

# Sophomore PSAT Training Packet

English Department  
Answer Key

PSAT/NMSQT®

# Practice Test #1

## Answer Explanations

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
cosponsored by



## Reading Test Answer Explanations

---

### Question 1

The main purpose of the passage is to

- (A) describe a main character and a significant change in her life.
- (B) provide an overview of a family and a nearby neighbor.
- (C) discuss some regrettable personality flaws in a main character.
- (D) explain the relationship between a main character and her father.

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing purpose

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. Emma Woodhouse's life and family are discussed, including the marriage of her governess Miss Taylor who then moves out of Emma's home. In line 74, Emma wonders how she is to "bear the change" of Miss Taylor's departure, which indicates its significance.

Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage focuses more on Emma than on her family and neighbors, and Emma's relationship with her father is a relatively minor consideration. Choice C is also incorrect because Emma is characterized as handsome and clever with a happy disposition, and her arrogance is only briefly mentioned.

### Question 2

Which choice best summarizes the first two paragraphs of the passage (lines 1-14)?

- (A) Even though a character loses a parent at an early age, she is happily raised in a loving home.
- (B) An affectionate governess helps a character to overcome the loss of her mother, despite the indifference of her father.
- (C) Largely as a result of her father's wealth and affection, a character leads a contented life.
- (D) A character has a generally comfortable and fulfilling life, but then she must recover from losing her mother.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Information and Ideas / Summarizing

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. The passage indicates that Emma's mother died long ago and that Emma barely remembers her. Emma is raised by an affectionate father and governess and is described as a person with a happy disposition.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect: Emma's father is not described as indifferent, Emma is not described as contented because of her father's wealth, and Emma does not appear to suffer from the loss of her mother.

**Question 3**

The narrator indicates that the particular nature of Emma's upbringing resulted in her being

- (A) despondent.
- (B) self-satisfied.
- (C) friendless.
- (D) inconsiderate.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. According to the passage, Emma had "a disposition to think a little too well of herself" (line 30). Thinking a "little too well of herself" means that Emma had an elevated opinion of herself, or that she was self-satisfied.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because Emma's relationship with her father and Miss Taylor, the two characters who raised her, did not result in her being despondent, friendless, or inconsiderate.

**Question 4**

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 1-5 ("Emma . . . her")
- (B) Lines 9-14 ("Her . . . affection")
- (C) Lines 28-32 ("The real . . . enjoyments")
- (D) Lines 32-34 ("The danger . . . her")

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Information and Ideas / Citing textual evidence

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 28-32 state that "The real evils indeed of Emma's situation were the power of having rather too much her own way, and a

disposition to think a little too well of herself; these were the disadvantages which threatened alloy to her many enjoyments." Thinking a "little too well of herself" means that Emma had an elevated opinion of herself, or that she was self-satisfied.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence for Emma being self-satisfied. Choice A describes Emma's positive traits, choice B describes Emma's affectionate relationship with Miss Taylor, and choice D discusses only that Emma's problems were negligible.

**Question 5**

As used in line 26, "directed" most nearly means

- (A) trained.
- (B) aimed.
- (C) guided.
- (D) addressed.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 25-27, Emma's situation is described as "doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own." In other words, Emma respects Miss Taylor's opinion but makes decisions directed, or guided, primarily by her own opinion.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because lines 25-27 emphasize that in "doing what she liked" Emma was directed, or guided, by her own opinion. Emma's opinion is not trained by, aimed at, or addressed by anyone else.

**Question 6**

As used in line 54, "want" most nearly means

- (A) desire.
- (B) lack.
- (C) requirement.
- (D) request.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 53-55 describe how Emma felt a loss after Miss Taylor married and moved out of Emma's home: "but it was a black morning's work for her. The want of Miss Taylor would be felt every hour of every day." In this context, "want" means "lack."

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context "want" does not mean desire, requirement, or request.

**Question 7**

It can most reasonably be inferred that after Miss Taylor married, she had

- (A) less patience with Mr. Woodhouse.
- (B) fewer interactions with Emma.
- (C) more close friends than Emma.
- (D) an increased appreciation for Emma.

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. According to lines 76-81, following Miss Taylor's marriage, "Emma was aware that great must be the difference between a Mrs. Weston only half a mile from them, and a Miss Taylor in the house; and with all her advantages, natural and domestic, she was now in great danger of suffering from intellectual solitude." This implies that since Miss Taylor's marriage, the two characters see each other less often.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not mention Miss Taylor's relationship with Mr. Woodhouse. Choices C and D are incorrect because the passage describes how Miss Taylor's marriage might affect Emma but not how the marriage might affect Miss Taylor.

