



ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

A Literary Magazine

[1]

Whether or not wanting to work for *Fairground*,
¹
you have to be willing to push yourself. The editors of

our triannual literary magazine is kept busy all year
²
with a wide variety of tasks.

[2]

Our year begins in July, with fund-raising and promotion for the magazine, which presents a mixture of poetry, short stories, and essays. Our office fills up with subscription forms and fliers that we must sort, bundle,
³
and tote to the post office to be mailed.

[3]

In August, we send letters to our favorite authors, inviting them to send manuscripts. Meanwhile, we're receiving unsolicited submissions from other writers. During September and October,

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. If you want to work for *Fairground*,
C. Wanting to work for *Fairground*, if you do,
D. Having decided whether or not you want to work for *Fairground*,

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. keeps
H. are kept
J. has been keeping

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. fliers, these we must
C. fliers these we have to
D. fliers, we must

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

1 we read and evaluate hundreds of manuscripts. 4

[4]

Some offerings are scrawled in pencil; others, are expertly typed. Some arrive with letters proclaiming the writer's genius; others may be written even more illegibly. We base our decisions only on the work itself. 5 6

Actual typesetting will come later. The editors 7

agree that every issue has to be good and has to 8

reflect and show the varied diversity of the United States. 9

Within they're policy that's plenty of room for discussion, 10

and editors have to be ready to sprint the distance favoring their choices. 11

[5]

By November, we have selected enough material to fill three issues. Once we've found artwork suitable for the covers, editorial production, begins. We plan 12

4. Which choice should the writer use to create the clearest and most logical transition to Paragraph 4?
 - F. NO CHANGE
 - G. the leaves fall faster than the manuscripts piling up on our desks.
 - H. you can imagine it's different from back in August.
 - J. they see hundreds of manuscript readings and evaluations.
5.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. pencil others
 - C. pencil; others
 - D. pencil so others,
6. Given that all are true, which of the choices creates the most logical and appropriate contrast in this sentence?
 - F. NO CHANGE
 - G. can't appreciate how much work our editors put in.
 - H. come with apologies for taking up our time.
 - J. arrive folded up and dog-eared.
7.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. The typesetting comes in much later.
 - C. Typesetting is handled later on.
 - D. OMIT the underlined portion.
8.
 - F. NO CHANGE
 - G. more good
 - H. positively well
 - J. as well as we can make it
9.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. reflect and show the cultural diversity of a multi-cultural
 - C. mirror and reflect the diversity of a diverse
 - D. reflect the cultural diversity of the
10.
 - F. NO CHANGE
 - G. our policy their is
 - H. that policy theirs
 - J. that policy there's
11.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. argue spiritedly for
 - C. contend the spirit of
 - D. be argumentative to
12.
 - F. NO CHANGE
 - G. editorial production begin.
 - H. we begin, editorial production.
 - J. editorial production begins.

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the contents of the year's issues, page by page.

13

It may snow just after New Year's Day; the first issue is mailed to a typesetter. While that issue is being set, we complete the next one's layout. Thus, as soon as an issue comes back from the typesetter for proofreading, the next can go in for typesetting.

By this time, there's plenty of material for three issues.

14

After the proofreading is done, each issue is sent to a printer, who prints it, binds it, and delivers it to our door. Our office fills up again with the printed copies, ready to be mailed to subscribers, reviewers, and contributors. Finally, in midsummer, we ship out our third and final issue—just in time to begin another publishing year.

13. A. NO CHANGE
B. years issues,
C. years issues
D. issue's for the year,

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. After what may be a snowy New Year's Day but not by much
H. Shortly thereafter New Year's Day,
J. Just after New Year's Day,

15. A. NO CHANGE
B. Three issues' worth of material has already been selected.
C. We have chosen material sufficient for all three issues.
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

PASSAGE II

Are Wolves Making a Comeback?

[1]

[1] At dawn a hunter crept across a steep,

wooded, pine-covered slope in northwest Wyoming.

16

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. sloping, pine-covered hill
H. pine-covered slope
J. slanting, pine-covered slope

[2] He was searching for signs of elk when he noticed an

17

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. elk when noticing
C. elk, when
D. elk, when seeing

unusual track, broad as a human hand, in the fresher fallen

18

18. F. NO CHANGE
G. freshly fallened
H. newly fallen
J. newer falling

snow. [3] He thought it might have been made

19

19. A. NO CHANGE
B. might of
C. could of
D. could

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

[2]

[1] Even though wolves supposedly disappeared from the area years ago, the hunter's story was not unusual. [2] Many reports, most of them filed by hunters have recounted howlings, tracks, and possible wolf kills (that is, animals killed by wolves). [3] A few people even claim to have stood face-to-face with wolves before the animals faded into black timber. [23] [4] The United States Forest Service has verified thirty reports of wolf sightings in the past decade in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest.

[3]

According to Forest Service officials, the Rocky Mountain gray wolf was common throughout most of Wyoming in the 1860s and 1870s. However, ranchers and government "wolfers" made a concerted effort to eliminate the predators by trapping and poisoning them.

them. [25]

[4]

Wolves are now classified as an endangered species in all the lower forty-eight states except Minnesota, after which the animals began migrating from Canada in the 1960s. There is also a sizable population of wolves just north of the Montana border. Biologists believe that the recent flurry of possible wolf sightings in Wyoming may indicate that a few wolves are moving south.

- 20. Which choice provides the most specific transition to the next paragraph?
F. NO CHANGE
G. someone else.
H. a wolf.
J. a large animal.
- 21. A. NO CHANGE
B. wolves, supposedly
C. wolves supposedly,
D. wolves' had
- 22. F. NO CHANGE
G. reports—most of them filed by hunters—
H. reports; most of them filed by hunters,
J. reports, having been filing by hunters,
- 23. Which of the following true statements, if added here, would best strengthen the assertion that wolves are present in northwest Wyoming?
A. Many other wolf sightings have no doubt gone unreported.
B. Others have mentioned seeing garbage cans tipped over and food spilled on the ground.
C. A camper's daughter imagined seeing wolf-shaped shadows near her tent at nightfall.
D. Many rangers have reported hearing the soft cry of wolf cubs in the evening.
- 24. F. NO CHANGE
G. through traps
H. with traps
J. in traps
- 25. Given that all of the following sentences are true, which one, if added here, would offer the best transition from Paragraph 3 to Paragraph 4?
A. This caused some problems for the wolves.
B. There were not too many "wolfers" employed in Wyoming, however.
C. By the turn of the century, there was scarcely a wolf left in the state.
D. The Rocky Mountain gray wolf was a majestic animal and, thus, not easily trapped.
- 26. F. NO CHANGE
G. from which
H. when
J. into which



[5]

Although Forest Service officials consider the sightings to be honestly reported, they need to confirm the presence of wolf packs and breeding pairs in the Bridger-Teton area. So, biologists decided,²⁷ to look for the wolves themselves. They have flown to elk and deer wintering areas, ridden horses and snowmobiles through the mountains, and throwing²⁸ back their heads and called out with low, moaning howls in hopes of communicating²⁹ with the wolves. Occasionally, the wolves have answered back.

- 27. A. NO CHANGE
B. So biologists decided
C. So biologists decided,
D. So biologists, decided
- 28. F. NO CHANGE
G. throw
H. threw
J. even thrown
- 29. A. NO CHANGE
B. to hope to communicate
C. in hopes to communicate
D. in hope's communication

Question 30 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 30. In order to explain why it is not ordinarily dangerous for people to be near wolves, the writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:
(Contrary to popular belief, wolves rarely attack humans.)
If added, this sentence would most logically be placed after:
F. Sentence 3 in Paragraph 1.
G. Sentence 2 in Paragraph 2.
H. Sentence 4 in Paragraph 2.
J. the first sentence in Paragraph 3.

