nonexistent).

6) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion in A wrongly confuses elements of two standard phrases, "both . . . and" and "not only . . . but also". While B introduces awkward phrasing (and a redundant "too") and C continues to distort a standard phrase, D properly uses the "both . . . and" phrasing.

7) Correct Answer: C

In sentence 2, the paragraph indicates that Gabby Douglas is an "Olympic gymnastics gold-medalist": C rightly indicates that the new sentence is redundant and should be eliminated, while D would wrongly place a redundant sentence ELSEWHERE. A also ignores the sentence's redundant nature (assuming wrongly that it

offers helpful explanation), while B refers to the topic of “struggle” (which the new sentence does not explicitly raise).

8) Correct Answer: B

Because there are, in context, a large number of stories such as Douglas’s, eliminate A and C (which indicates that there would only be TWO with the use of “between”) and choose B (which uses “among” to correctly signify three or more). In D, the word “them” does not occur with the nearby modifying verb “shows”, so that this answer must be eliminated.

9) Correct Answer: A

While sentence 1 raises the idea that money does not lead to athletic success, sentences 2, 3, and 4 use the example of Gabby Douglas to show how one athlete overcame humble beginnings to become successful. A positions the new sentence as an effective transition to Douglas’s life, while B, C, and D would all interrupt the account of Douglas’s life with a somewhat general statement.

10) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole describes how athletes achieve success largely through personal determination, even though monetary concerns are fairly important. D rightly introduces the major topics of money and athletics. A avoids the topic of athletics altogether, while B and C do not effectively contrast money with signs of personal strength such as “sacrifice”, and thus do not create proper sentence relationships.

11) Correct Answer: B

While “dollars” can be counted (and should be modified by “many” or “number”), “money” is a non-countable quantity and should be modified by “much”. Only B introduces the proper alignment: A, C, and D break the conventions noted above, and should thus be eliminated.

Passage 2, “Mapping Khartoum, Past and Present”

12) Correct Answer: C

In the original phrasing, a colon is wrongly used to divide a sentence fragment from the independent clause “a friend took”. Eliminate both A and D (which generates a fragment using a period). B would be best used if the phrase “about a month after my arrival in the city” could be offset by TWO dashes: because this is not an option, choose C, which effectively offsets the same phrase using two commas.

13) Correct Answer: B

The underlined verb describes the Nile River, a single river which still exists: eliminate A and choose the present-tense B. In context, C indicates that the river is in the PROCESS of splitting (not that it simply divides)

and D indicates that the splitting was fairly recent in time (when in fact it was accomplished before the writer arrived). These verb uses are also less concise than the grammatically correct B.

14) Correct Answer: A

While sentence 1 generally explains how the writer related to Khartoum, the rest of the paragraph explains Khartoum's more specific layout as encountered by the narrator. A is the best answer, while B, C, and D would cause the overall context in sentence 1 to interrupt the more specific topographical descriptions in the rest of the paragraph.

15) Correct Answer: C

In the paragraph, the writer describes how the two stretches of the river "meet" and "shrug shoulders". A departs from this present tense, while C rightly preserves it and is thus correct. B and D are both needlessly wordy: mingling would naturally happen at a specific "time" or "place", so that stating such information is redundant.

16) Correct Answer: D

The previous sentence indicates that the stretch of fertile land has a sharp, abrupt boundary: a layout that calls to mind an "invisible wall" would terminate a stretch of fertile land in a sudden way. D is the best answer, while A (sacredness), B (serenity or peace), and C (beauty) raise topics that are not directly related to the idea of abruptness or lack of "warning".

17) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined portion describes a new stage in a trip through a landscape: "Thereafter" would properly indicate movement and time sequence, making A correct. Good fortune is never indicated in this objective part of the passage (eliminating B), the sights are depicted as constant and expected (eliminating C), and "Without" would mean "outside a structure" in this situation (a faulty inference, since EVERYTHING depicted is outside, eliminating D).

18) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion introduces the name "Port Said" and indicates that it is "in" a region: D effectively combines these essential sentence elements. A, B, and C are needlessly wordy, while B and C also introduce the unnecessary pronouns "you" and "one", respectively.

19) Correct Answer: C

The underlined word should refer to the action of a person ("one") who encounters or "comes across" particular sights: C is thus the best answer, in terms of context. Although "come around" (to circle, A), "come within" (to enter, B), and "come out" (to emerge, D) are in fact English idioms, these phrases do not fit the situation of finding or encountering specific sights.

20) Correct Answer: B

The subject “sign” must agree with the main verb in the sentence: thus, eliminate A and choose B, which uses a proper singular verb. C wrongly pairs a plural noun (“signs”) with a singular verb (“is”), while D also requires a singular verb, since the two possible subjects are singular nouns connected by “or”.

21) Correct Answer: D

While A involves a comma splice, neither B nor C clearly indicates that the Kush people constituted the “civilization” in question. Only D uses a transition that smoothly and effectively describes the Kush as “a civilization”.

22) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should refer back to the “edifices” which harbor secrets: A, the possessive “their”, is thus correct. B is a place indicator (not a possessive), C is the contraction for “they are”, and D is wrongly singular.

Passage 3, “Raised for Weakness: Against ‘Purebred’ Animals”

23) Correct Answer: D

The underlined word refers to the “notions” that are called forth or evoked by the word “Pedigree”: “to elicit” is to call forth. Since a single word is being considered, choose D and eliminate the plural B. “Illicit” means immoral or illegal, so that A and C are out of context.

24) Correct Answer: B

The phrase “two of the major considerations for breeding” interrupts a subject-verb combination (“appearance and personality . . . can”) and should thus be offset with a second comma. Choose B and eliminate A and D (which do not introduce commas) and C (which would result in a single comma wrongly dividing a subject from its verb).

25) Correct Answer: C

Because, according to the passage, pedigree has been established over thousands of years, “inbreeding practices” would be “time-honored”. C rightly matches this description with the correct noun, while A and B introduce misplaced modifiers (wrongly indicating that health concerns are “time-honored”) and D entails the wrong sentence relationship. The practices create health concerns because they are inadvisable, NOT because they are time-honored.

26) Correct Answer: D

In A, the sentence involves an -ing form that creates a fragment: B and C replicate this error with the word “disdaining”. Only D (“iconoclasts . . . disdain”) contains a proper subject-verb pairing to create a full sentence.

27) Correct Answer: A

In A, the writer properly describes the “relationship” as “skewed”: “hopelessly” is an adverb that properly modifies “skewed”. B pairs two adjectives in a non-grammatical fashion, C is needlessly wordy, and D employs awkward phrasing that does not improve on A in terms of either grammar or clarity.

28) Correct Answer: A

The underlined word refers to the “acrobatics” that a dog with an “awkward stride” could not perform: such acrobatics would be demanding or intense, since they require agility and effort. A is the best choice, while B is wrongly negative, C refer to thoughtfulness or complexity, and D refers to expression or emotion, not to DEGREE of effort.

29) Correct Answer: D

The chart shows that purebred dogs and mixed breed dogs exhibit equal levels of high cholesterol and spinal damage (eliminating A and B), while purebred dogs exhibit blindness and arthritis in greater percentages. C only lists one of these ailments and should be eliminated as incomplete, while D properly lists both.

30) Correct Answer: C

The chart indicates that 60% of ALL purebred dogs suffer from arthritis: C is the best answer while B wrongly refers to mixed breed dogs. A and D wrongly refer to how an INDIVIDUAL purebred dog is influenced by arthritic pain: these answers are inaccurate, since the chart focuses instead on the ENTIRE POPULATION of purebred dogs.

31) Correct Answer: A

While the writer has spent the preceding paragraphs primarily discussing dogs such as German Shepherds, this paragraph begins with a discussion of the “hairless Sphinx cat”: A concisely indicates this shift, while B does not properly shift AWAY from the topic of dogs. C and D are both excessively wordy, and contain redundant phrases that A eliminates without any loss of meaning or effect.

32) Correct Answer: C

In C, the writer explains that the inbred “Himalayan cat” suffers from “respiratory ailments”, offering a clear example of a “medical problem” that results from inbreeding. While A lists a problem, it does not describe “inbreeding”. And although the other answers describe inbreeding, B does not describe a clear medical problem and D actually describes a benefit to humans.

33) Correct Answer: B

While the initial portion of the sentence lightly criticizes “activists” for advocating “too much change too fast”, the later portion offers a contrasting positive tone in describing them as “fundamentally right”. Only B

introduces a proper contrast, while A (maintaining the split), C (addition), and D (cause and effect) entail entirely different sentence relationships.

Passage 4, “David Lean, Epic Filmmaker”

34) Correct Answer: C

The first part of the sentence introduces a negative tone in describing Lean’s “small number” of films: the second part, however, introduces the positive fact that Lean was an award-winning director. C properly establishes a contrast, while A wrongly introduces a similarity and B and D wrongly assume cause-and-effect relationships.

35) Correct Answer: D

The “list” modified by the underlined portion was created by the “British Film Institute” (singular) and would thus be “its list”. D is the best answer, while A is a plural possessive, B designates a place or a situation, and C is the contraction of “they are”.

36) Correct Answer: C

Sentence 2 describes Lean’s “move into full-scale directing”; overall, the paragraph moves along in chronological order, with the description of Lean’s “promotion” to Third Assistant Director occurring in sentences 4 and 5. Sentence 2 would, thus, beset follow sentence 5: choose C and eliminate A and B (since these choices interrupt the discussion of Lean’s earlier career) as well as D (since this choice wrongly places a fact about the younger Lean after a synopsis of Lean’s ULTIMATE achievements).

37) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should describe the “effects” (influences) of particular places on their inhabitants: eliminate B and C, which wrongly introduce diction errors with the word “affects” (typically used as a verb, or as a noun that means “emotion”). Then, since it is clear from the previous sentence that the places are PLURAL, eliminate D and choose A.

38) Correct Answer: B

While A involves a comma splice, B uses a colon to create a logical sentence relationship: the writer is moving from an overall topic (an important shot in the movie) to a more specific point (what exactly the shot depicts). C (simple similarity) and D (cause and effect) do not properly capture the needed relationship.

39) Correct Answer: C

At this point in the paragraph, the writer is describing a film shot ITSELF and the characters it involves: offering background about “skilled technicians” does not contradict the discussion (eliminating D) but is NOT necessary

or essential. Choose C and eliminate A and B, since the sentence in fact focuses on camerawork and technicians, NOT on Lean as a director.

40) Correct Answer: A

In A, the writer properly introduces both “Sherif Ali” and a positive tone towards this character, thus setting up the description of Sherif Ali and his “practical and unmoved” demeanor. A is the best answer. B and D do not provide any meaningful context that explains who Sherif Ali is, while C neglects the strong tone that the writer applies to Sherif Ali.

41) Correct Answer: C

The underlined verb takes the subject “what” and should be in parallel with “appears”, since these are two actions that occur in the same present-tense description of a film sequence. C is the best answer. A breaks parallelism by introducing an -ing form, B is wrongly plural, and D is in the past tense.

42) Correct Answer: C

It is clear from the context that a long time is being described, so that A and B are redundant (since time is a measure or an amount by definition). C is an effective choice, while D would better refer to a physical amount and is too informal in context.