**Question 8**

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Line 37 ("Miss . . . married")
- (B) Lines 47-48 ("The event . . . friend")
- (C) Lines 61-66 ("A large . . . recollection")
- (D) Lines 74-81 ("How . . . solitude")

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Information and Ideas / Citing textual evidence

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because lines 74-81 refer to Emma's new reality of "intellectual solitude" after Miss Taylor moved out of the house.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these choices support the idea that Miss Taylor and Emma had fewer interactions following Miss Taylor's marriage. Choice A mentions Emma's "sorrow" towards losing Miss Taylor, choice B introduces how Miss Taylor may benefit from the marriage, and choice C describes Emma's and Miss Taylor's close friendship.

### Question 9

Which situation is most similar to the one described in lines 84-92 ("The evil . . . time")?

- (A) A mother and her adult son have distinct tastes in art and music that result in repeated family arguments.
- (B) The differences between an older and a younger friend are magnified because the younger one is more active and athletic.
- (C) An older and a younger scientist remain close friends despite the fact that the older one's work is published more frequently.
- (D) The age difference between a high school student and a college student becomes a problem even though they enjoy the same diversions.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 84-92 describe the fact that though Emma and her father have a loving relationship, Mr. Woodhouse is much older than Emma and in poor health. For these reasons, he did not make a good companion for the spirited, young Emma. Their relationship is most similar to a friendship between an older and younger person that is negatively affected by the fact one is more lively and active than the other.

Choice A is incorrect because Emma and her father did not have regular arguments. Choice C is incorrect because the relationship between Emma and Mr. Woodhouse was affected by the difference in their age and activity, not any relative successes one or the other might have had. Choice D is incorrect because there is no indication that Emma and her father enjoyed the same activities.

## Question 10

As used in line 10, “plot” most nearly means

- (A) mark.
- (B) form.
- (C) plan.
- (D) claim.

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph discusses the “vast informal economy driven by human relationships” (lines 6-7) that existed in the Soviet Union as a result of the gaps in the official economy. Lines 9-10 state that “The Soviet people didn’t plot how they would build these [social] networks.” In this context, the word “plot” means “plan”; the paragraph is implying that the informal economy grew up spontaneously, without premeditation or planning.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context “plot” does not mean mark, form, or claim.

## Question 11

The references to the shoemaker, the programmer, and the apple farmer in lines 37-40 (“We can easily . . . community”) primarily serve to

- (A) illustrate the quality of products and services in countries around the world.
- (B) emphasize the broad reach of technologies used to connect people.
- (C) demonstrate that recommendations made online are trustworthy.
- (D) call attention to the limits of the expansion of the global economy.

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing text structure

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. The third paragraph of the passage (lines 27-46) describes how new technologies are affecting new economies, as people are using social media to vet people and businesses through eBay, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The author uses broad examples (a business in South America, a person in Asia, and a farmer in the reader’s local community) to imply that these technologies have a global reach.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage provides no comment about the quality of products or services. Choice C is incorrect because the passage never alludes to



## Writing and Language Test Answer Explanations

---

Question 1

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) see an annual loss of \$63.2 billion each year
- (C) lose \$63.2 billion annually
- (D) have a yearly loss of \$63.2 billion annually

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Concision

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it states the situation succinctly and is free of redundancies.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because all three contain a redundancy in which a reference to the annual nature of the loss is stated twice; for example, Choice A states “yearly” and “annually.”

Question 2

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) main things leading up to
- (C) huge things about
- (D) primary causes of

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the use of language is correct for standard written English and matches the formal tone of the passage.

Choices A and C are incorrect because both rely on colloquial language, specifically “big” and “huge,” which strays from the formal tone of the article. Additionally, “things” in Choice C is vague and informal. Choice B is incorrect for the same reason.

Question 3

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) have spent
- (C) spends
- (D) are spent

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Usage / Agreement / Subject-verb agreement

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the verb “spends” grammatically corresponds with the singular noun “American.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the noun and verb do not grammatically correspond. The verbs “spend,” “have spent” and “are spent” would correspond with a plural noun, but not with the singular noun “American.”

Question 4

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) workers; managers
- (C) workers, managers,
- (D) workers, managers

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Within-sentence punctuation

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates a complete sentence with clauses whose relationship to one another is clear.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a sentence fragment. Choice B is incorrect because the first clause is dependent, signaled by the conditional phrase “As long as,” so a semicolon cannot be used. Choice C is incorrect because the comma following “managers” inappropriately separates the noun from the verb “should champion.”