PASSAGE III

The Suzuki Method

In the early 1930s, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki³¹ was teaching violin at the Imperial Conservatory in Japan, a father brought in his four-year-old son for lessons. Although³² Suzuki had never taught anyone so young, he reluctantly agreed to accept the tiny violin student.

As he pondered what training might work for this preschooler, Suzuki began to think about how young

- 31. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Dr. Shinichi Suzuki taught
 C. that Dr. Shinichi Suzuki was teaching
 D. while Dr. Shinichi Suzuki was teaching
- 32. At this point in the essay, the writer wants to show that Dr. Suzuki did not feel prepared to teach music at the preschool level. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best conveys that message?
 E. NO CHANGE
 F. Generally, conservatory students were between seventeen and twenty-five years of age, and he
 H. Given the fact that his music students were much older, he deliberately
 J. After conversing with the boy's parents, he

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children learn to use language in very sophisticated ways. He suspected that this miraculous-seeming process

may or may not offer valuable insights into how all learning occurs, including learning to play a musical instrument.

[1] Immersion was already understood to be a key to a child's language development by Suzuki.

[2] Newborns are immersed in language. [3] Babies first attempts at speech generate excited responses from adults who encourage and guide the children toward more precise and complex speech. [4] Teachers provide in-depth language understanding, and children are rewarded for improving his or her communication skills. [5] Based on these realizations, Suzuki

developed an awareness of how children learn language.

[6] His program has since grown into an internationally

acclaimed philosophy of music education. [39]

In the Suzuki method, students are immersed in music. Each day students and their families listen to

33. A NO CHANGE
B Nevertheless, he suspected
C He suspected, however,
D Instead, he suspected

34. A NO CHANGE
B might offer
C could suggest important
D might indeed provide one with

35. A NO CHANGE
B As Suzuki already understood, that immersion is a key to a child's language development.
C Suzuki already understood that immersion is a key to a child's language development.
D A key to a child's language development, Suzuki already understood that it was immersion.

36. A NO CHANGE
B Baby's
C Babys
D Babies'

37. A NO CHANGE
B one's
C there
D their

38. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would provide the most effective link between Sentences 4 and 6?

A NO CHANGE
B developed a unique approach to violin studies.
C transferred his knowledge into something positive.
D decided to see where this information might acquire more additional applications.

39. The writer is considering adding the following true statement to this paragraph:

Babies begin to coordinate hand and eye movements early in life.

Should the sentence be added to this paragraph, and if so, where should it be placed?

A Yes, after Sentence 1.
B Yes, after Sentence 2.
C Yes, after Sentence 3.
D The sentence should NOT be added.

40. A NO CHANGE
B music, and that each
C music and that each
D music, each

recorded music that at a future date the students later learn on an instrument. When the time comes to play a composition, the student already feels intimately familiar with it. The child's early musical accomplishments are greeted with enthusiasm. Lessons provide expert assistance; group sessions and concerts reward students with opportunities to share music.

Even so, for a long time, Suzuki encouraged students and teachers alike to strive toward lifelong learning. Worldwide, he promoted the idea that every child possesses the potential to develop musical talent and for the joys of achievement.

All that his teaching inspired are enriched, who hear the beautiful music.

41. A. NO CHANGE
 B. subsequently
 C. before long
 D. OMIT the underlined portion.

42. E. NO CHANGE
 F. rewarded
 G. had rewarded
 H. in rewarding

43. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would provide the most effective introductory phrase?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. Recurrently with time,
 C. For many decades,
 D. For scores of years then,

44. I. NO CHANGE
 J. the joys of achievement can be experienced.
 K. for experiencing the joys of achievement.
 L. to experience the joys of achievement.

45. A. NO CHANGE
 B. that his teaching inspired who hear the beautiful music are enriched.
 C. who hear the beautiful music that his teaching inspired are enriched.
 D. are enriched by hearing the beautiful music of which his teaching inspired.

PASSAGE IV

The Beltway: Washington's Expressway

If you visit our nation's capital, recently, as I did, you will probably plan trips to several of the famous memorials there, many of which you have probably seen on television. These celebrated landmarks were designed to inspire

feelings of patriotism and pride. Nevertheless, the structure I remember most vividly from my trip was an expressway

46. F. NO CHANGE
 G. recently visit our nation's capital, as I did,
 H. visit recently, as I did, our nation's capital,
 J. visit our nation's capital, as I did recently,
47. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would conclude this sentence by providing the clearest examples of some of the attractions that are available in the nation's capital?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. including the ones that are readily recognizable to us.
 C. including the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.
 D. those structures that potentially add to the history of the capital.
48. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Therefore,
 H. As a result,
 J. In addition,

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

called the Washington Beltway, which seems to be a memorial to the frenzied and crazy lunacy of modern life.

This expressway resembles an ordinary highway about as much as a space shuttle resembles an airplane. At ten lanes wide, they are much larger than the bypass loops I have driven around Indianapolis and Cincinnati. The

beltway is also far more busier, perhaps because it extends through two populous states—Virginia and

Maryland—and intersecting with many lesser highways.

It's also fast, the thousands of Washingtonians who dash from home to work and back sometimes ignore the posted

speed limit. The one, redeeming, feature of the beltway is that it's impossible to get lost on it. If you keep driving long enough, you will eventually circle the city and return to the point where you began. 55

As I've already mentioned, I was on a visit to Washington. I was staying with friends in their suburban Virginia home, and I asked them for help with alternate, more scenic routes. But by their puzzled looks, I realized

49. A. NO CHANGE
B. frenzy of modern
C. frenzy of modern contemporary
D. confused disarray of

50. F. NO CHANGE
G. it is
H. it was
J. they were

51. A. NO CHANGE
B. far busier,
C. more busier,
D. most busiest,

52. F. NO CHANGE
G. but intersects
H. and intersects
J. and

53. A. NO CHANGE
B. It's also fast:
C. Its also fast:
D. Its also fast,

54. F. NO CHANGE
G. one redeeming, feature of the beltway
H. one redeeming feature of the beltway,
J. one redeeming feature of the beltway

55. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Atlanta and Houston also are surrounded by such giant loop highways.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it informs the reader that such highways are not unique to Washington, D.C.
B. Yes, because it helps the reader to better understand what the beltway looks like.
C. No, because it distracts the reader from the main focus of the paragraph.
D. No, because it is inconsistent with the tone and style of the essay.

56. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would most effectively introduce this paragraph?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. Initially, I planned to avoid driving on the beltway.
H. The hustle and bustle was evident everywhere I went.
J. The beltway seems to turn official Washington into an island.

they had surrendered to the beltway long ago. Graciously, I

57

learned to navigate this expressway. I approach it as if it were an unpredictable natural force that required careful

58

monitoring. Was it congested? Overcrowded? Moving freely? Blocked completely? What about construction zones? The radio provided me with frequent updates. Just as some people on vacation like to keep a close watch on the weather, I wanted to keep track of beltway conditions.

I'm not sure how much American history I learned on my trip, as my powers of concentration were taxed merely reading road signs. 60

57. A. NO CHANGE
B. Carefully, however,
C. So, unhappily,
D. In fact,

58. F. NO CHANGE
G. approached it,
H. approached it
J. approach it,

59. A. NO CHANGE
B. Jammed with cars?
C. Proceeding smoothly?
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

60. Which of the following sentences, if added here, would provide the best conclusion to the paragraph and is most consistent with the main focus of the essay?
- F. However, my ability to merge in traffic improved immensely!
- G. Nevertheless, I did learn a lot about the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial.
- H. Washington's celebrated landmarks are truly inspirational.
- J. Opportunities, nevertheless, for learning this history abound in our nation's capital.