43) Correct Answer: B

In this passage, the writer contrasts films that appear to represent the “pinnacle” of Lean’s career with Lean’s “real triumph”: B properly indicates a contrast. A, though used to establish contrasts, would best be used in situations in which an earlier idea is being FULLY REJECTED; however, the writer admires Lean’s work generally and simply gives a relatively obscure film new emphasis. C uses faulty punctuation (since “Although” should not be offset by a comma) while D does not introduce a contrast at all.

44) Correct Answer: D

The writer should explain “why” the film “stands out” by listing its specific virtues: “silent observation and understatement” would be virtues of this sort. D is the best answer. A praises Lean, B describes Lean’s films generally, and C mildly criticizes Brief Encounter: these answers do not explain “why” Brief Encounter is remarkable.

Test 5

Passage 1, “America the Diverse: First-Generation Lifestyles”

1) Correct Answer: B

In this paragraph, the writer addresses the reader as “you”: eliminate A and C (which use different pronouns for this form of address). Notice also that the writer uses a sentence structure that involves present-tense scenarios (“Roll your cart”) and future results (“you’ll hear”). While D breaks this pattern by introducing two future tenses, B (“After you turn . . . you’ll walk”) maintains the pattern.

2) Correct Answer: D

The underlined word refers to Amy Tan, an author who is not clearly deceased and in any case expresses or “says” specific things through her works. D is thus the best answer. A is plural, B indicates ongoing action (and would mean in context that Tan has been saying the same thing for much of her lifetime), and C indicates that Tan is saying something specific at this moment (an idea that is out of context).

3) Correct Answer: B

While the paragraph as a whole focuses on the social and cultural themes in the Joy Luck Club, the underlined sentence discusses this book’s popularity and film adaptation. Thus, the sentence is off-topic, justifying B and eliminating A, C, and D, since an off-topic sentence would neither support NOR contradict the passage’s essential content and arguments.

4) Correct Answer: B

In B, the writer introduces the paragraph’s topic, America’s “melting pot”, and does so in a way that is both concise and in line with the somewhat colloquial tone of the passage. A and C express the same idea with more awkward wording and unnecessary phrases, while D wrongly applies a negative to the idea of the “melting pot”.

5) Correct Answer: B

The underlined portion refers to the singular “New World”, which would have had a “first colonization” as part of its history. Eliminate the plural A and choose B. C is the contraction for “it is”, not a possessive, while D is also a phrase that contains a verb.

6) Correct Answer: C

In the original phrasing, “everywhere” and “all corners of the world” are redundant phrases: eliminate A along with B and D, which repeat this redundancy, and choose C as the most concise and effective answer.

7) Correct Answer: C

In sentence 2, the writer provides a historical overview of American immigration (which, for the “Puritans”, was based on religion); in sentence 3, conditions “now” are described. C situates the new sentence as an effective transition. A and B both place this sentence BEFORE the reference to religion (a topic it should refer back to), while D places it after the contemporary conditions that it should INTRODUCE and SUMMARIZE.

8) Correct Answer: B

The phrase “known as “first-generation Americans”” should be placed between two commas, since it occurs between the subject-verb combination “children . . . have”. B is thus the best answer. A wrongly combines a dash with a comma, C wrongly combines a dash with a semicolon, and D wrongly separates a subject from a verb using only a single comma.

9) Correct Answer: D

In context, the writer is describing two “worlds”: the phrasing “that of” in D would refer to the “world of” American culture in a way that creates the most direct comparison and the most effective parallelism. A and B exhibit flawed parallelism and compare a “world” to “American culture”, while C is needlessly wordy.

10) Correct Answer: B

While A wrongly shifts the emphasis from “first-generation Americans” to “many second- and third-generation Americans”, B describes (as demanded by the question) how first-generation Americans face burdens beyond “getting the best grades”. Choose this answer and eliminate C (which is much too positive) and D (which wrongly extends the scope BEYOND first-generation Americans).

11) Correct Answer: C

Paragraph 2 refers to the topic of “real-life first-generation tensions” in its opening sentence; paragraph 4 prominently discusses such tensions in its final sentences. Thus, C is a highly effective answer, since paragraph 2 expands on the topic that concludes paragraph 4. A and B cause paragraph 2 to interrupt the writer’s earlier and primarily positive discussion, while D wrongly situates a new and distinct example that substantiates points from the paragraph (Amy Tan) as the conclusion to the paragraph, a purpose that paragraph 5 already serves well.

Passage 2, “Oh Give Me a Home, Where the Mountain Sheep Roam”

12) Correct Answer: B

The underlined verb takes the plural subject “upper slopes and summits” and should thus be plural: eliminate A and D. Note also that the paragraph as a whole is in the present tense. To establish agreement of tenses, eliminate C and choose B as the best answer.

13) Correct Answer: D

In the original phrasing, “where they” introduces a pronoun that is either ambiguous or (assuming that “they” refers to “mountain ranges”) redundant. Eliminate A and choose D as a much smoother transition. B would only refer to a person and C would only refer to a time; however, “mountain ranges” are being described.

14) Correct Answer: B

The underlined phrase should present a noun, since the “ponds” have been “set”. A, C, and D all wrongly transform “ponds” into possessives (which cannot serve as objects of verbs): only B involves grammatically correct phrasing.

15) Correct Answer: B

In this portion of the passage, the writer is describing how the “glaciers and ice rivers came down”: the underlined portion should remain in past tense, and should describe the “weight” of the glaciers and rivers. Weight would “bear” against the earth, and the present tense of “bear” is “bore”. Choose B and eliminate A (meaning to reveal) along with present-tense choices C and D.

16) Correct Answer: C

The writer is transitioning from a past-tense description to a description of fields that “lie” in a region at present. C indicates such a shift in time, while A (simultaneity), B (addition), and D (contrast, NOT sequence) entail incorrect sentence relationships for this content.

17) Correct Answer: C

A “home” would naturally be a place where animals “live” or can be “found”: thus, A, B, and D all commit redundancy errors by introducing such vocabulary. C provides a concise phrase that nonetheless includes all the important content and context at this point in the passage.

18) Correct Answer: A

An animal that lives in an area would naturally live “within” that region: A is an effective answer while C and D wrongly introduce contrasts and negatives. B is a trap answer: although the word “among” could apply to large numbers of animals, the sheep in this case are not INTERSPERSED with the granite, but are PROTECTED by the granite walls which define their habitat.

19) Correct Answer: C

The writer has already stated that the flocks reside in a high-up region; even if you do not immediately recognize that “over two miles” and “twelve thousand feet” are identical quantities, you may see that the writer is not providing a new type of information. C is thus the best answer, while D is incorrect because redundant information is by DEFINITION on-topic. The paragraph presents facts, not an argument (further eliminating A) and does not explicitly consider the perspective of the reader (further eliminating B).

20) Correct Answer: B

The paragraph describes the protective coverings and survival tactics that the sheep have developed, making B (“adapted”) an excellent choice. A wrongly indicates that the sheep have not successfully adapted, C indicates that the writer does not understand the sheep when in fact the opposite is true, and D wrongly shifts emphasis away from the sheep.

21) Correct Answer: A

To “endure” is to “deal with” or “live through” a problem: A is an extremely effective answer, since the sheep must survive the “wind-storms”. In context, B, C, and D introduce faulty meanings, since these choices would indicate the sheep “keep the wind storms going”, not that they live through the wind-storms.

22) Correct Answer: C

The correct answer should indicate both “accompanying dangers” (negative) and a “preferable option” (positive). C rightly indicates that the sheep, despite their difficulties, would face a “greater” risk elsewhere. A and B simply introduce positives, while D introduces a hypothetical scenario, not an evaluation of the positive and negative options that the sheep PRESENTLY face.

Passage 3, “To Act, or Not to Act?”

23) Correct Answer: A

In A, “To categorize” is rightly placed in parallel with the phrase “to liken”: this choice also creates an effective analogy. B and D break the parallelism, while C wrongly uses the pronoun “them”, which is ambiguous since “actors” are not mentioned in this choice.

24) Correct Answer: B

The underlined portion should refer to the “world” that is created by or belongs to the dramatist: eliminate A and D (both nouns, not possessives). Consider that the writer, in presenting ideas about drama earlier, describes a “playwright’s words”: B maintains the parallelism by introducing another singular possessive, while C is plural in form.

25) Correct Answer: C

In sentence 3, the writer introduces the (negative) idea that an actor is “the mere transposition of the playwright’s words”, while the sentence argues against this idea. C is the best answer, allowing the inserted sentence to smoothly shift the writer’s tone, while A wrongly assumes that sentence 1 presents the belittling view of actors at some length, B breaks up the discussion of the negative view of actors, and D breaks up the discussion of the positive view of actors.

26) Correct Answer: D

The three items listed should be in parallel: D correctly construes “attributes”, “inflections”, and “gestures” as plural nouns, while A breaks this parallelism with “inflecting”. B (a fragment) and C (which wrongly uses “fuses” for multiple items in a list) create errors related to the sentence’s main verb.

27) Correct Answer: B

The word “effective” should explain the action “communicate” and should thus be an adverb: eliminate A and choose B. C is needlessly wordy, while D inverts “effective” and “communicate” but still does not introduce the needed adjective.

28) Correct Answer: C

While A is too informal for the style of the passage, B (a command) and D (“you”) both refer to the reader in a way that disrupts the style and parallelism of the writer’s discussion. Only C remains securely in the third-person style used throughout this passage.

29) Correct Answer: B

While A introduces a comma splice (“the character . . . will”, “each . . . provides”), B avoids this error, using the word “providing” to create a descriptive phrase at the end of the sentence. C creates a stylistically awkward run-on through the use of “and”, while D wrongly introduces a subordinate clause (“and each . . .”) with a semicolon.

30) Correct Answer: D

While A introduces a faulty comparison between “other kinds” (an unclear idea at this point) and “it”, D rightly avoids the issue of comparison and indicates that the situation (“it is”) involves modes of art. B is needlessly wordy and introduces an argument (“one important attribute”) that the writer does not make, while C introduces a faulty cause and effect. In context, the similarity between acting and other forms of art is not the REASON why art is hard to define.

31) Correct Answer: B

The descriptive phrase “like all art” should be set off by two identical units of punctuation: B rightly introduces a second dash. A (comma), C (semicolon), and D (no second unit) do not properly separate the phrase from the other content of the sentence.

32) Correct Answer: A

In context, the writer is explaining that acting is a “craft” or “performance” that must be evaluated; figure skating, which also involves performance and practice, would offer an appropriate point of comparison. This information supports A and eliminates both C (since figure skating is never related to subjectivity, and DOES involve subjective assessments) and D (since the comparison clarifies the passage’s major points). B is incorrect because “figure skating” is not analyzed beyond this paragraph, which in most respects focuses on acting.

33) Correct Answer: B

While the sentence begins by considering the actor's background training, the sentence ends by considering the actor's "performance itself", which is not to be confused with such training. B properly indicates that these two issues are different or contrasting: A indicates cause and effect, C indicates similarity, and D would NEGATE the later content (which the writer never intends to dismiss).