Question 5

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- (A) where it is now.
- (B) before sentence 1.
- (C) after sentence 1.
- (D) after sentence 4.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Organization / Logical sequence

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. Sentence 3 logically follows the statement in sentence 1 where readers learn that part of the problem is the work itself. Sentence 3 then tells readers what about the work has caused the decrease in sleep: “The hours the average American spend[s] working have increased dramatically....”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not order the information in the paragraph logically.

Question 6

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

“Even fifteen-minute power naps improve alertness, creativity, and concentration.”

Should the writer make this addition here?

- (A) Yes, because it demonstrates that the benefits of napping can be gained without sacrificing large amounts of work time.
- (B) Yes, because it explains the methodology of the studies mentioned in the previous sentence.
- (C) No, because a discussion of the type of nap workers take is not important to the writer’s main point in the paragraph.
- (D) No, because it contradicts the writer’s discussion of napping in the previous sentences.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Focus

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it adds relevant information in support of the claim that companies should allow their employees to take naps.

Choice B is incorrect because the prospective sentence does not explain methodology. Choice C is incorrect because the example in the sentence provides additional information in support of napping. Choice D is incorrect because there is no contradiction.

Question 7

Which choice provides a supporting example that reinforces the main point of the sentence?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) including a lower risk of cardiovascular problems such as heart attack and stroke.
- (C) which are essential in an era of rising health care costs.
- (D) in addition to making employees more efficient.

Item Difficulty: Hard  
Content: Development / Support  
Best answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it offers a specific example of a long-term health benefit that could lead to “reduced health care costs.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they offer no supporting examples of long-term health benefits that could reduce health care costs.

Question 8

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) gently wake
- (C) gently to wake
- (D) gentle waking of

Item Difficulty: Medium  
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Parallel structure  
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because the verb “wake” is consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, “block” and “play.” Furthermore, choice B provides a verb that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the verb is not consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, “block” and “play.”

Question 9

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) among
- (C) between
- (D) into

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Usage / Conventional expression

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because, in this context, the preposition “among” is the only idiomatic choice: napping can be promoted “among” people but not “throughout,” “between,” or “into” them.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the prepositions “throughout,” “between,” and “into” are unidiomatic in this context.

Question 10

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) but it benefits
- (C) as also to
- (D) but also to

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it completes a parallel construction in which two elements are compared. In this construction “but also to” is parallel to “not only to” and thus is the only choice that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence. The “not only...but also” construction is also known as a correlative conjunction, meaning that these two phrases should always travel in pairs.

Choices A and C are incorrect because they fail to complete the comparison that the preposition “not only to” signals. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on and incomplete sentence.

Question 11

The writer wants a concluding sentence that restates the main argument of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Clearly, employers should consider reducing employees' hours when they are overworked.
- (C) Companies should consider employee schedules carefully when implementing a napping policy.
- (D) More businesses should follow their lead and embrace napping on the job.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it logically concludes the essay, the main argument of which is that napping during the workday boosts employee productivity and morale and reduces costs associated with poor health and absences.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these choices restates the main argument of the passage.

Question 12

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) pollination: this is
- (C) pollination,
- (D) pollination;

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Nonrestrictive and parenthetical elements

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the appropriate punctuation for the nonrestrictive modifying clause "including honeybee pollination." Because the clause is not essential to the sentence, it should be offset with commas (or other matching punctuation). Since a comma is used before the clause, a comma must be used after it as well.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the punctuation does not match the comma that sets off the nonrestrictive modifying clause "including honeybee pollination."

Choice B is incorrect because “this is” is unnecessarily wordy.

Question 13

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) highlights the potentially disastrous effects
- (C) highlight the potentially disastrous effects
- (D) highlight the potentially disastrous affects

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Usage / Frequently confused words

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because the verb “highlights” grammatically corresponds with the singular noun “the importance of bees.” Additionally, “effects” is the correct noun to describe outcomes.

Choices A and D are incorrect because “affects” is the incorrect word in this context. Choice C is incorrect because there is no subject-verb agreement between the singular noun “the importance of bees” and the verb “highlight.”

Question 14

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Known as colony
- (C) It is known as colony
- (D) Colony

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Modifier placement

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a dependent clause that adequately introduces the main subject, colony collapse disorder, which corresponds directly to the subject in the second clause: “this phenomenon.”

Choice A is incorrect because “They” has no clear antecedent and creates a comma splice. Choice C is incorrect because it also results in a comma splice. Choice D is incorrect because it creates redundancy with the following noun phrase “this phenomenon.”