PASSAGE V

Modern Uses for Old Ways

[1] At first glance, Jane Mt. Pleasant's garden plots look a total mess. [2] The ground being bumpy with mounds and covered with old leaves.

61

[3] Beans hang on the cornstalks, and squash vines

had sprawled everywhere. [4] But this apparent

62

chaos is the subject of scientific research. [5] Mt.

63

61. A. NO CHANGE
B. was bumpy with mounds and is
C. is bumpy with mounds and
D. bumpy with mounds and

62. F. NO CHANGE
G. sprawl
H. sprawled
J. could have sprawled

63. A. NO CHANGE
B. chaos, is the subject
C. chaos is the subject,
D. chaos: is the subject

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

1 Pleasant's gardens are modeled ⁶⁴for those grown by the Iroquois and other Native peoples. [6] The data the gardens are yielding may provide evidence to support the use of old methods to improve modern agriculture. [65]

A Cornell University agronomist and an Iroquois herself, Jane Mt. Pleasant questions some of modern agriculture's practices, and she has a Ph.D. degree. Many farmers and agronomists believe that the recent boom in

crop production in the last few years—⁶⁷fueled by the intensive use of farmland and increased dependence on herbicides and pesticides—⁶⁸have come with hidden costs. Soil erosion and pollution have put our food supply and our health at risk. [69]

The Iroquois method begins with corn being planted at three-foot intervals. Later, soil ⁷⁰had been mounded around the young stalks, ⁷¹enhancing drainage and warming

64. F. NO CHANGE
G. on
H. as
J. by
65. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 6 should be placed:
A. where it is now.
B. after Sentence 1.
C. after Sentence 2.
D. after Sentence 3.
66. At this point, the writer wants to add a statement that would lead into the sentence that follows it. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would best accomplish that purpose?
F. NO CHANGE
G. her concern is shared by others.
H. she's enjoyed gardening since she was a child.
J. her opinions are based on scientific research.
67. A. NO CHANGE
B. production of late—
C. production lately—
D. production—
68. F. NO CHANGE
G. has
H. are
J. OMIT the underlined portion.
69. Which of the following sentences, if added at this point, would both reinforce the conclusions presented in the essay and create an effective transition to the next paragraph?
A. Iroquois farming techniques, however, offer possible solutions to such problems.
B. Many diseases have a direct link to these toxins in our air, land, and water.
C. Certain farming practices have been employed by the Iroquois people.
D. These social problems must be resolved one way or another.
70. F. NO CHANGE
G. has been
H. was
J. is
71. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. stalks because of enhancing drainage and warming
B. stalks in order to enhance drainage and warm
C. stalks, which enhances drainage and warms
D. stalks. This enhances drainage and warms

1 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ 1

the soil. Beans are then planted on the mounds, and squash
is planted between the mounds. ⁷²

Corn, beans, and squash—
all of which might be grown in your garden—
work as a team. ⁷³ The corn stalks support the bean vines, the nitrogen-fixing roots of the beans enrich the soil, and the squashes' broad leaves stifle the weeds. After the harvest, the remains of the plants are left to rot, further enriching the soil and reducing the potential for erosion. Mt. Pleasant has found that total crop production in her experimental plots rivals that of high-tech, single-crop farming. Her research is helping farmers make better decisions about planting soil-protecting cover crops.

Perhaps the best endorsement of the Iroquois
"three-sisters" system is that it has worked for over four
centuries. ⁷⁴ Mt. Pleasant notes, "It is a balance between production and soil protection."

72. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- F. mounds, while squash
 - G. mounds. Squash
 - H. mounds; squash
 - J. mounds squash
73. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would provide information that is most relevant and meaningful to the essay as a whole?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. which could make a nice vegetarian dish—
 - C. the Iroquois "three sisters"—
 - D. representing various food families—

74. F. NO CHANGE
G. system, is
H. system is,
J. system is:

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

75. Suppose the writer had chosen to write a brief essay about an example of how the past can inform the present. Would this essay successfully fulfill the writer's goal?
- A. Yes, because the essay compares the traditional techniques of three-sisters farming to the high-tech methods of modern farming.
 - B. Yes, because the essay describes how the traditional farming practices of the Iroquois people can offer ways to improve modern agriculture.
 - C. No, because the essay presents the theories of Jane Mt. Pleasant, who is currently an agronomist at Cornell University and, therefore, not a reflection of the past.
 - D. No, because the essay describes the planting of cover crops, which has always been a common practice among farmers.

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

END OF TEST 1

ENGLISH • PRACTICE TEST 3 • EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Passage I

Question 1. The best answer is **B** because the subordinate (dependent) clause “If you want to work for *Fairground*,” logically precedes the independent clause and provides sound sentence structure. The result is the clearest, most logical, most concise sentence to open this essay.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the phrase “Whether or not wanting to work” is unclear and confusing. The inappropriate use of the participle (*wanting*) instead of the appropriate verb form (*you want*) makes the information in this sentence ambiguous.

C because it also inappropriately uses the participle *wanting* and sets up a confusing independent-dependent clause relationship. In addition, the phrase “if you do” is unnecessarily wordy.

D because it creates an illogical and ambiguous statement. If you read the entire sentence carefully, you will see that it makes no sense to say, “you have to be willing to push yourself” if you have already decided whether or not you want to work for a literary magazine.

Question 2. The best answer is **H** because it provides a verb that is in agreement with the subject of this sentence. The plural verb form *are kept* is required because the subject *editors* is plural.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the verb *is kept* is singular, but a plural form is required to maintain subject-verb agreement.

G because *keeps* is also a singular verb and does not agree with the plural subject *editors*.

J because the singular verb *has been keeping* does not agree with the plural subject *editors*.

Question 3. The best answer is **A** because the relative pronoun *that* appropriately introduces the essential clause that begins “that we must sort, bundle, and tote.” This clause modifies and appropriately follows the compound noun “subscription forms and fliers.”

The best answer is NOT:

B because it creates a comma splice (two independent clauses separated only by a comma). The pronoun *these* is the subject of the second independent clause.

C because it creates a run-on, or fused, sentence (two independent clauses that run together with no conjunction or punctuation between them). The second sentence should begin with the pronoun *these*.

D because it is incorrect in the same way that B is. It creates a comma splice.

Question 4. The best answer is **F** because it creates the clearest and most logical transition to the next paragraph by referring to the process of evaluating manuscripts, a topic that is introduced in Paragraph 3 and is also the subject of Paragraph 4.

The best answer is NOT:

G because even though it refers to manuscripts, it fails to pass the “clearest . . . transition to Paragraph 4” test. The use of the falling-leaves metaphor to describe the manuscripts that are arriving at the magazine’s office is never explained and makes no sense in the context of either paragraph.

H because the shift from the first-person point of view (*we*) to the second person (*you*) is illogical and distracting to the reader. In addition, this choice is a poor transition because it is a vague generalization that adds no new information to the essay.

J because it makes an illogical shift in number from the first-person plural *we* to the third-person plural *they*. Notice that the text in the first two sentences of Paragraph 3 clearly establishes the first-person viewpoint: “In August, we send letters” and “Meanwhile, we’re receiving unsolicited submissions.”

Question 5. The best answer is **C** because it correctly uses a semicolon to separate these two independent but related clauses. A semicolon is used between independent clauses unless they are joined by a conjunction (*and*, *but*, *or*, etc.).