Passage 4, "A New Horizon for 3D Film"

34) Correct Answer: C

The writer indicates that 3D film "has existed for nearly a century" but that there is a "newer" phenomenon, the format's fame. C contrasts these differences in duration, while A and B both set up fundamentally SIMILAR ideas and D would SET UP a contrast, not link contrasting ideas.

35) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion refers to a movie, which "is" formatted or filmed. A, "it's" for "it is", is the correct choice, while B is a possessive and C and D would refer to multiple movies, not the SINGLE "given movie" mentioned in the sentence.

36) Correct Answer: D

The proposed sentence introduces a specific fact that supports the idea that the popularity of 3D films (as opposed to the simple development) is relatively new: sentence 3 explains, generally, that the popularity of 3D film is a "newer phenomenon" than the appearance of 3D film. D is the best answer. A (misconceptions) and B (existence) would cause this sentence about POPULARITY to lead into different topics. C would present a specific claim about popularity BEFORE a supporting fact.

37) Correct Answer: C

The chart lists 2D and 3D film revenues, not popularity (since the price per ticket is unknown, eliminating A) or critical reception (which does NOT actually correlate to revenue, eliminating B). The chart also provides an overview of a few cases within one time, not a trend ACROSS time: eliminate D and choose C as an accurate reflection of the mostly higher revenues for 3D film.

38) Correct Answer: C

In A and B, the singular noun "Comparing" is wrongly paired with the verb "show". (Remember to temporarily disregard the interrupting phrase). While C corrects this error, D breaks parallelism by pairing "To compare" with "showing".

39) Correct Answer: A

The chart lists film revenue in millions of dollars: only in the case of Film D are the 2D and 3D revenues equal, while the 3D revenue is at least a few million dollars higher for all three of the other films. A is the best answer. B reverses the relationship, C overstates the actual difference in revenues, and D only applies to Film D and perhaps Film B.

40) Correct Answer: C

The underlined sentence should involve the standard phrase “not only . . . but also”: A wrongly pairs “Not only” with “and . . . also” and D wrongly pairs “Not only” with “however”. B comes closer to the needed pairing, but wrongly inserts a semicolon to turn the second section of the sentence into a fragment. Only C involves the needed standard phrase and correct grammar.

41) Correct Answer: D

The previous sentence indicates that surveys of the “rising generation” indicate declining interest in 3D film: D states that the “novelty” of this type of film is falling off, a situation that could lead to a popularity decline. The other answers simply characterize the survey as informative (A), illuminating (B), and useful (C), rather than offer specific supporting evidence.

42) Correct Answer: D

While A and B use prepositional phrases to create a long fragment, NOT a full sentence, C creates a sentence fragment by introducing -ing forms. Only D, the correct answer, contains a full subject-verb combination with “viewers demand”.

43) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined portion sums up, in different terms, the ideas about 3D film as “entertainment” from the previous sentence: this entertainment must, simply or “Basically”, rely on the actual “movie plot”. A is the best answer. B and D both indicate time signatures even though the writer is not describing a sequence of events, while C means “Without any more activity” and is thus out of context.

44) Correct Answer: D

Both A (semicolon) and C (colon) turn the early portion of the sentence into a fragment, while B creates a fragment by making it so that the sentence does not contain a main clause. Only D, which establishes the subject-verb combination “3D film may”, avoids sentence fragments of any sort.

Test 6

Passage 1, “Origami for Engineers”

1) Correct Answer: B

The items named in the second sentence are examples of the “toys” made in the first: B establishes this relationship, while trap answer A indicates that the toys were likened or “similar” to the items named, not that they WERE among the items named. C places a sentence fragment after a semicolon, while D introduces a comma splice.

2) Correct Answer: B

By inserting a semicolon, A wrongly turns the first half of the sentence into a fragment. B corrects this error and properly offsets the descriptive phrase “or the art of sculpturally folded paper” with two commas. C breaks convention by employing one comma and one dash, while D wrongly uses a single comma to divide the subject “origami” from the subject “has become”.

3) Correct Answer: D

In the relevant sentence, the writer describes events that related to origami that began at “the turn of the 21st century” and continued roughly until the present: D properly refers to past-into-present action. A and C are purely past tenses, while B is only suitable for present-tense action.

4) Correct Answer: C

While the previous sentence explains how Lang can turn “a square sheet of paper into virtually any shape”, the sentence that contains the underlined portion describes how Lang can generate a base for an “origami figure”. C correctly indicates that similar ideas are being connected, while A, B, and D all entail contrasts.

5) Correct Answer: A

At this point in the passage, the writer is describing present-day uses for origami: the underlined sentence wrongly emphasizes the past, “100 A.D.”, and should thus be deleted. Choose A and eliminate B, C, and D because the information is mostly UNRELATED to Robert Lang’s TED talk and, thus, can neither support nor contradict the talk itself.

6) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should refer to the “scientists” who faced a “stumbling block” in their attempt to send a particular telescope into space. Eliminate A (which would wrongly refer to the telescope, which cannot have objectives of its own) and choose D. B introduces the pronoun “we” (not mentioned elsewhere) while C is wrongly singular.

7) Correct Answer: B

The original phrasing creates an awkward sentence with an unclear subject (“They” or “dividing?”): eliminate A and choose B, which introduces the effective subject-verb pairing “Dividing . . . was”. C and D are somewhat redundant (since it is already clear that the scientists would do the dividing) and introduce awkward phrasing.

8) Correct Answer: B

When describing degree or extent, the correct adverb for an increase is “much”, since “many” describes countable items. Eliminate A and choose B: C and D are incorrect in context, since a solution would not DECREASE how “manageable” an object is.

9) Correct Answer: D

Sentence 4 describes a problem that was faced by a group of scientists, while sentence 5 explains how collaboration with “origami artists” allowed the scientists to approach a solution. D introduces the idea that origami led to the solution and positions the sentence as an effective transition. A, B, and C would all cause the new sentence to interrupt the discussion of the lens that the scientists (at that point on their own) were attempting to manipulate.

10) Correct Answer: B

The previous paragraph has explained how origami can be used to manage a telescope lens: this would be a practical application of origami, thus justifying B. The history of origami (A) and the work of Robert Lang (D) are only mentioned in earlier paragraphs, while the possibility of becoming wealthy from origami (C) is never mentioned.

11) Correct Answer: A

The original phrasing indicates that origami has the potential (“can”) to be useful. Choose A as an answer that fits the context and eliminate B and D as involving redundant phrases (“by way of” and forms of “use”); C should be eliminated since it introduces an awkward phrase (“through the using of”) that departs from standard English idioms.

Passage 2, “The Death of Movie-Going?”

12) Correct Answer: A

The word “raw” refers to “completely and utterly visceral” emotional reactions; since “raw” can mean “strong” and “direct”, A is the best answer in context. B, C, and D all serve either to wrongly criticize the reactions or to wrongly compare the reactions to higher states of sophistication, and should thus be eliminated.

13) Correct Answer: B

According to the pie chart, Netflix is clearly the preferred viewing method of the people considered in the survey. A wrongly assumes similar numbers for Netflix and movie theaters (30% total, as opposed to 55% for

Netflix), while B properly indicates the majority position in favor of Netflix. C introduces the issue of cost (which the chart does not consider) while D ignores the fact that 30% of the people from the survey DO prefer to go to movie theaters.

14) Correct Answer: A

The paragraph as a whole describes how “the psychology of movie-going” is moving away from movie theater experiences: the sentence that contains the underlined portion indicates that Netflix has popularized “at-home viewing”. This additional fact justifies the choice of A, which indicates that the writer is presenting additional points to support the main argument. Keep in mind that the writer is not strongly opinionated in this paragraph: B is too negative while C is too positive. D assumes that a contrast, not a clearly SUPPORTING fact, is being presented.

15) Correct Answer: B

The “service” that the underlined statistic refers to is “Netflix”, which is chosen by 55% of the viewers surveyed as their viewing method of choice. B is the best answer. A could result from wrongly attempting a rough estimate or from subtracting the “Don’t watch movies” percentage from the “Netflix” percentage, while C and D are both significantly below the Netflix percentage.

16) Correct Answer: D

In the original construction, the phrase “about to gather” wrongly modifies the nouns “fun and joy”, which naturally cannot gather: eliminate A and B, which both involve this dangling modifier. While C wrongly assumes that gathering is the result of watching a movie, D reverses this relationship and rightly indicates that people gather “to watch” a movie.

17) Correct Answer: B

The final sentence should explain one of the specific “consequences” of a style of movie-watching that is anti-social: the absence of “true connectivity” would be a consequence supported by the context. Choose B and eliminate A and C (which indicate that the movie-going trends are negative, but do not address specific “consequences”). D wrongly shifts the emphasis of the sentence from movie-going to social media.

18) Correct Answer: A

The sentence refers to “your awareness”, so that the use of the pronoun “you” in the underlined portion is appropriate. Choose A and eliminate B and C (which both switch to different pronouns for the same reference) and D (which creates a sentence fragment).

19) Correct Answer: C

The previous sentence indicates that a bad movie (negative) can lead to intellectual discussions (positive): C explains how a specific “critically-panned” movie, Transformers, led the writer into an intellectually rewarding “discussion”. C is the best answer: A, B, and D address bad movies, but do NOT address the intellectual benefits of watching bad movies that the writer raises.

20) Correct Answer: A

In the previous paragraph, the writer argued that watching a bad movie alone can be a detrimental experience; in the paragraph introduced by the underlined portion, the writer indicates that anti-social movie-going is also problematic in the case of an “impeccable” film, *Sunset Boulevard*. This shift from bad to good films within the same argument supports A. B and C simply record aspects of the writer’s life without relating to the passage’s argument, while D does not effectively transition AWAY from the preceding paragraph.

21) Correct Answer: B

The initial phrasing wrongly describes the writer (“I”) as an “impeccable black-and-white classic”: eliminate this misplaced modifier (which occurs in both A and D) and choose B, which rightly identifies the “classic” as the film *Sunset Boulevard*. C is awkwardly constructed: *Sunset Boulevard* is not a “reshowing” but was shown “at a reshowing”.

22) Correct Answer: B

In context, A and D both indicate that the words are departed or dead, and introduce the non-standard idiom “departed by”. Eliminate these answers and choose B, which indicates that the words are “departing” or final. C is redundant: words would naturally depart from the mouth of the speaker in any logical circumstances.

Passage 3, “Life, Liberty, and Self-Reliance: Emerson’s Vision”

23) Correct Answer: D

The phrase “we can possibly imagine” refers directly to “every individual liberty”: D correctly links these two ideas. In context, A separates an essential description and makes it seem as though the reader is being asked to imagine the QUESTION that the sentence is asking. B wrongly separates the subject “obsession” with the verb “come” with only a single comma, while C is excessively wordy and grammatically awkward.

24) Correct Answer: A

While sentence 5 refers to Emerson’s “essay”, sentence 4 gives the name of his specific essay and thus anticipates the later discussion. A is the best answer. B and C would both interrupt the broad questions that begin the passage, while D would wrongly create a structure in which the essay is discussed at length BEFORE it is named.

25) Correct Answer: B

The sentence that contains the underlined portion should involve the standard phrase “not only . . . but also”. B properly introduces this phrasing, while A and C do not even involve contrasts and D both disrupts the standard phrases and introduces an unnecessary comma.

26) Correct Answer: D

The two sentences that must be combined present similar but not identical ideas: the first describes how people can be “misguided by false ideas”, while the second explains that unoriginal ideas entail “misguidance itself”. A and B wrongly assume contrasts, while C uses a redundant “also” and does not properly indicate that the idea in the second sentence is MORE extreme. Only D contains a logical and grammatical linkage.

27) Correct Answer: D

This paragraph indicates how individuals, including the writer, can practically respond to Emerson’s strong endorsement of “self-determination”. D rightly raises the issue of what people can “do” based on Emerson’s ideas. A introduces a question of NUMBER, not of ACTION, while B (scholars) and C (origins) raise topics of inquiry that the writer does not address directly.

28) Correct Answer: C

In its original phrasing, the sentence that contains the underlined portion does not involve a full subject-verb combination. Eliminate A and B (which also involve this error) and choose C (““Self-Reliance” gives”) as the best answer. D wrongly places a fragment before a colon, and also contains a redundant “it”.

29) Correct Answer: D

It is clear from the context that the writer, who once felt “empowered” by “Self-Reliance” but no longer does, is no longer sixteen: thus, the sentence requires a past tense, as in D. A and B both include verb tenses that would ONLY be appropriate to present action, while C (which indicates that the “feelings” are “reading”) involves a misplaced modifier.

30) Correct Answer: B

The subject of the underlined verb is an idea (“what we construe . . .”) that should be understood as singular: B is thus the most appropriate answer. A is plural, C wrongly introduces a past tense into this present-tense paragraph, and D creates a sentence fragment.

31) Correct Answer: A

In the initial version, a full sentence is properly placed after a colon to expand upon the sentence that occurs before the colon: choose A and eliminate B, C, and D, which all state the ideas found in A using more awkward, more wordy phrasing.

32) Correct Answer: D

The underlined verb should take the subject “changes” (since “of mind” is an interrupting phrase that must be temporarily disregarded). D is the only plural choice, and is in a present tense that places it in agreement with other verbs in the paragraph. Thus, choose this answer and eliminate the present tenses in A, B, and C.

33) Correct Answer: A

The “views” described in the paragraph would naturally belong to plural “other” people. A is an effective plural possessive, while B is a noun, C is singular (the best phrasing being “another person’s views” in any case), and D involves the ambiguous pronoun “that”.

Passage 4, “Waiting for Absurdist Theater”

34) Correct Answer: D

Because “in the 1950s” is a short phrase that provides essential context, it should not be offset by a comma (or a stronger unit of punctuation, such as a dash): eliminate both A and B, and choose D as the best answer. C introduces awkward phrasing and is also redundant, since “people” would naturally constitute the “public”.

35) Correct Answer: A

In context, the underlined portion should describe a theatrical movement that first “seized” attention and eventually “remained highly visible”: to gain “momentum” would be an appropriate intermediate step. A is thus the best answer. B is a more awkward phrasing of the same idea, C is too literal of a phrasing, and D describes a final step (not an INTERMEDIATE stage).

36) Correct Answer: A

The plays described in this sentence “were staged” across specific areas or regions: A thus uses the correct idiom. B would best refer to the act of passing or penetrating a barrier, C would refer to smaller locations (“at the store”, “at home”), and D would refer to accompanying items, not to place.

37) Correct Answer: D

The idea of “no compromise” makes a statement of extremes in judgment appropriate: D, which refers to “love” and “hate” as the only options, is the best answer. A refers to places, B refers to times, and C refers to two playwrights who are SIMILAR. In context, none of these answers deal with the idea of assessment or judgment as required by the term “compromise”.

38) Correct Answer: D

If, as indicated by the previous sentence, there is a sense of “no meaning or purpose” in the Theater of the Absurd, it is natural that “all communication breaks down” in Absurdist narratives. D rightly indicates that similar ideas are being discussed, while A and C wrongly indicate CONTRASTS and B wrongly introduces a new time signature, when in fact the SAME plays are being discussed.

39) Correct Answer: B

Both A and C introduce sentence fragments, since the word “involved” is an adjective that modifies “playwrights” and the main verb wrongly takes an -ing form. Eliminate these choices. B introduces the proper subject-verb pairing “playwrights . . . portrayed”, while D wrongly pairs “playwrights” with a singular verb form.

40) Correct Answer: C

The paragraph as a whole describes the act-by-act structure of the play *Waiting for Godot*, a play that confused some observers. C rightly responds to this content and captures the idea that *Waiting for Godot* was deemed “confounding”. A and D refer to Beckett’s background, while B addresses his reputation among contemporary readers: these issues are discussed nowhere in the paragraph itself.

41) Correct Answer: A

A involves the correct subject-verb phrasing “tramps . . . sit”. B, C, and D all create sentence fragments by introducing the -ing form “sitting”, and must thus be eliminated as incorrect.

42) Correct Answer: B

The underlined portion should both form an effective transition and refer to “Lucky”, a character and “companion” as explained by the writer. B is the best choice for references to people. A is only appropriate to things or items, C creates a comma splice, and D is only appropriate to places or locations.

43) Correct Answer: B

The phrase “a leading twentieth-century theater critic” refers directly to Tynan, and can thus be offset by a comma to serve as a modifying description. Choose B and eliminate A and D (which present the same ideas in wordier forms). C creates a comma splice and must be eliminated for this reason.

44) Correct Answer: D

In both A and C, the first main clause (“actors . . . called”) is wrongly joined to a second independent clause by a comma: eliminate these comma splices, and eliminate B, since the singular verb “sums” would take the subject “play”. (This phrasing is illogical, since *Waiting for Godot* is not summing up itself.) D is the best answer, since the “actors” would be “summing up” something about the nature of the play with their mock title.

Test 7

Passage 1, “Idealizing America with *Meet Me in St. Louis*”

1) Correct Answer: B

The sentence that contains the underlined portion is describing a single “feature” that should take a singular verb. Eliminate the plural verb forms in A and D and choose B. C introduces an -ing form that would turn the sentence into a sentence fragment, and should be eliminated for this reason.

2) Correct Answer: A

While sentence 2 explains the time and place that the Smith family inhabits, sentence 3 explains the more specific “crisis” that the Smiths face in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. The sentence is best in its present position: choose A and eliminate B (which would divide the discussion of the Smiths with sentence 1, which is about *Meet Me in St. Louis* alone). C and D would both place the introduction of the Smiths AFTER the explanation of their “crisis”, and should thus be eliminated as illogical.

3) Correct Answer: C

The sentence that contains the underlined portion involves half of the standard phrase “not only . . . but also”. C completes this standard phrase effectively, while A, B, and D would all disrupt the phrase (and would not provide the appropriate mild contrast that the sentence requires).

4) Correct Answer: B

The original version wrongly pairs a dash with a comma for the offset phrase “or cynic”: eliminate A and choose B, which employs two dashes. C would wrongly separate a subject-verb combination (“critic . . . might sneer”) with only a single unit of punctuation, while D would wrongly use a semicolon to link two fragments (not two independent clauses).

5) Correct Answer: C

A “cynic” is a person who takes a generally negative view of human nature: the sentence requires “specific examples” that might serve as criticisms from a cynic. A is not negative in tone, while B refers to “film buffs” (not to cynics) and D is extremely vague. C, however, describes specific social oddities and criticizes the people of St. Louis as “sickeningly sunny”, and is thus the best answer.

6) Correct Answer: D

While A and B introduce needlessly wordy phrases to arrive at the simple idea that the “film epitomizes” a certain theme, D is effectively concise. Make sure to avoid trap answer C: although this choice can seem like an effective transition from the previous paragraph, it is actually illogical. The critics would AGREE that *Meet Me in St. Louis* is a highly optimistic film.

7) Correct Answer: C

The previous sentence contains a quotation from Voltaire that seems to endorse optimism; the sentence that contains the underlined portion, in contrast, indicates that Voltaire was actually “wary of such optimism”. Only C uses proper grammar and captures the proper sentence relationship. A is needlessly wordy, and B and D both create sentence fragments.

8) Correct Answer: C

The sentence introduces the topic of philosophers other than Voltaire: because this topic is never given attention in the passage (which primarily discusses Meet Me in Saint Louis) the sentence should be deleted. Choose C and eliminate A (since no terms are defined) and B (since the writer’s argument involves very different topics). D is a trap answer: whether Voltaire in fact watched Meet Me in St. Louis is irrelevant, since the writer is primarily addressing Voltaire’s IDEAS, not Voltaire’s LIFE.

9) Correct Answer: A

The phrase “a film like Meet Me in St. Louis” identifies a single item of information that is essential to the sentence: A is thus the best answer. B, C, and D all divide this phrase up using commas (and C and D set off the word “like” in non-grammatical ways) and should thus all be deleted.

10) Correct Answer: D

The original sentence construction is awkward in coordination, and wrongly makes it seem that the critics deem the film “carefully constructed”. Eliminate A on this account. While B wrongly creates a comma splice and C creates the wrong relationship between the parts of the sentence (addition with “and”, not the reasoning indicated by “because”), D avoids these errors and uses an effective “which” transition to describe the “film”.

11) Correct Answer: D

As options for the underlined portion, A, B, and C all wrongly divide the subject “Meet Me in St. Louis” from its verb with only a single comma. D avoids this error, and properly utilizes the present tense that is employed throughout the paragraph.

Passage 2, “Highly Probable: Quantum Theory and Its Consequences”

12) Correct Answer: C

The underlined verb should take the subject “concepts”, once the long interrupting phrase “such as . . . time” has been factored out. Eliminate A and D (which are singular) and B (which creates a sentence fragment). Only C creates the proper subject-verb combination “concepts . . . are”.

13) Correct Answer: D

The subject “misunderstanding” should take a singular verb in the underlined portion; keep in mind also that the proper past participle for the verb “arise” is “arisen”. D is the best answer, while A uses a nonexistent verb form, B creates a sentence fragment, and C is wrongly plural.

14) Correct Answer: C

While the preceding sentence discusses a “simple example” of probability, the underlined sentence explains the concept of “Quantum probability”, which may determine human behavior. C rightly identifies the sentence as appropriate, while D offers the wrong justification (since the NATURE of quantum probability, not its ORIGIN, is the writer’s topic). A wrongly neglects the writer’s primary focus on quantum theory, while B contradicts the idea that this sentence, in fact, is supporting evidence.

15) Correct Answer: A

In the original phrasing, a dash is properly used to offset the long description that ends the sentence. Choose A and eliminate B (which introduces a comma splice) and C (which creates a sentence fragment beginning with “Mathematical . . .”). D uses “being” for an awkward and problematic transition: it appears that the “tenets” are wrongly described as “being mathematical equations”.

16) Correct Answer: D

The sentence introduces an idea about subatomic particles, and explains what “some have extrapolated” about human behavior based on this idea. D properly introduces this cause-and-consequence relationship. A involves a non-standard usage that does not capture this relationship, B introduces a contrast, and C seems to attribute responsibility rather than offer an explanation.

17) Correct Answer: C

For the sake of parallelism, the primary noun in the underlined portion should be paired with “interpretations” and should thus be plural. A and B break this parallelism while wrongly using the adverb “grossly” to modify a noun; D breaks this parallelism while inserting an unnecessary comma. Only in C is “interpretations” paired with “products” in a grammatically correct manner.