The best answer is NOT:

A because even though it uses a semicolon to separate the clauses, it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the subject *others* and the verb *are typed* in the second clause.

B because it creates a run-on, or fused, sentence. There is no punctuation or conjunction (connecting word) between the two independent clauses.

D because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the subject *others* and the verb *are typed*. In addition, the conjunction *so* creates an illogical connection between the two independent clauses.

Question 6. The best answer is **H** because the question asks for the “most logical and appropriate contrast in this sentence.” **H** meets this criterion because it contrasts submission letters in which the writer expresses overconfidence (“proclaiming the writer’s genius”) with letters in which the writer expresses lack of confidence (“apologies for taking up our time”).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it attempts to make a contrast, but the attempted contrast—letters proclaiming genius with manuscripts that are illegible—is not logical.

G because it does not make a contrast; rather, it adds a second, but unrelated, description of the types of letters that arrive on the editors’ desks.

J because the problem here is similar to the problem in **F**. There is an attempt to make a contrast, but it is a weak contrast because the second clause of the sentence focuses on the physical appearance of the submission letters and not on their content.

ENGLISH • PRACTICE TEST 3 • EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Question 7. The best answer is **D** because the other choices do not logically fit in this paragraph and distract the reader. Leaving out the information about typesetting here provides for a more unified, better-focused paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the proposed sentence does not logically fit with the other sentences in this paragraph. Information about how the magazine will be typeset is irrelevant to the paragraph, which focuses on the submissions and editorial decisions.

B because it is incorrect for the same reason that **A** is. It adds irrelevant and distracting information.

C because it is incorrect for the same reasons that **A** and **B** are.

Question 8. The best answer is **F** because it provides the correct adjective form (*good*). Because no comparison is implied here and a predicate adjective (an adjective occurring after a linking verb) is required, *good* is the best word to use.

The best answer is NOT:

G because *more good* is not a correct comparative adjective form. *Better* would be the appropriate word to use if there were a comparison, but in this sentence, there is no comparison.

H because “positively well” is an adverb, but an adjective is required here to modify the noun *issue*.

J because *well* is an adverb and the adjective *good* is needed here. In addition, this choice is unnecessarily wordy.

Question 9. The best answer is **D** because it states the idea most clearly and concisely. It does not repeat the same idea twice, and it does not add unnecessary words to the sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant (repeats an idea) and wordy (adds unnecessary words). The verbs *reflect* and *show* mean about the same thing, and the phrase “varied diversity” is also redundant.

B because it, too, is redundant. The verbs *reflect* and *show* mean about the same thing. In addition, the phrase “the cultural diversity of a multicultural United States” is pointlessly repetitive.

C because it is incorrect in a way that is similar to the problems in **A** and **B**. In this case, the phrase “mirror and reflect” is redundant, as is “diversity of a diverse United States.”

Question 10. The best answer is J because the contraction *there's*, which means *there is*, is required here. Also, in the sentence's opening phrase, "Within that policy," the demonstrative pronoun *that* is appropriate because it refers to a particular thing (*policy*).

The best answer is NOT:

F because *they're* is a contraction that means *they are*, while a possessive pronoun (*their*) is needed here. One way to check to see if a contraction is misused is to read the sentence, inserting the meaning of the contraction. In this case, if we begin the sentence "Within *they are* policy," we can quickly see why F is an incorrect choice.

G because *their* is a possessive pronoun, but a contraction (*there's*) is required in this sentence.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that G is. The possessive pronoun *theirs* is mistakenly used in place of the contraction *there's*.

Question 11. The best answer is B because it uses the clearest language to make the writer's point. By saying that the "editors have to be ready to argue spiritedly for their choices," the writer clearly describes the process of making editorial decisions at the magazine. This choice also maintains the style and tone of this essay.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is ambiguous and unclear. Given the text that precedes this sentence, the reader cannot know what is meant by the statement "editors have to be ready to sprint the distance favoring their choices."

C because it is incoherent. The phrase "contend the spirit of their choices" makes no sense.

D because it also results in an incoherent statement. The problem here is the misuse of the preposition *to*: "editors have to be ready to be argumentative *to* their choices." It is doubtful that the editors would be making an argument *to* something inanimate.

Question 12. The best answer is J because it provides appropriate subject-verb agreement and removes all unnecessary commas.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the subject *editorial production* and the predicate *begins*.

G because it is incorrect because the plural verb *begin* does not agree with the singular subject of this sentence (*editorial production*).

H because it is incorrect because it places an unnecessary and confusing comma between the predicate verb *begin* and its direct object (*editorial production*).

ENGLISH ■ PRACTICE TEST 3 ■ EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Question 13. The best answer is **A** because it provides the required punctuation. The issues are “of the year,” so the apostrophe with the singular noun—“the *year’s* issues”—is appropriate.

The best answer is NOT:

B because the word *years* lacks the necessary apostrophe.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that B is. The apostrophe in *years* is missing. Also, in this sentence a comma after *issues* is needed to avoid ambiguity.

D because an apostrophe in the plural *issues* is not appropriate.

Question 14. The best answer is **J** because it is the clearest, most logical, and most concise wording for this sentence. It provides a clear time marker (“Just after New Year’s Day”) for the action described in the main clause (“the first issue is mailed to a typesetter”).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it adds information that is irrelevant to this sentence and the paragraph. Information suggesting that “It may snow just after New Year’s Day” is not relevant to process of getting the magazines ready for subscribers.

G because it, too, contains irrelevant information about the weather. It is also unnecessarily wordy.

H because it is unclear and confusing. The phrase “Shortly thereafter New Year’s Day” is not grammatical.

Question 15. The best answer is **D** because it makes the paragraph coherent and concise. Adding information at this point about there being three issues’ worth of material would disrupt the flow of this narrative about putting together an issue.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant (that is, it repeats a statement). The first sentence in Paragraph 5 explains that there is “enough material to fill three issues,” and there is no need to restate this.

B because it is incorrect for the same reason that A is. It is repetitive. This same information has already appeared in the first sentence of this paragraph.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that A and B are. Adding the sentence here would create a redundancy.

Passage II

Question 16. The best answer is H because it uses the clearest, most concise language for this description. The phrase “a steep, pine-covered slope” provides a clear and precise image with no unnecessary words.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it contains a redundancy. (It repeats information.) The word *wooded* doesn't add any information that's not already provided by the word *pine-covered*.

G because it also creates a redundancy. In this choice, the hill is described as both *steep* and *sloping*. Because these words have similar meanings, the sentence is unnecessarily repetitious.

J because it, too, is redundant. The phrase “a steep, slanting, pine-covered slope” is wordy and repetitious. The words *steep*, *slanting*, and *slope* all provide the same information for the reader.

Question 17. The best answer is A because the verb in the subordinate, or dependent, clause is in the past tense (*noticed*) and logically follows the verb (*was searching*) in the main clause.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it is not clear who is doing the *noticing*. Because the dependent clause has no subject, the reader does not know if the hunter or the elk was “noticing an unusual track.”

C because the dependent clause, which begins with *when*, has neither a subject nor a verb. The result is an unclear, illogical statement.

D because it is incorrect in the same way that B is. The reader does not know who is *seeing*.

Question 18. The best answer is H because it provides the correct adverb and adjective (*newly fallen*) combination to describe the *snow*. An adverb modifies a verb or an adjective; an adjective generally modifies a noun. In this sentence, the adverb *newly* modifies the adjective *fallen*, which then modifies the noun *snow*.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the comparative adjective *fresher* is inappropriate because no comparison is suggested in the sentence.

G because although the adverb *freshly* is used properly, the word *fallened* is not grammatically acceptable. The correct past participle verb form (which can be used as an adjective) is *fallen*.