18) Correct Answer: C

The prompt requires that the writer express “strong disagreement”; both A and B express ambivalence or uncertainty, while D expresses mild or partial disagreement. Only C, which indicates that the “interpretation” is far “from the truth”, is an answer premised on strong disagreement.

19) Correct Answer: B

While A introduces the topic of the coin toss, awkward and informal phrasing is employed in this answer. B offers a much smoother transition, while C is excessively wordy and D distorts the content of the passage: the coin toss idea has made sense THROUGHOUT, and is simply RELEVANT again at this point.

20) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion of the sentence describes “human beings” and should refer back to this plural noun a plural pronoun: A, B, and D are all singular. Only C is plural; this choice also correctly identifies the writer and readers (“we”) as human beings.

21) Correct Answer: D

In the previous paragraph, the writer mentioned how “patterns and predilections” can be observed in humans. The sentence that contains the underlined portion introduces a single human action that may form part of a pattern, or would offer an “instance” of how people act with regularity: D is thus the best answer. A wrongly creates a cause-and-effect relationship rather than setting up an example, B is too informal, and C introduces an inappropriately strong positive tone.

22) Correct Answer: C

In this passage, the writer has argued that quantum theory is not confining and that a person can possess an “enormous measure of freedom” even if the theory is plausible. C is thus the best answer. A and B both refer (rather informally) to individual examples, NOT to a major argument from the passage, while D does not properly capture the writer’s strong stance on quantum theory.

Passage 3, “The Challenges of Habitat Biology”

23) Correct Answer: C

The sentence that contains the underlined portion involves parallelism using -ing forms: while A presents the phrase “mineral deficiencies being”, C maintains the parallelism with “preventing”. Both B (“to prevent”) and D (“prevent”) introduce other verb forms that break the parallelism.

24) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should refer back to the “animals” who possess “natures”: D, “their”, is an appropriate possessive. A is the contraction of “it is”, B is a singular possessive, and C indicates place or situation (not ownership).

25) Correct Answer: D

A and B both use a semicolon to separate the noun “oversight” from its verb, “can . . . affect”. Eliminate these answers, then eliminate C (which would wrongly separate “oversight” from its verb with only a single comma) and choose D as the only choice that uses proper punctuation to coordinate ideas.

26) Correct Answer: D

The chart indicates that the prairie dog that was exposed to the extra light bulb (three bulbs) consistently gained weight at a faster rate than the prairie dog that was not exposed to the extra bulb (two bulbs). D is thus the best answer: A reverses the relationship, B neglects the fact that the dogs do not gain weight at the same pace, and C would more effectively refer to the fluctuating data for the other prairie dog (two bulbs).

27) Correct Answer: C

In the relevant sentences, being “sluggish and inert” would be evident in a decrease in “physical activity”: C captures this relationship more smoothly and concisely than A, and is thus the best answer. B wrongly reverses the original cause-and-effect relationship, while D wrongly indicates a contrast.

28) Correct Answer: A

The chart indicates that the prairie dogs in the second group gained weight, but did so in a much less severe and much more healthy fashion than did the prairie dogs exposed to the extra light bulb. A is thus the best answer: B and D both misinterpret the chart, while C (though more accurate) does not properly continue the POSITIVE tone of the sentence.

29) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should take the verb “was” and is thus singular: eliminate C and D, and eliminate B, which mistakes “soul” (as in spirit) for “sole” (as in only, a usage more appropriate to the context). A is thus the best answer.

30) Correct Answer: C

The paragraph as a whole is about how Kruger National Park must be maintained so that the habitat requirements of different species are met: the park is a “larger habitat” than the prairie dog settings described in the previous paragraph. C is thus the best answer: A and B both wrongly assume that the prairie dog and lighting topic is still being discussed, while D raises an issue (“vegetation”) that does not sum up ALL the challenges involved at Kruger National Park.

31) Correct Answer: D

The underlined verb takes the singular subject “assortment” (since “of animals” is a prepositional phrase that must be factored out). D is properly singular, while A, B, and C are plural forms in different tenses.

32) Correct Answer: A

The word “promoting” properly refers back to “organic fertilization”, which has positive effects: A is thus a concise and effective answer. B is a more awkward wording that would wrongly separate a main verb (“promote”) from its subject using only one comma, C wrongly introduces a contrast, and D (“helps . . . promoting”) would create a case of faulty parallelism.

33) Correct Answer: B

As described in the sentence that contains the underlined portion, the park rangers want a positive equilibrium to be present: they would naturally want to “maintain” this equilibrium. B is the best answer. A is too informal, while C and D are closer in meaning to “survive” or “live through” than to “keep” or “maintain”.

Passage 4, “Everybody Steals?”

34) Correct Answer: C

Because thieves would naturally steal, both A and B present instances of redundancy: D introduces similarly redundant ideas (“theft stole”) while using flawed grammar. Only C captures the correct meaning and is appropriately concise.

35) Correct Answer: A

Depending on the answer to the previous question, the phrase “The act” should refer to either “stealing” or “theft”: the writer explains the different reactions that this act provokes, so that A is the best choice. B changes the meaning of the sentence to focus (possibly) on thieves, C awkwardly and redundantly uses a noun and its pronoun side-by-side, and D creates a fragment before the semicolon.

36) Correct Answer: D

The nouns listed in the sentence should all be in parallel: A breaks this parallelism with the wordy phrase “when you sense betrayal”, while D introduces a proper noun with the phrase “a sense of betrayal”. B breaks parallelism by introducing -ing forms in the final items, while C uses the word “and” to connect two early items in the list, when the better English convention would be to use a comma.

37) Correct Answer: D

The word “incensed” is a synonym for “outraged”, so that the underlined portion is redundant even in different phrasings: eliminate A, B, and C and choose D as the best answer.

38) Correct Answer: C

In this paragraph, the writer directly addresses the reader as “you”, so that only C effectively continues this mode of reference. A and D both introduce different singular nouns, while B introduces a plural noun.

39) Correct Answer: C

In context, the REASON why the reader can be “honest here” is that the reader is “not alone”: C (“for”, which can function as a cause-and-effect word similar to “because”) is thus the best answer. A simply connects the sentences without establishing the most logical relationship, while B and D both wrongly introduce contrasts.

40) Correct Answer: A

In this point in the passage, the writer is discussing how individuals (not food stores or corporations) may commit acts of dishonesty: A properly indicates that the underlined sentence is a complete distraction, while B wrongly indicates that the sentence needs ADDITIONAL content. C mistakes the relationship described in the sentence (which actually involves the supermarket being dishonest), while D wrongly assumes that the sentence is highly relevant to the passage as a whole.

41) Correct Answer: A

In A, the inessential phrase “or perhaps because of” is properly set off from the rest of the sentence. Both B (dash) and D (semicolon) wrongly separate the preposition “despite” from “the label”, which is the word that it must accompany, while C wrongly splits the same word combination using only a single comma.

42) Correct Answer: C

In this paragraph, the writer considers forms of stealing that perhaps are not “considered major crimes”: shoplifting would be one such example. C concisely and effectively introduces this relationship. A and B are awkward and colloquial, while D wrongly identifies shoplifting as “rare”, not (as required by the context) as an effective supporting item in the analysis.

43) Correct Answer: C

The inessential phrase “even just a little” should be offset from the sentence using a pair of commas or a pair of dashes: A wrongly uses one comma and one dash, while C effectively uses two commas. B and D both insert semicolons, making it so that the portion that occurs after each semicolon is a fragment, and should thus be eliminated.

44) Correct Answer: A

The writer is answering the question posed in the previous question: in context, the fact that people “feel such turmoil and aggression” “is” explained by the reader. Thus, the best answer is A (“it’s”, the contraction of “it is”). B is a possessive pronoun, C is an inappropriate plural, and D is a nonexistent form.

Test 8

Passage 1, “The Power of Genomics”

1) Correct Answer: C

Long descriptive phrases (such as “the science . . . function”) should be set off with two commas, two dashes, or two parentheses. A wrongly combines a semicolon and a dash, B wrongly uses two semicolons (and creates sentence fragments in the process), and D uses a dash and a comma. Only C properly uses parentheses to coordinate the description.

2) Correct Answer: D

Both of the underlined words should be adjectives that refer directly to the noun “questions”. While A, B, and C all wrongly introduce adverb (-ly) forms, D rightly pairs the two adjectives “pointed and profound”.

3) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion should refer to the field of genomics, as demanded by the question prompt: A and B simply refer to the turn of the century, while D refers to the topic of “social justice”, which is not considered in the paragraph that follows. Only C addresses genomics (“This relatively new field of study”) in a way that appropriately sets up the discussion of the Decade of the Genome.

4) Correct Answer: B

The underlined phrase should refer to the singular Human Genome Project, which was “called” by a certain name. B is the best answer: A and C are wrongly plural, while D (depending on how it is read) either pairs a singular noun with a plural verb or introduces an inappropriate subjunctive.

5) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion should indicate a specific motive for researching the genome: while A and B offer extremely general statements about science as a whole, C properly refers to the investigation of genes. Though more specific than some of the other false answers, D does not explicitly link the “research” mentioned to issues related to genomics.

6) Correct Answer: D

The sentence should describe a person or group of people as “anxious”: while A involves a misplaced modifier (indicating wrongly that the “format” was “anxious”) D properly describes the “researchers” as anxious. Both B and C create sentence fragments and should thus be eliminated.

7) Correct Answer: B

To “figure out” would be an action undertaken by people and systems involved in the Human Genome Project: “computers and the other competitors” would thus “figure out”. B is the best answer, while A, C, and D all introduce possessives (NOT nouns that can take verbs) and should thus be eliminated.

8) Correct Answer: D

The chart indicates that humans share between 40% and 50% of their DNA with fruit flies: A wrongly indicates that the percentage is “exactly” 50%, while D provides a more appropriate approximation. B and C both provide lower figures (which would be more relevant to grape DNA) and should thus be eliminated.

9) Correct Answer: D

The chart indicates that humans share between 80% and 90% of their DNA with cows: D is thus the best answer. A, B, and C all provide lower figures that might be relevant to OTHER organisms, and should thus be eliminated.

10) Correct Answer: C

In context, the author is describing the findings of the Human Genome Project: the “startling conclusion” described in this sentence is an extremely significant finding, so that C is the best answer. A, B, and D all indicate CONTRASTS, not degrees of significance or importance, and should thus be eliminated.

11) Correct Answer: D

The relevant sentence should indicate that social applications of genomics research are problematic: D raises the negative possibility that people will “tamper” with biology and is thus the best choice. A and B are both positive in tone, while C refers to social progress, not to the scientific and ethical issues that preoccupy the writer.

Passage 2, “Johnny Appleseed’s Dark Side”

12) Correct Answer: B

The descriptive phrase that occurs in the middle of the sentence (“specifically . . . own”) should be offset by two commas: B is thus the best answer. A and C both wrongly separate a subject and verb (“apples . . . are known”) with a single comma, while D wrongly uses a comma and a dash to offset the descriptive phrase.