J because while *falling* is an appropriate way to describe *snow*, the comparative adjective *newer* is inappropriate because no comparison is suggested in this sentence.

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Question 19. The best answer is **A** because it provides the correct verb form (“might have been made”) for this subordinate (dependent) clause.

The best answer is NOT:

B because “might of been made” is not an acceptable verb form, although “might’ve been made” is. *Of* is not an auxiliary (helping) verb.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that **B** is. “Could of been made” is not an acceptable verb form.

D because “could been made” has no auxiliary (helping) verb and is therefore not an acceptable verb form.

Question 20. The best answer is **H**. Notice that the question asks for the word or phrase that provides “the most specific transition.” Of the four choices, “a wolf” is the only one that is specific and precise. This choice logically and effectively leads in to Paragraph 2, which focuses on wolf sightings.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it is vague and unspecific and does not provide a reasonable transition to the paragraph that follows.

G because it is unspecific and illogical. To say that the hunter thought the unusual track “might have been made by someone else” is so obvious as not to need saying.

J because even though “a large animal” might be logical in this context, this choice does not provide “the most specific transition to the next paragraph.”

Question 21. The best answer is **A** because the absence of punctuation in the opening clause of this sentence creates the clearest and most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

B because placing an unnecessary comma between the subject *wolves* and the adverb *supposedly* introduces a pause that makes this sentence difficult to understand.

C because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma, this time between the adverb *supposedly* and the verb it modifies, *disappeared*.

D because it places an apostrophe after the plural noun *wolves*. An apostrophe here signals that this is a possessive noun, but in this context there is no possession.

Question 22. The best answer is **G** because it appropriately sets off the parenthetical phrase “most of them filed by hunters” with dashes. Often, a phrase such as this one is set off from the main clause with commas, but dashes will also do the job.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it provides one comma only and therefore does not set off or separate this phrase from the rest of the sentence.

H because instead of using two commas (or two dashes), it wrongly uses a semicolon after the noun *reports*.

J because the verb participle form “having been filing” is unacceptable. A correct form here would have been “having been filed.”

Question 23. The best answer is **D** because, of the four choices, it best strengthens “the assertion that wolves are present in northwest Wyoming.” That “many rangers” heard the cries of wolf cubs does provide evidence that wolves are present in the area.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it offers an assumption that does not provide reasonable evidence to support the existence of wolves in the region.

B because it suggests an action (tipping over garbage cans) that could easily be attributed to other wild animals, such as bears or raccoons, or vandalizing humans for that matter.

C because it describes one individual’s imagined sighting. It does not provide solid evidence that wolves were actually seen.

Question 24. The best answer is **F** because the two coordinate elements in this sentence (*trapping* and *poisoning*) are parallel. Parallelism means that sentence elements that have the same function—in this case, *trapping* and *poisoning*—share the same grammatical form. Here, they are both present participles (verb forms ending in *-ing*).

The best answer is NOT:

G because the sentence elements in the phrase “through traps and poisoning” are not parallel. In addition, the phrase “through traps” is unclear in this context.

H because it, too, lacks parallelism. The two coordinate elements do not share the same grammatical form.

J because it is incorrect in the same way as **G** and **H** are.

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Question 25. The best answer is C because providing information that the wolves were nearly wiped out “by the turn of the century” is a logical conclusion to Paragraph 3, which describes how the wolves were eliminated. C also provides a logical link to Paragraph 4, which explains that wolves “are now classified as an endangered species.”

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is a vague generalization that fails to provide a strong conclusion to Paragraph 3 and doesn't offer any information that creates a link to Paragraph 4.

B because it focuses on “wolfers” and not on the systematic elimination of the wolves.

D because it is incorrect because it provides a weak if not illogical transition to Paragraph 4. It's hard to follow the connection between the gray wolf being “a majestic animal . . . not easily trapped” and wolves becoming an endangered species.

Question 26. The best answer is J because it is idiomatic, and it provides the wording that logically introduces the subordinate (dependent) clause in this sentence. If you read the independent clause carefully, you will see that this is the only choice that provides a clear meaning. The wolves began migrating from Canada *into* Minnesota.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it is unclear and confusing. The use of the phrase “after which” to introduce the dependent clause suggests that “the animals began migrating from Canada” *after* they were “now classified as an endangered species.”

G because the statement “from which the animals began migrating from Canada” is confusing. The reader cannot tell where the migration began.

H because it is incorrect in a way similar to that of F. This statement is illogical because it implies that “the animals began migrating from Canada” at the same time (*when*) they were “now classified as an endangered species.”

Question 27. The best answer is B because the absence of commas in this sentence provides the clearest statement.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the unnecessary commas that set off the subject and verb in this sentence confuse the reader into thinking that “biologists decided” is a parenthetical or nonessential clause, which is clearly not the case here.

C because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the verb *decided* and the infinitive phrase “to look for the wolves themselves.”

D because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the subject *biologists* and the predicate verb *decided*.

Question 28. The best answer is J because it makes the three verbs in this sentence (*have flown*, [*have*] *ridden*, and [*have*] *thrown*) parallel. The auxiliary (helping) verb *have* is implied in the last two verbs in the series. Parallelism means that sentence elements that have the same function—in this case, *flown*, *ridden*, *thrown*—share the same grammatical form.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it has faulty parallelism. In this series of compound verbs, *throwing* is not parallel with *have flown* and [*have*] *ridden*.

G because it, too, has faulty parallelism. Here, *throw* is not parallel with *have flown* and [*have*] *ridden*.

H because it is ungrammatical. In this case, [*have*] *threw* is an incorrect verb form.

Question 29. The best answer is A because it results in the clearest statement by using prepositions that are idiomatically correct in this context (“in hopes of communicating”).

The best answer is NOT:

B because it creates an ambiguous and confusing statement. Read the phrase carefully: “moaning howls to hope to communicate with the wolves” suggests that the howls have the ability to hope. The infinitives *to hope* and *to communicate* are used when prepositional phrases are better suited.

C because it, too, uses an infinitive (*to communicate*) when a prepositional phrase is more appropriate.

D because it is unclear and illogical. The phrase “in hope’s communication” makes no sense because *hope* does not possess the ability to communicate.

Question 30. The best answer is G because inserting it right after Sentence 2 in Paragraph 2 is the most logical placement for this new information. Sentence 2 mentions the issue of “possible wolf kills.” Adding information that “wolves rarely attack humans” logically follows.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the main focus of Paragraph 1 is a hunter noticing an unusual track. It would not make sense to follow this up with information about whether or not wolves attack humans.

H because the information in the new sentence does not logically follow information about “wolf sightings,” which is the topic of Sentence 4.

J because it results in a poorly organized paragraph. The two sentences in Paragraph 3 logically follow each other. Inserting another sentence on a different topic here would interrupt the flow of the paragraph.

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Passage III

Question 31. The best answer is D because it sets up a logical relationship between the clauses in this sentence. The subordinate (dependent) clause “while Dr. Shinichi Suzuki was teaching violin at the Imperial Conservatory in Japan” clarifies a time relationship. It shows that “a father brought in his . . . son for lessons” during the time that Dr. Suzuki was teaching.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it creates a comma splice (two independent clauses separated only by a comma). The phrase “a father” is the subject of the second clause.

B because it is incorrect in the same way that A is. It creates a comma splice.

C because there is no logical referent to the relative pronoun *that*.

Question 32. The best answer is F. Notice that the question asks you to choose the sentence that shows that Dr. Suzuki “did not feel prepared to teach music at the preschool level.” F is the only choice that does this because it indicates that Suzuki had never before taught a four-year-old.