13) Correct Answer: D

In sentences 4 and 5, the writer introduces a negative tone towards the “hard and sour” apples that Chapman planted: the new sentence offers a supporting statement for these negatives (“nearly inedible”) and would be appropriate at the conclusion of the discussion. D is the best answer, while A and B would both disrupt the earlier, positive discussion. C would wrongly place the sentence BEFORE the passage’s tone shifts to negative, as happens only in sentence 4.

14) Correct Answer: A

While the first paragraph explains that Chapman may not indeed be fully “noble”, the paragraph that contains the underlined sentence indicates that Chapman was made popular by the “gift of alcohol”. A, which indicates that the common and positive ideas are mistaken, is thus the best answer. B and C both focus on Chapman’s fruit (not on the actual topic of his reputation), while D does not indicate the appropriate negatives.

15) Correct Answer: D

The word “something” must be compared to the underlined portion: the nouns “charm and generosity” would make an appropriate noun-to-noun comparison. D is the best answer. A and C both introduce adjectives (and are thus out of parallel) while B is needlessly awkward and wordy.

16) Correct Answer: C

What would be “gaining clout” is “Pollan’s theory”, not Pollan himself. Eliminate A and B (which can only refer to people) and choose C (which can properly refer to a thing). D would place a full sentence in the middle of another full sentence without an appropriate transition, and should thus be eliminated.

17) Correct Answer: B

While A is illogical (indicating that Applejack is low maintenance because it is popular, not the other way around), B properly states that low cost and maintenance explains the popularity of Applejack. C and D, though shorter, involve unusual and awkward placements of the phrase “in particular” and should be eliminated.

18) Correct Answer: A

The original sentence contains the effective subject-verb combination “philanthropy . . . has”. Choose A as the best answer. B creates a sentence fragment, while C and D wrongly assume that the singular noun “philanthropy” is plural.

19) Correct Answer: B

While A introduces a comma splice in the portion after the semicolon, B properly describes “alcoholism” as “wrecking”. C is a wordier version of B that also introduces an awkward cause-and-effect relationship, while D introduces a needless contrast when in fact the author is simply explaining alcoholism.

20) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion should describe “Chapman’s own time”, which the first paragraph of the passage designates as 1790 to 1830. C (“1812”) addresses exactly this timeframe. A addresses ALL of American history and is thus too broad, B addresses recent history, and D addresses “America’s early days”, which could have been MUCH farther back in history than Chapman’s own lifetime.

21) Correct Answer: D

Because “morning” and “dawn” describe the same time of day, A, B, and C are all redundant. D, however, refers only to “dawn” and is thus both concise and effective.

22) Correct Answer: A

The word “opting” is in parallel with “settling”, so that A is the best answer. B introduces a comma splice, while C (past) and D (present) both break the parallelism established in the original choice.

Passage 3, “The ‘Virtual Reality’ of Live Theater”

23) Correct Answer: D

The underlined word should refer to “drama”, which has an “audience”. The singular possessive D is the best answer. A is a nonexistent form, B is the contraction of “it is”, and C is a plural possessive.

24) Correct Answer: A

The sentence is describing how two elements, the “figure onstage” and “ourselves”, interact: the standard phrase “between . . . and” is appropriate for such pairings. Choose A and eliminate D (which is only appropriate to sets of three or more). B and D both indicate location, NOT interaction or connection as demanded by the context, and should thus be eliminated.

25) Correct Answer: B

The subject of the underlined verb is “moment”, since the intervening phrase “of complete . . . perhaps” must be disregarded for subject-verb agreement. Choose B, which uses a singular verb and maintains the present tense of this portion of the essay. A and D are plural while C wrongly introduces a past tense.

26) Correct Answer: A

To connect the two sentences logically, use either a semicolon or a transition word: A properly uses the transition “and” to link ideas that are in agreement. B and D both create comma splices, while C wrongly places a sentence fragment after a semicolon.

27) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined portion calls into question the preceding idea that the theater is a “mirror to life”. A properly indicates a strong shift or contrast, while B would set up an illustrating example, C would set up a cause-and-effect relationship, and D would indicate similarity.

28) Correct Answer: D

The portion that occurs after the colon simply illustrates the idea that “all mirrors distort”: no other transition is needed, so that D is the best answer. A would dismiss the previous portion, B would create a contrast, and C would introduce an inappropriate positive tone.

29) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole is about theatrical illusions that are clearly perceived by an audience: D calls attention to the fact that the theater is not “a real world” and is thus the best answer. A (enjoyment), B (history), and C (contemporary theater and its popularity) all address topics that are not directly related to the paragraph.

30) Correct Answer: C

The underlined verb should take the subject “extras” (once the intervening phrase “waving . . . ice” has been factored out) and should be in present tense to agree with the other verbs in the paragraph. C is the best answer, while A and B are both plural and D is in the past tense.

31) Correct Answer: A

In this paragraph, the writer is primarily interested in listing theatrical illusions: the underlined sentence discusses REAL aspects of theater and thus does not directly add to this discussion. A is the best answer, while the sentence IS related to the topic (eliminating B) but does not meaningfully support the writer’s argument. C wrongly indicates that the sentence (which mostly lists facts) defines a term, while D wrongly indicates that the reality of theater (NOT theatrical illusion) is the main point of the passage.

32) Correct Answer: D

In this sentence, the writer shifts away from one set of Shakespeare plays to discuss a second set of plays. D rightly indicates that the writer is considering “other instances” of how Shakespeare creates specific theatrical effects: A and C wrongly assume that the writer is building off a single point, while B wrongly introduces a contrast.

33) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined portion refers to “all our lives”. A continues the pronoun reference with “us”, while B, C, and D all introduce different pronouns that do not entail the same collective mode of address, and should thus be eliminated.

Passage 4, “Gardening as Science, Gardening as Art”

34) Correct Answer: B

To create proper coherence, the underlined portion should help to set up the topic of the passage, gardening. Only B directly raises this topic and is thus the right answer. A (which is too informal) is not as clearly on-topic, and C and D (which use needlessly positive and formal diction) do not refer succinctly and clearly to gardening.

35) Correct Answer: D

In context, the writer is describing a hypothetical action that the reader could take: “Mention” is a proper imperative and is thus the best answer. Choose D and eliminate A and B (which use -ing forms but do not clearly describe any person mentioned in the sentence) and C (which introduces an “I” pronoun when the writer’s personal experience is not in fact being considered).

36) Correct Answer: D

While A properly indicates the content of the sentence, D is a more concise answer that avoids the awkward construction introduced by “being”. Choose this answer and eliminate B (which wrongly identifies the “plant” as a need) and C (which places “tamed” and “pruning” out of parallel).

37) Correct Answer: C

Elsewhere in this paragraph, the writer offers guidelines using the pronoun “you”: to keep the pronouns in parallel, choose C. A and B both break this agreement, while D introduces a plural pronoun form.

38) Correct Answer: D

The original version includes too many transitions and thus creates a sentence fragment: eliminate A, and then eliminate B and C for continuing this error using different transitions. Only D properly creates a subordinate clause (“However . . . qualities”) followed by a stand-alone main clause (“you . . . error”).

39) Correct Answer: A

The word “nomenclature” means “a system for naming”, and is thus both concise and appropriate in meaning. Choose A and eliminate B (excessively informal). C and D simply communicate the main idea (naming) using needlessly wordy and awkward constructions.

40) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should refer back to the “beholder”, a singular person who would possess a “soul”: A is an effective singular pronoun. B and D are wrongly plural, while C could only refer to a thing, not to a person.

41) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole argues that gardens can provide plants that are nutritionally useful: this would be a “practical intention” for creating a garden, so that D is the best answer. A, B, and C all seem to introduce positive tones, but do not explain WHY the plants that grow in some gardens are beneficial, as demanded by the content of the paragraph.

42) Correct Answer: C

While an “anecdote” is a story or account, an “antidote” is a substance that cures pain or illness: eliminate A and B, which are inappropriate to the context of “physical and mental pain”. C would properly describe specific plants “as” antidotes, while D would wrongly indicate that antidotes THEMSELVES were using the plants.

43) Correct Answer: B

The sentence requires the standard phrase “not only . . . but also” as completed by B. Choose this answer and eliminate A, C, and D, which either introduce only parts of the phrase or wrongly indicate complete similarity using “and”.

44) Correct Answer: C

Overall, the paragraph explains that the plants that appear in gardens can have practical uses in health and medicine; the writer also admires gardens for their “charm, calm, and cheerfulness”. C addresses both of these topics, while A, B, and D are ENTIRELY about the practical aspects of gardening and should be eliminated as too narrow in focus.

Test 9

Passage 1, “Back to the Sixties”

1) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion should be punctuated to set off each item in the list using a comma: keep in mind that a comma should not go directly after a conjunction in such conditions, and that “free love” is a single idea. A and B wrongly place commas after “and”, while D introduces an unnecessary semicolon. Only D uses proper list punctuation.

2) Correct Answer: C

The phrases “true experience” and “what it was really like” are interchangeable and therefore redundant: eliminate A and B. C is an effectively concise answer, while D introduces a dangling modifier by describing the “time” (NOT a person) as “being young”.

3) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should refer to a person and should introduce a singular pronoun to agree with “an adult” later in the sentence. A is thus an appropriate answer: B is plural, while C and D can only refer to things, not to people.

4) Correct Answer: B

The descriptive phrase “a legacy . . . War” should be offset using two commas. B provides the needed punctuation, while A wrongly pairs a comma and a dash, C uses only a single comma, and D wrongly pairs a comma and a semicolon.

5) Correct Answer: B

In the paragraph, the writer is pairing privileges and limitations granted to young people from the United Kingdom: B (inability to buy alcohol or vote) offers a contrast with the responsibilities (buying cigarettes and joining the army) mentioned earlier. A and D simply state personal preferences, while C only states a new opportunity, rather than pairing opportunities with limitations in a way that supports the paragraph’s main idea.

6) Correct Answer: D

The subject of the underlined verb is “education”: eliminate the plural verb forms in A and C. Because the paragraph describes events that occurred in the past, eliminate the present tense in B and choose D as the best answer.

7) Correct Answer: C

The sentence indicates that, first, the writer and his contemporaries had been used to “everything” in society: then, everything was “galvanized into new ways of living”. When describing two past-tense events, use a “had” form for the event that CLEARLY happened earlier: C thus uses the proper verb tense. A wrongly indicates action that continues into the present, B indicates ongoing action (NOT a state that was ended and replaced), and D wrongly pairs the pronoun “we” with the verb “was”.

8) Correct Answer: C

Both the paragraph and the passage as a whole focus on the 1960s: the sentence wrongly shifts away from this major topic to discuss the 1970s. C is thus the best answer, while A, B, and D all wrongly assume that the sentence is relevant to the passage in a major way and should thus be eliminated.

9) Correct Answer: C

While A is redundant because the “1960s” are clearly a “decade”, B introduces a needlessly colloquial phrase (“Hindsight is 20/20”) and D introduces a misplaced modifier (by using “Looking back” to describe “signs”). Only C properly conveys the writer’s ideas about putting history in perspective and avoids these errors.

10) Correct Answer: D

In the two sentences, the writer presents simultaneous facts about the end of the war and about what people noticed. People noticing things did not, logically, CAUSE the end of the war: eliminate A and B on this account. While C creates a comma splice, D properly uses the transition “and” to link two complementary ideas.

11) Correct Answer: D

It is clear from the context that “Germany” is an example that proves the writer’s point: a transition or modifying phrase would be redundant. Thus, eliminate A, B, and C, then choose D as the best answer.

Passage 2, “Animal Egotism: Case Studies in Survival”

12) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined position must set up an outcome (“morally right”) and a condition (“maximize” well-being). A properly states this relationship using the preposition “For”. B and D state facts (NOT hypothetical situations as demanded by the context), while C introduces an inappropriate future tense.

13) Correct Answer: D

While sentence 2 disrupts the writer’s discussion of “morality” in its present position (eliminating A), placing sentence 2 before sentence 6 sets up a pair of contrasting ideas about “evolution”. Choose D and eliminate B and C as choices that would continue to disrupt the writer’s opening discussion of morality and egotism. Note that evolution only becomes a major topic starting in sentence 5.

14) Correct Answer: A

The main example in this paragraph is that of the mother bear and her cub: A introduces this context in a concise and grammatical fashion. B (“One big example”) and C (“Here, take this”) are awkward and colloquial, while D would not sufficiently introduce either the cub or the time of year.

15) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion must introduce a hypothetical scenario: D is an effective phrasing, while A (“is . . . achieved”) awkwardly breaks from standard English usage. B introduces a past tense into a paragraph that relies on present and future tenses, while C reads as a RECOMMENDATION (“she should”) not a hypothetical scenario.

16) Correct Answer: C

The underlined word should refer to an animal “parent”, which would have offspring: C introduces an appropriate singular possessive. A is the contraction of “it is”, B is a plural possessive, and D is a nonexistent form.

17) Correct Answer: D

In the previous sentence, the writer presents the assumption that selfishness “is not relevant to humans”; the sentence that contains the underlined portion, however, indicates that selfishness “is the basis of all human interaction”. Thus, a contrast relationship is required: D is the best answer. A and C would refer to events that occur in series, while B would simply indicate similarity.

18) Correct Answer: A

The charts indicate that an adult’s head constitutes 8% of the adult’s body weight, while an infant’s head constitutes 20% of the infant’s body weight. A is thus an answer that captures this clear difference in proportion. B and C do not capture the PROPORTIONAL relationship (even though an adult would normally have a larger head than an infant would), while D wrongly assumes clear similarity in size.

19) Correct Answer: D

As indicated by the pie chart to the right, an infant’s head constitutes 20% of its body weight. D is thus the best. A would refer to an adult’s head, B would refer to an infant’s trunk, and C would refer to an infant’s pelvis.

20) Correct Answer: C

Of the answer choices, A, B, and D are inappropriately colloquial or informal, while B also introduces an inappropriate collective (“let’s”) reference. Choose C as an answer that properly sets up the “reason” while avoiding these style and pronoun flaws.

21) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should explain why a specific “trait” keeps a mother from abandoning her young: “innate love of visual stimulation” would be an incentive not to abandon an infant. D is an effective choice. A introduces a contrast (not supporting reasoning), while B and C simply note sources of difference and uncertainty, NOT “specific support”.

22) Correct Answer: B

The underlined pronoun should be the subject of the verb “are”: A and D are both object pronoun forms, while C is singular. B, “Those”, is the only answer that introduces a proper plural subject.

Passage 3, “Literary Plunder: The Myths of *Treasure Island*”

23) Correct Answer: D

The original phrasing involves a misplaced modifier, since a book (*Treasure Island*) could not have an “idea” of its influence. Eliminate A, along with B (awkward phrasing and another misplaced modifier) and C (a misplaced modifier similar to that in A). Only D correctly indicates that “Stevenson . . . wrote” and that *Treasure Island* had a “huge influence”.

24) Correct Answer: A

The phrase “impact on” is idiomatically correct (as in other usages such as “impact on the decision” or “impact on the students”). A is the best answer: B might signify a new topic, C signifies accompaniment, and D signifies direction.

25) Correct Answer: A

While sentence 3 indicates that Stevenson wrote his book “for children”, sentence 4 introduces the directly contrasting idea that “people of all ages and all walks of life” enjoy *Treasure Island*. A is thus the best answer. B and C would both break up the early overview of the book’s content, while D would wrongly place sentence 5 between two sentences that should directly contrast with one another.

26) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole explains the connection between Stevenson’s plot devices and actual pirate practices: D effectively sets up this connection. A, B, and C offer general statements in praise of Stevenson and his writing, but do not capture the paragraph’s emphasis on how Stevenson adapted pirate devices for his purposes.

27) Correct Answer: B

While A involves a sentence fragment, B corrects this error with the subject-verb combination “recipient . . . does”. Both C and D wrongly separate the subject from its verb with a single comma and should thus be eliminated.

28) Correct Answer: B

While A and C are too informal and imprecise (“thing”) in style, B properly and concisely refers to the “practice” of presenting an ace of spades. D is too elevated in diction (and mistakes a “practice” for a formal set of beliefs or “orthodoxy”) and should thus be deleted.

29) Correct Answer: D

The sentence structure in A wrongly places a sentence fragment after a semicolon, while B and C both introduce comma splices. Only D correctly introduces the contrast relationship required by the sentence and properly uses a semicolon to separate two independent clauses.

30) Correct Answer: C

When creating an effective list, use commas to separate items: A and B both use conjunctions where commas would be more appropriate. Choose C as a more concise phrasing. D should be eliminated because it wrongly uses a comma to split the phrase “and shopkeepers”. Keep in mind that commas are not ordinarily used immediately AFTER conjunctions.

31) Correct Answer: D

The underlined possessive should refer to the “person” who would possess an “eye”: D is an effective singular possessive. A is plural, B would only refer to things, and C would refer to the reader, not to a “person” from earlier in history.

32) Correct Answer: C

The underlined word should be the object of the preposition “to” and should thus be a noun: eliminate A and B (which are possessives). C properly indicates that “nations” would be located “across the world”, while D wrongly and illogically indicates that a SINGLE nation would stretch across the entire world.

33) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole indicates that, even though Treasure Island is a work of fiction, pirates are still active and dangerous in the world today: D properly captures these ideas. A and B do not properly apply negative tones to pirates, while C deals with a hypothetical situation, not with the REALITY of pirates today.

Passage 4, “Called to Teach”

34) Correct Answer: D

While A creates a run-on sentence by failing to separate a condition (“When . . . occupation”) from the situation that proceeds from it, both B and C create sentence fragments. Only D properly uses a comma to separate ideas while maintaining correct grammar, and is thus the correct answer.

35) Correct Answer: D

The underlined sentence explains the idea of “vocation” in relation to what “The term suggests” and thus clarifies a major point in the passage: D is the best answer. A and B are directly contradicted by the fact that the underlined sentence is relevant to the passage’s main topic, while C wrongly assumes that the underlined sentence works AGAINST the writer’s theme, rather than explaining it.

36) Correct Answer: D

The underlined phrase should describe HOW the writer “understood” particular ideas, and should thus involve adverbs. While A and C wrongly introduce the adjective “clear”, B inverts the common adverb phrase “very clearly”. This phrase is present in D, which is the best answer.

37) Correct Answer: D

The underlined verb takes the subject “things”, from which it is divided by a long descriptive phrase. Both A and B, which present singular verbs, must thus be eliminated. Keep in mind that the paragraph is describing past-tense events and eliminate the present-tense answer C. Thus, D is the best answer.

38) Correct Answer: C

The definition of “vocation” that the writer is discussing can be attributed to three teachers, and would thus be “their” definition. Choose C and eliminate A (which indicates place or situation), B (which is singular), and D (which is the contraction of “They are”).

39) Correct Answer: A

The underlined portion should describe an early period of the writer’s life: A does so while maintaining the essayistic voice of the passage. B introduces an inappropriately antiquated style (“yore”), while C (pastimes) and D (reminiscences or memories) do not directly describe a single PERIOD of development.

40) Correct Answer: C

The necessary standard English phrase is “relieved that”, which would refer to a fact or occurrence as required by the sentence. C is thus the best answer. A would indicate REPEATED events, B indicates reasoning, and D would refer to a specific place.

41) Correct Answer: D

In the sentence that contains the underlined portion and the sentence that follows, the writer transitions from regarding teaching as merely a source of income to regarding teaching as a profession with “importance”. The writer thus had a less positive impression of teaching “At first”, making D the best answer. A would wrongly put the first stage of development LAST, B would wrongly indicate that the writer held to incompatible opinions at once, and C would introduce a contrast BEFORE the second, contrasting half of the writer’s point is introduced.

42) Correct Answer: C

The underlined sentence must introduce a statement about the writer’s career in a grammatical fashion: while A awkwardly and wrongly situates a prepositional phrase (“At . . . America”) as the subject of the sentence, B is too colloquial and D introduces the unnecessary pronoun “you”. Only C presents the essential topic while remaining true to the writer’s voice.

43) Correct Answer: B

Because Switzerland would logically have more than two schools, B, “most expensive”, is the proper phrasing for describing a school that exceeds all the others in some respect. A (which is grammatically incorrect), C (which is a nonexistent word), and D all assume that there are only TWO schools in Switzerland, and must thus be eliminated.

44) Correct Answer: B

The subject of the sentence is a single idea (“To have . . . today”) that should take a singular verb: B is thus the best answer. C is only appropriate to plural subjects, while A and D both create sentence fragments.

Test 10

Passage 1, "Edward Hopper Paints America"

1) Correct Answer: C

The underlined portion is a verb that should take the singular subject "work". While A creates a sentence fragment, B and D both introduce plural verb forms. Only C creates the proper subject-verb combination "the work . . . has been subjected".

2) Correct Answer: C

For the underlined sentence, locate the most concise and well-constructed option. A contains the vague and awkward word "thing", B contains an awkward verb phrase, and D needlessly refers back to "Hopper" as "one". Only C uses properly succinct phrasing to communicate the idea about how Hopper discussed his work.

3) Correct Answer: B

The combined version of the two sentences should identify "Henri" as one of Hopper's "teachers". A and C do so in wordy and awkward manners, while B presents the same essential content in a more concise way. D creates a run-on sentence and should thus be eliminated for this reason.

4) Correct Answer: C

In context, the writer is discussing how Hopper's paintings affect viewers: an idea or piece of "advice" passed on to Hopper would thus be "applicable to" these viewers as well. Choose C and eliminate A (which wrongly indicates that the viewers THEMSELVES are the originators of the advice). B and D are not standard English idioms and should thus be eliminated.

5) Correct Answer: D

The sentence that contains the underlined portion should involve the standard phrase "not only . . . but also". A and B do not present the necessary elements of this pairing, while C splits "but" and "also" in a way that disrupts the standard phrase. D, however, does not, and is thus the best answer.

6) Correct Answer: A

While the preceding sentence describes the everyday contents of a picture as they appear "At first glance", the sentence that contains the underlined portion describes the same picture's "power". A properly captures this contrast: B and C introduce inappropriate value judgements while D places a fragment before a semicolon.

7) Correct Answer: B

The sentence containing the underlined portion should contrast the "presence" of a bowl of fruit with the presence of a "brown radiator". "Its" would be the proper possessive for reference to the "bowl of fruit".