The best answer is NOT:

G because although it states that Suzuki’s students “were between seventeen and twenty-five,” this choice does not say that Suzuki felt unprepared to teach someone younger.

H because it indicates that Suzuki “deliberately agreed to accept” a four-year-old, so it would be illogical to assume that he “did not feel prepared” to teach at the preschool level.

J because it makes no reference to Suzuki’s lack of preparedness to teach a preschool music student.

Question 33. The best answer is A because it provides the clearest, most logical transition from the preceding sentence to the idea expressed in this new sentence. The statement in this sentence follows logically from the statement in the preceding sentence without the help of a transitional word or phrase.

The best answer is NOT:

B because the transitional word *Nevertheless* sets up a contrast between this sentence and the preceding sentence. However, the statement in this sentence does not contrast with or oppose the statement in the preceding sentence, so this creates an illogical transition.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that B is. The transitional word *however* sets up an opposition between ideas, but no opposition exists.

D because it is incorrect because the transitional word *Instead* sets up an opposition that is illogical and nonexistent.

Question 34. The best answer is **G** because it provides the clearest, most concise wording for this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it is unnecessarily wordy. The phrase “or may not” adds nothing to the meaning of this sentence and should be deleted.

H because it repeats information to no good effect. In the phrase “important valuable insights,” the adjectives *important* and *valuable* mean about the same thing. Besides, it’s hard to imagine how a “process could suggest . . . insights.”

J because the phrase “might indeed provide one with valuable insights” is an unnecessarily wordy and stilted phrasing that is inconsistent with the style and tone of the rest of the essay.

Question 35. The best answer is **C** because it provides the clearest sentence, one that is free of errors in sentence structure and logic. In this sentence *Suzuki* is the subject because he is one who has completed the action (*understood*).

The best answer is NOT:

A because the prepositional phrase at the end of the sentence, “by Suzuki,” is misplaced. This misplacement implausibly suggests that Suzuki developed “a child’s language.” In addition, the passive voice (“Immersion was already understood”) is ineffectively used here.

B because using the pronoun *that* in the phrase “*that* immersion” is confusing, whether one reads it as a relative pronoun (introducing a relative clause) or a demonstrative pronoun (like *this* or *those*).

D because it contains a dangling modifier. When a modifying phrase introduces a sentence, the word that the phrase modifies should follow. In this sentence the introductory phrase “A key to a child’s development” is not followed by the word it modifies, which is *immersion*. Placing the proper noun *Suzuki* after the phrase creates a dangling modifier.

Question 36. The best answer is **J** because it appropriately uses the apostrophe with a plural noun to signal possession (*Babies’*). You know that *Babies’* must be plural because the sentence later refers to “the children,” which is also plural. *Babies’* needs to apostrophe to show that the “first attempts” belong to the babies.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the apostrophe after *Babies* is missing.

G because the singular *Baby’s* does not agree with the plural noun *children* that appears later in the sentence.

H because it lacks the necessary apostrophe and forms the plural incorrectly.

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Question 37. The best answer is D because the possessive plural pronoun *their* agrees with its plural referent *children*.

The best answer is NOT:

A because “his or her” are singular pronouns and therefore do not agree with the preceding plural noun *children*.

B because the possessive noun *one’s* is also singular and does not agree with the preceding plural noun *children*.

C because *there* is an adverb used to indicate place, which is clearly not what is called for here. The possessive pronoun *their* is required.

Question 38. The best answer is G. Notice that the question asks you to connect the information in Sentence 4 with the information in Sentence 6. Sentence 6 refers to Suzuki’s “philosophy of music education.” This philosophy came from Suzuki’s “unique approach to violin studies,” which is explained in this sentence and which connects back to the information in Sentence 4.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it makes no reference to music or music education, so it fails to provide an effective link to Sentence 6.

H because it is too vague and, like F, does not refer directly to Suzuki’s developing a “philosophy of music education.”

J because it is unnecessarily wordy and, at the same time, so vague as to be meaningless. In this way, it fails as an effective connecting sentence.

Question 39. The best answer is D because this information about infant development is not relevant to the topic of this paragraph, which is the development of musical ability in children. Adding this sentence would only distract the reader.

The best answer is NOT:

A because information about babies’ hand and eye movements does not logically follow from the statement in Sentence 1 about “a child’s language development.”

B because it does not logically fit at this, or any, point in the paragraph.

C because information about coordinating “hand and eye movements” does not logically follow from the statement in Sentence 3.

Question 40. The best answer is F because it separates two complete, independent clauses with the appropriate punctuation (a period).

The best answer is NOT:

G because it creates faulty subordination. It inserts the relative pronoun *that*, which creates an awkward and flawed sentence.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that G is. There are two independent clauses here with a subject and predicate for each. Inserting the pronoun *that* makes the second clause a subordinate (dependent) clause.

J because it creates a comma splice (two independent clauses separated by a comma). Independent clauses should be separated by a period or a semicolon.

Question 41. The best answer is D because it provides a clear, concise statement that is free from redundancies (repeated information).

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant. The phrase *at a future date* means the same thing as *later*, so it should be omitted from the sentence.

B because it is incorrect in the same way that A is. The words *subsequently* and *later* are unnecessarily repetitious.

C because it, too, is redundant. In this case, *before long* and *later* have essentially the same function.

Question 42. The best answer is F because the use of the present tense (*reward*) is consistent with the use of the present tense elsewhere in this paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

G because it creates an illogical tense shift from the present (the verb *provide* in the first clause in this sentence) to the past (*rewarded*).

H because it also creates an illogical tense shift—from the present to the past perfect (*had rewarded*).

J because a present tense verb (*reward*) is required, not a present participle (*rewarding*).

Question 43. The best answer is C because it is the clearest, most understandable phrase to introduce this sentence. The phrase “For many decades” provides a specific time frame for Suzuki’s work.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is vague and meaningless. The phrase “for a long time” does not give the reader any sense of the true time involved.

B because it is confusing, vague, and meaningless. The phrase “Recurrently with time” defies explanation.

D because the phrase “For scores of years then” is imprecise. In addition, the word *then* suggests a relationship with preceding information, but no such relationship exists.

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Question 44. The best answer is J because the two coordinate elements in this sentence (“to develop musical talent” and “to experience the joys of achievement”) are parallel. Parallelism means that sentence elements that serve the same function share the same grammatical form. In this case both *to develop* and *to experience* are infinitive verb forms.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the sentence elements do not have a parallel structure. The phrase “for the joys of achievement” is not parallel with “to develop musical talent.”

G because it, too, has faulty parallelism, which confuses the reader.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that F and G are.

Question 45. The best answer is C because the sentence elements are ordered in a way that creates the clearest, most understandable statement, and the modifiers are placed so that they modify the appropriate element.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the clause “who hear the beautiful music” is misplaced. This phrase modifies and should be placed after the noun *All*, which is the subject of this sentence.

B because once again the clause “who hear the beautiful music” is not placed next to the element that it modifies. The correct placement would be “All who hear the beautiful music.”

D because the relative pronoun phrase “of which” does not relate or connect the clause “his teaching inspired” to the preceding noun phrase “the beautiful music.”

Passage IV

Question 46. The best answer is J because the sentence elements are ordered in a way that creates the clearest, most understandable statement. In addition, the modifiers are placed so that they modify the appropriate element.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the adverb *recently* is misplaced and creates confusion. The narrator cannot reasonably propose that you may “visit our nation’s capital” in the future if that action has already happened in the past (*recently*).

G because once again *recently* is misplaced. This sentence results in an illogical statement: “If you recently visit our nation’s capital.” This makes no sense in terms of time because *recently* is a reference to a past event, but the verb *visit* is in the present tense.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that G is. The phrase “If you visit recently” is implausible.