Choose B and eliminate A and C (which are plural). D is the contraction of “It is” and is thus grammatically incorrect.

8) Correct Answer: C

In the context of the sentence, the same person would “unearth” and explore. To continue the preceding pronoun reference, “one”, choose C. A and B wrongly introduce the plural pronoun “they”, while D creates a sentence fragment.

9) Correct Answer: B

The word “does” is a verb that takes the subject “it”. Never use only a single unit of punctuation to break up a subject-verb combination: thus, eliminate A, C, and D and choose B as the best answer.

10) Correct Answer: C

The underlined verb takes the singular subject “contrast” (since “between . . . illuminating” is an interrupting phrase that must temporarily be disregarded). Eliminate A (plural) and D (past tense, while the rest of the discussion is present tense). Of the two remaining choices, C is more concise than B (which describes an ongoing process and is thus out of context) and is thus the best answer.

11) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole describes the THEMES that are present in Hopper’s pictures: the underlined sentence, in contrast, describes WHEN Hopper was active and should thus be deleted. D is the best answer. A should be eliminated because the information is not relevant to the writer’s main focus, B should be eliminated because Hopper’s career and reputation are discussed only EARLIER in the passage, and C should be eliminated because the sentence DOES in fact discuss Hopper.

Passage 2, “Smells Like Teen Rebellion”

12) Correct Answer: A

In sentence 1, the writer explains a specific and concise rule: sentence 2 refers to a “central mechanism of teenage rebellion” that would logically be this rule. Choose A and eliminate B and D, which wrongly introduce contrasts. C (“with regard”) is a phrase that normally takes an object, and is both awkward and inappropriate here.

13) Correct Answer: B

A introduces a comma splice, while D creates a spliced and similarly incorrect sentence without even using a comma. Choose B as an answer that corrects a comma splice using a colon, but watch out for trap answer C: even though this sentence uses somewhat correct sentence structure, it is ultimately illogical because the growth of a teenager’s mind would not itself CAUSE scientists to discover a specific fact.

14) Correct Answer: D

In sentence 5, the writer explains that the teenage brain develops “emotion-oriented” regions before the region “that controls rational thought” matures; the proposed sentence contrasts high teenage capacity for “feelings” with low teenage capacity for “control”, thus explaining a consequence of the fact noted in sentence 5. Choose D and eliminate A and B, which would divide up the introductory discussion of the principles behind teenage rebellion. The proposed sentence is not a CONSEQUENCE of why teenagers “seek out their own choices,” but a REASON for this tendency. Thus, the placement in C is illogical.

15) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should refer to the disreputable or “illicit” activities mentioned in the previous paragraph: D is thus the best answer. Both A and C mistake the verb “elicit” (meaning “to call forth” or “to provoke”) for the adjective “illicit”, while B wrongly uses an adverb to modify a noun.

16) Correct Answer: C

While A (“things”) and D are awkward and colloquial, B is needlessly wordy and somewhat redundant, since an uphill battle will often be a “losing” or at least difficult battle. Only B concisely and effectively criticizes the “efforts” for not producing desired effects.

17) Correct Answer: B

The previous sentence criticizes “efforts” that are directed at students: while A wrongly assumes that the efforts target parents, B explains that students at different academic levels have negative reactions to the programs. Choose this answer and eliminate C (which expresses uncertainty) and D (which does not list SPECIFIC reasons or reactions that would indicate why the efforts fail).

18) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole deals with the topic of teenagers who break rules: well-behaved teenagers (A), the writer’s own life (B), and toddlers (C) would be mostly irrelevant to this discussion. D begins the paragraph by raising the possibility of a rule “being invaded” and is thus the best answer.

19) Correct Answer: B

While the phrasing in A creates a run-on sentence with two main clauses, B introduces an effective transition to refer back to the “scientist”, Kristin Laurin. Choose this answer and eliminate C (since “that” would be more appropriate to a thing) and D (which wrongly introduces a plural pronoun).

20) Correct Answer: B

Despite the original phrasing, the two sentences should introduce a contrast relationship, since the idea of ending up on the “wrong path” is contrasted with an idea that a “special” teenager can “prevail”. B is thus the

best answer. A (which lacks a clear transition), C (similarity), and D (cause and effect) create faulty relationships when connecting the ideas and must be eliminated.

21) Correct Answer: C

Overall, the relevant paragraph describes bullying simulation programs: C, which refers to a manner in which “students” can be helped, is an appropriate answer. A (age and development), B (severity of transgressions), and D (adulthood) either avoid this main topic or refer to topics from elsewhere in the passage, and should thus be eliminated.

22) Correct Answer: D

The subject of the underlined verb is the singular “each student” (since “in . . . groups”) is an interrupting phrase that must be temporarily disregarded. Eliminate A and B (plural), and watch out for the logical trap in C: this answer would wrongly indicate that the bullying simulation is STILL going on. Only D, the correct answer, is a singular past tense.

Passage 3, “The Freelancer’s Dilemma”

23) Correct Answer: D

The underlined pronoun should describe a situation that can be hard: “it”, D, is an effective choice. A would wrongly describe the people working from home as “hard”, B would wrongly describe “comforts” as hard, and C would wrongly describe a singular person (“you”) as “hard”.

24) Correct Answer: B

In the relevant sentence, the act of differentiating refers to TWO things: A refers to three things or more, while B is appropriate for pairs. C (which would indicate that the things are being spread) and D (which separates the things rather than pairing them, and in any case breaks the standard English idiom) must be eliminated.

25) Correct Answer: A

The sentence that contains the underlined portion follows a discussion of the “fields” that use freelancers, and itself explains how some fields are being transformed into “freelancer-based industries”. The writer is thus providing additional information: A is the best answer. B wrongly assumes a contrast, C wrongly assumes a criticism, and D wrongly indicates that the reader would be highly familiar with the context of the discussion, a possibility that the writer never suggests at this point.

26) Correct Answer: B

In A and C, the writer introduces wordy phrasings and a few out-of-place elements of the standard phrase “not only . . . but also”. B properly links two facts that are “undeniable”, while D creates an awkward wording and appears to indicate that the “economy”, not a situation, is undeniable.

27) Correct Answer: B

The underlined verb should refer to the plural noun “drawbacks”: eliminate the singular form in A. To determine the correct tense, keep in mind that the drawbacks began receiving attention in the past and are still receiving attention: C indicates only past action and D indicates only present action. B, however, indicates action that continues from the past into the present and is thus the correct answer.

28) Correct Answer: D

The paragraph as a whole describes the problems that face freelancers, particularly the competitive and insecure work market: while A refers to a positive of freelancing, D properly indicates that a “small measure of job security” is a problem for freelancers. B refers to the isolated example of “young people” (not to the paragraph’s broader topic of limited job security) while C discusses overall workforce productivity (not the individual problems that freelancers face).

29) Correct Answer: A

The common English expression “a moment’s notice” is used in this case and requires a singular possessive: A is thus the best answer. B and D would refer to plural “moments” (not to the singular required by the context), while C is not a possessive.

30) Correct Answer: C

The descriptive phrase “as a matter of economic sense” should be offset from the rest of the sentence by two commas. C is the best answer: A and B wrongly pair the first comma (“that, as”) with a different unit of punctuation, while D would wrongly use only a single comma to break the subject-verb phrase “industries . . . favor”.

31) Correct Answer: D

For the underlined portion, A offers a negative but is extremely vague, B refers back to earlier problems but does not offer a clear or new example, and C indicates (as already established in the passage) that freelancers work from home. Only D introduces a “specific example” by explaining the problems that freelancers might face in the absence of deadlines.

32) Correct Answer: B

When paired with “have”, the irregular verb “to begin” must take the form “have . . . begun”. B is thus the best answer: A is a simple past tense, and C and D are present tenses that cannot be paired with “have”.

33) Correct Answer: C

Because good work habits “can be contagious”, freelancers can be motivated by an “environment of diligent workers”. The sentence should thus be kept because it explains why freelancers benefit from banding together, and thus supports the paragraph’s main point. Choose C and eliminate A (which assumes that the

sentence is irrelevant). B and D both assume that the sentence goes AGAINST the main idea of the paragraph, and should be eliminated for this reason.

Passage 4, “Canine Minds: The Evolution of Man’s Best Friend”

34) Correct Answer: D

Phrases involving comparison will use “than” instead of “then”: eliminate A and C, then eliminate B (“longer more”) for wrongly combining two comparison words. D creates the logical and grammatically correct phrase “longer than” and is thus the best choice.

35) Correct Answer: A

The standard idiom describing “amounts” in this context is “in . . . amounts” (as in “in large amounts” or “in small amounts”), so that A is the best answer. B, C, and D all present prepositions that typically describe PLACE, not QUANTITY, and should thus be eliminated.

36) Correct Answer: D

Both A and B mention cats, which are nowhere discussed in the paragraph that follows: eliminate these answers. While C misstates the topic of the paragraph (how dogs understand humans, NOT how humans consciously communicate with dogs), D phrases the topic effectively and is thus the best answer.

37) Correct Answer: D

The underlined portion should be in parallel with “splitting” and “mirroring”: D, “merging”, is the best answer. While A and B introduce verb forms that break parallelism, C introduces a past-tense form that is an inappropriate match for “splitting” and “mirroring”.

38) Correct Answer: D

The chart indicates that the percentage of favorable interactions with humans among the foxes increases with each generation. D properly indicates this increase, while A and C would only be appropriate to decreases and B would only be appropriate if the situation had not changed at all.

39) Correct Answer: A

The chart indicates that, by the fourth generation, most silver foxes will interact positively with humans: this “majority” justifies A as the best answer. B understates the results, C overstates the results (which indicate that over 50% interacted positively, not that ALL did), and D wrongly assumes that the chart lists the number of foxes involved in the experiment (when in fact only the percentages are listed).

40) Correct Answer: D

The standard English idiom for “capable” is “capable of”, not “capable to”: eliminate A. B and C both wrongly use the adjectives “accurate” and “consistent” to modify the verb “responding”, while D introduces adverbs and is thus the best answer.

41) Correct Answer: C

While the paragraph focuses on how canines react to humans, the proposed sentence considers the different reaction of human fear: this content is thus irrelevant to the main point. Choose C and eliminate A and B for these reasons: D raises the topic of “cats”, which is not a major consideration, and is thus inappropriate here.

42) Correct Answer: A

As indicated by the verb “learned”, the sentence requires a simple past tense: choose A to establish agreement of tenses. Eliminate B (past into present), C (remote past), and D (continuous past action) as irrelevant to the main content (completed action) of the sentence.

43) Correct Answer: B

In order to fulfill the conditions in the prompt, the underlined sentence should indicate the “soundness of the experiment”. While A and D introduce strong negatives, C expresses uncertainty about the validity of the results. Only B indicates that it is “difficult to find fault” with the experiment and is thus highly positive as demanded by the prompt.

44) Correct Answer: C

While paragraph 3 introduces Bleyaev’s experiment, paragraph 5 assesses the experiment and discusses its significance. Paragraph 3 should thus logically lead into paragraph 5, since paragraph 4 does not discuss Bleyaev at all. C is thus the best answer. A and B would continue to split the discussion of Bleyaev, while D would place analysis of the experiment BEFORE the experiment’s logical introduction.