Question 47. The best answer is C because it clearly answers the terms of the question by naming specific monuments in the nation's capital. Pay close attention to the question, which asks for "the clearest examples."

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is vague and unspecific and therefore does not provide the clear examples asked for in the question.

B because it is yet another vague and imprecise statement. The wording "the ones that are readily recognizable" does not provide clear examples.

D because "structures that potentially add to the history of the capital" could be any of hundreds of buildings in the nation's capital.

Question 48. The best answer is F because it provides the transitional word that most effectively links the information in this sentence to the information in the preceding sentence. *Nevertheless* indicates that the writer is going to oppose or contrast something from his or her prior statement. In this case, the writer is saying that even though the famous memorials were inspirational, a trip on an expressway was more vivid.

The best answer is NOT:

G because *Therefore* is used to show a cause-effect relationship, not a contrasting one.

H because the phrase "As a result" is used to link cause and effect, but in these two sentences no cause-effect relationship exists.

J because the phrase "In addition" indicates that the writer will provide additional information on the same topic, but in this sentence, the writer is shifting topics.

Question 49. The best answer is B because it provides the clearest, most concise, and most understandable statement. It avoids redundancies or confusing word choices.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant. (It repeats information.) The words *frenzied* and *crazy* imply the same thing in this context. The phrase "crazy lunacy" is also redundant.

C because it, too, is redundant. The adjectives *modern* and *contemporary* have the same meaning.

D because in the phrase "confused disarray," the adjective *confused* could be deleted without changing the meaning of the sentence. The word *disarray* already suggests confusion.

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Question 50. The best answer is **G** because the third-person singular pronoun *it* agrees with its singular antecedent *expressway*.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it lacks pronoun-antecedent agreement. The pronoun *they* is plural but the antecedent *expressway* is singular.

H because it creates an illogical and confusing tense shift from the present tense in the surrounding text to the past tense (*was*).

J because it lacks pronoun-antecedent agreement, and it makes an inappropriate tense shift.

Question 51. The best answer is **B** because it uses the correct comparative adjective form (*busier*).

The best answer is NOT:

A because *more busier* is an inappropriate and redundant form. The word *more* and the ending *-er* both signal a comparison.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that A is.

D because it uses the superlative form (*busiest*) when the comparative is called for here. Also, the wording *most busiest* is a redundant and incorrect form.

Question 52. The best answer is **H** because it creates a coherent sentence that is structurally sound. The subordinate (dependent) clause in this sentence has a compound verb (“extends . . . and intersects”). In this choice, these two verbs appropriately function in the same way.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the two verbs are not parallel. The participle *intersecting* does not function in the same way as the verb *extends*.

G because the conjunction (connecting word) *but* signals a contrast. However, the fact that the beltway “intersects with many lesser highways” does not contrast with “it extends through two populous states.”

J because it results in a confusing statement. It is nonsensical to say that “it extends through two populous states . . . and [extends] with many lesser highways.”

Question 53. The best answer is **B** because it provides the correct punctuation for this sentence. A colon is best here because it links two independent clauses where the second clause defines the first clause (“It’s also fast”).

The best answer is NOT:

A because it creates a comma splice (two independent clauses separated by a comma).

C because the apostrophe in *Its* is missing. An apostrophe is needed here to show that *It’s* is a contraction meaning *It is*, not a possessive pronoun.

D because it, too, uses the possessive pronoun *Its* when the contraction *It’s* is required. In addition, it creates a comma splice.

Question 54. The best answer is J because it avoids unnecessary punctuation and creates the clearest sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it adds two confusing and unnecessary commas. There should not be a comma between *one* and *redeeming* because *one* describes *redeeming feature*. With the comma, the sentence reads as though there is only one feature, when in fact there is “one redeeming feature.” In addition, there is a second inappropriate comma between the adjective *redeeming* and the noun *feature*.

G because here, as in F, the comma between the adjective *redeeming* and the noun *feature* is inappropriate and distracting.

H because in this case, the unnecessary comma is between the noun *beltway* and the verb *is*.

Question 55. The best answer is C. The writer should not make this addition because the proposed sentence takes the reader away from the main topic, which is the Washington Beltway, not loop highways in other parts of the country.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it recommends adding a sentence that is irrelevant to this essay.

B because the proposed new sentence does not help the reader “to better understand what the beltway looks like.”

D because although this answer does state that the proposed sentence not be added, the reason for not adding the sentence is inaccurate. The proposed sentence *is* consistent in style and tone with the rest of the essay.

Question 56. The best answer is G because it is the most effective way to introduce the topic of this new paragraph. It gives background on the narrator’s initial attitude toward using the beltway, and the actions described in the paragraph arise out of that attitude.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it repeats information given earlier in the essay, and it fails to show why the narrator would ask “for help with alternate, more scenic routes.”

H because it has no connection to the ideas expressed in this paragraph.

J because it introduces a new topic and idea, but the rest of the paragraph does not in any way support this information.

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Question 57. The best answer is **C**. Because the narrator had hoped to drive scenic routes, as evidenced by information provided earlier in this paragraph, it makes sense that the narrator would be unhappy about learning “to navigate this expressway.”

The best answer is NOT:

A because the narrator might have been gracious with friends, but it is hard to imagine that someone “graciously” learned to drive on the expressway when he or she found such highways so unpleasant.

B because although the transitional word *Carefully* might fit here, the use of the word *however* is illogical in this context. It suggests that the narrator’s careful driving is somehow at odds with something else.

D because the phrase “In fact” is generally used to emphasize something that was stated previously, which is not the case here.

Question 58. The best answer is **H** because the past tense (*approached*) is consistent with the surrounding text. Past tense is appropriate here because the events have already taken place.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the use of the present tense (*approach*) is an illogical shift from the past tense.

G because it inserts a confusing and unnecessary comma after the pronoun *it*.

J because it creates an illogical tense shift from past to present, as F does, and it inserts a confusing and unnecessary comma after the pronoun *it*, as G does.

Question 59. The best answer is **D** because it avoids the repetition of a question and provides for the clearest and most concise paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant. The first two questions in this series—“Was it congested?” and “Overcrowded?”—mean essentially the same thing, so the essay would be more effective if one of them were deleted.

B because it is incorrect for the same reason that A is. In this case, “Was it congested?” and “Jammed with cars?” mean the same thing.

C because it, too, is redundant. Here the questions “Proceeding smoothly?” and “Moving freely?” have about the same meaning.

Question 60. The best answer is **F** because it is the most effective conclusion for the essay, and it logically follows the preceding sentence. The narrator may not have learned much history, but by driving on the beltway, he or she did learn “to merge in traffic.”

The best answer is NOT:

G because it does not logically follow the preceding sentence. In fact, **G** contradicts the preceding sentence. Learning about the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial *is* learning about history.

H because it strays completely from the topic of the essay, which is the Washington Beltway, not Washington’s landmarks.

J because an effective concluding sentence should reinforce the ideas presented in the essay, and this sentence clearly fails to mention the narrator’s experience with the beltway.

Passage V

Question 61. The best answer is **C** because it provides a complete sentence that is structurally sound and consistent in verb tense with the rest of the paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it creates a sentence fragment. There is no predicate verb, so the sentence is not complete.

B because it makes a tense shift from present to past tense. Notice that the essay begins in the present tense (*look*). Changing to the past tense (*was*) in the second sentence is illogical and confusing.

D because it creates a sentence fragment. Like **A**, it has no predicate.

Question 62. The best answer is **G** because it appropriately and consistently uses the present tense to describe an event that is happening in the present time (“Beans hang . . . and squash vines sprawl”).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it makes an illogical and confusing shift from the present tense (*hang*) to the past perfect tense (*had sprawled*).

H because it makes an illogical and confusing shift from the present tense (*hang*) to the past tense (*sprawled*).

J because it makes an illogical shift from the present tense to the past conditional.

Question 63. The best answer is **A** because the absence of commas here creates the clearest and most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it inserts a confusing and unnecessary comma between the subject of the sentence (*chaos*) and the predicate verb (*is*).

C because it inserts an unnecessary comma and sets off the prepositional phrase “of scientific research” as if it were not essential. If you read this sentence without this phrase, you discover that it is essential to the meaning.

D because it wrongly inserts a colon between the subject *chaos* and the verb *is*. A colon is used to link the words that follow it to the words that precede it, which is clearly not the case here.

ENGLISH ■ PRACTICE TEST 3 ■ EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Question 64. The best answer is **G** because the verb phrase “modeled on” is idiomatically correct English. Jane Mt. Pleasant’s gardens are designed to resemble and imitate those grown by the Iroquois. The phrase “modeled on” most clearly conveys this idea.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the phrase “modeled for” is confusing and illogical. Mt. Pleasant’s gardens were not modeled *for* the Iroquois gardens.

H because the verb phrase “modeled as” does not adequately convey the idea that Mt. Pleasant used the Iroquois gardens as her model.

J because it is unclear and illogical. It makes no sense to say that Mt. Pleasant’s gardens were modeled *by* Iroquois gardens.

Question 65. The best answer is **A** because it provides the most logical organization for the sentences in this paragraph. Information about “the data the gardens are yielding” is a direct reference to the “scientific research” in Sentence 4. Placing Sentence 6 anywhere before Sentence 4 would create confusion for the reader.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it would be confusing to refer to the data before the point had been made that scientific research on the gardens was under way.

C because it is incorrect for the same reason that **B** is. Placing Sentence 6 after Sentence 2 in this paragraph would not provide a logical order.

D because it is incorrect for the same reason that **B** and **C** are.

Question 66. The best answer is **G** because it is the most effective link to the sentence that follows. The sentence that follows supports Mt. Pleasant’s assertion that her concern about some of modern agriculture’s practices “is shared by others.” The others are the “many farmers and agronomists.”

The best answer is NOT:

F because while Mt. Pleasant’s education (her Ph.D. degree) might be relevant to the essay in general, this information does not lead into the sentence that follows and therefore does not accomplish the writer’s purpose.

H because, like **F**, this information has some connection to the topic, but it is not relevant at this point in the essay, and it provides a poor transition to the sentence that follows it.

J because this information does not effectively lead into the statement about the “farmers and agronomists” in the next sentence.

Question 67. The best answer is **D** because it results in the clearest, most concise statement, and it avoids repeating information.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it creates a redundancy. The phrase “in the last few years” repeats information given earlier in the sentence (“the recent boom”).

B because it is redundant. The words “of late” and “recent” repeat information for no good reason or purpose.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that A and B are.

Question 68. The best answer is **G** because the singular verb *has come* agrees with its singular subject *boom*. Notice that in this sentence the subject *boom* is separated from the predicate *has come* by a prepositional phrase and a parenthetical phrase.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the plural verb *have come* does not agree with the singular subject *boom*.

H because *are come* is not a proper verb form.

J because the plural verb *come* does not agree with the singular subject *boom*.

Question 69. The best answer is **A** because it reinforces the conclusions presented in the essay—that Iroquois farming methods offer solutions to the problems created by herbicides and pesticides. It also creates an effective transition to the next paragraph, which explains what the Iroquois farming methods are.

The best answer is NOT:

B because while it does offer some support for the preceding sentence, it is not an effective transition to the information about Iroquois farming methods.

C because although it does mention “certain farming practices . . . by the Iroquois people,” it is a vague generalization when compared to A. This vagueness makes it an weak concluding sentence for this paragraph and a weak lead-in to the next paragraph.

D because it is a poor conclusion—the phrase “these social problems” is an inaccurate and imprecise description of the problems with modern agriculture—and because it does not provide a logical link to the next paragraph.

Question 70. The best answer is **J** because it ensures a consistency of verb tense in this essay. The present tense (*is*) in this sentence is consistent and logical with the present tense (*begins*) in the first sentence of this paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it inappropriately shifts from the present tense (*begins*) to the past perfect tense (*had been*).

G because it creates an illogical statement and confuses the reader with regard to time. It makes no sense to say, “Later, soil has been mounded.” The reader is confused about when the action occurred.

H because it inappropriately and illogically shifts from the present tense (*begins*) to the past tense (*was*).

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Question 71. The best answer is A. Pay close attention to the stated question, because it tells you that the best answer to this question is actually the *worst* answer. You are looking for the choice that is *not* an acceptable alternative to the underlined portion. A is not acceptable because it creates an illogical cause-effect relationship. Soil is mounded around stalks to enhance drainage and warming, not “*because of* enhancing drainage and warming.”

The best answer is NOT:

B because it is an acceptable alternative to the underlined portion. Here, the cause-effect relationship is logical.

C because it is an acceptable and logical alternative. Mounding the soil does enhance drainage.

D because it is an acceptable alternative. This choice creates two complete sentences that explain the cause-effect relationship. Mounding the soil is the cause; drainage and warmth are the effect.

Question 72. The best answer is J. Once again, pay close attention to the stated question, because it tells you that the best answer here is actually the *worst* answer. You are looking for the choice that is *not* an acceptable alternative to the underlined portion. J is not acceptable because it results in a run-on sentence (because there is no punctuation and/or conjunction between two independent clauses).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it is an acceptable alternative to the underlined portion. In this sentence, the two independent clauses are appropriately separated by a comma and a conjunction. Here, *while* functions as a coordinating conjunction.

G because it is an acceptable alternative. The two sentences are separated by a period.

H because it is an acceptable alternative. A semicolon is appropriate punctuation to use to separate two independent clauses.

Question 73. The best answer is C because it provides the most relevant information to the essay as a whole. The phrase “three sisters” refers to the three vegetables corn, beans, and squash and the Iroquois method of planting them so that they help each other to grow. In addition, C clears up confusion that might otherwise result from the reference in the last paragraph to “the Iroquois ‘three-sisters’ system.”

The best answer is NOT:

A because it fails to provide meaningful information and makes a confusing shift to the second person (*your*).

B because vegetarian cooking has no relevance to this essay, which focuses on Iroquois farming methods.

D because it is so vague that it is almost meaningless.

Question 74. The best answer is F because the absence of punctuation here results in the clearest, most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

G because it inserts an unnecessary comma between the subject *system* and the predicate verb *is*. A pause here would confuse the reader.

H because it inserts a comma between the verb *is* and the relative clause that functions as a predicate noun. This comma interferes with the flow of ideas in this sentence.

J because it inserts an inappropriate and distracting colon between the verb *is* and the relative clause functioning as a predicate noun.

Question 75. The best answer is B. Pay close attention to this question, which asks if this essay could be said to provide an example of how the past can provide information to people today. Because this essay shows how Iroquois farming practices from the past offer ways to improve problems in farming today, it does provide such an example.

The best answer is NOT:

A because its reason is off the mark. This essay does not address “high-tech methods of modern farming.”

C because it contains faulty logic. Just because Mt. Pleasant is a practicing agronomist, that fact does not prevent her from having ties to the past.

D because it distorts the essay. The focus of the essay is on how old farming methods can be applied to modern agriculture; it does not focus on “the planting of cover crops.”