Question 15

Which choice offers the most accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) been above the acceptable range.
- (C) not changed noticeably from year to year.
- (D) greatly increased every year.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Quantitative information

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it accurately represents the information in the chart.

Choice A is incorrect because in the 2011-2012 winter season, bee mortality rates fell below 25% of the bee colony. Choice C is incorrect because, according to the chart, bee mortality rates have varied noticeably year to year. Choice D is incorrect for a similar reason. The chart shows that, year to year, bee mortality rates have both increased and decreased.

Question 16

Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) portion of bees lost was double what it had been the previous year, rising to
- (C) number of losses, which had fallen within the acceptable range the previous year, rose to
- (D) portion of total colonies lost rose almost 10 percentage points, with a loss of

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Quantitative information

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately represents the comparison in bee population loss between the 2010–2012 and 2012–2013 periods. Compared to the 2011–2012 winter season, bee loss was almost 10 percentage points higher the following year.



Choice A is incorrect because it states that compared to the preceding years, bee losses fell in 2012–2013 when, according to the data, the opposite was true. Choice B is incorrect because the bee loss in 2012–2013 did not double from 2011–2012. Given that bee loss in 2011–2012 hovered around 22%, double would be around 44%, while the chart says bee loss in 2012–2013 was just over 30%. Choice C is incorrect because it makes a false statement: the number of losses had *not* “fallen within the acceptable range the previous year.”

Question 17

Which choice most smoothly and effectively introduces the writer’s discussion of studies of CCD in this paragraph?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Bees are vanishing, and according to studies there are several possible reasons for this trend.
- (C) Several possible reasons, offered by studies, may explain why bees are vanishing.
- (D) DELETE the underlined sentence.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Syntax

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. It adequately introduces the paragraph’s main topic in a grammatically complete and standard manner. In addition, its use of the passive voice (“Studies have offered”) establishes a pattern that the next sentence maintains (“One reason that is often cited”).

Choices B and C are incorrect because each is redundant. In B, there is no need to refer to bees vanishing and “this trend” in the same sentence. In C, there is no need to specify that “reasons . . . may explain.” Choice D is incorrect because if the paragraph were to begin with the sentence “One reason that is often cited...,” the writer’s discussion of studies of CCD would not be introduced smoothly and effectively.

Question 18

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

“Prolonged exposure to neonicotinoids has been shown to increase bees’ vulnerability to disease and parasitic mites.”

Should the writer make this addition here?

- (A) Yes, because it provides support for the claim made in the previous sentence.
- (B) Yes, because it introduces a new idea that will become important later in the passage.
- (C) No, because it would be better placed elsewhere in the passage.
- (D) No, because it contradicts the main idea of the passage.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Focus

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the information supports the preceding claim by showing how lingering neonicotinoids impact bees in particular. The previous sentence notes “one reason” why bees are vanishing (the use of neonicotinoids), and this proposed sentence usefully elaborates on how neonicotinoids harm bees.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the information doesn’t introduce a new idea that will become important later in the passage, belong elsewhere in the passage, or contradict the main idea.

Question 19

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) is a pretty big deal.
- (C) can’t be put on the back burner.
- (D) cannot be ignored.

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the diction is consistent with the article’s tone and style.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the casual tone and style of the phrases “is not to be scoffed at,” “is a pretty big deal,” and “can’t be put on the back burner” deviate from the more formal tone and style established in the rest of the article.

Question 20

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) crops, this is an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
- (C) crops, an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
- (D) crops; an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Sentence boundaries

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it creates a grammatically correct relationship between an independent clause and a dependent one.

Choices A and D are incorrect because a semicolon should link two independent clauses in order to be grammatically correct; in each instance the second clause is dependent. Choice B is incorrect because it creates a comma splice.

Question 21

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) there
- (C) their
- (D) its

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Usage / Possessive determiners

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the correct possessive form of a plural noun, the farmers who are the main subject of the sentence.

Choices A and B are incorrect because neither is the correct possessive form of "they." Choice A is a contraction of the subject "they" and the verb "are," while Choice B is an adverb that refers to a place or a particular point in time. Choice D is incorrect because it is the possessive form of a singular, not a plural, noun.

## Question 22

The writer wants a conclusion that addresses the future of efforts to combat CCD. Which choice results in the passage having the most appropriate concluding sentence?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Still, bee colonies have experienced such devastating losses that the consequences of the issue have been felt worldwide.
- (C) Although CCD is a relatively new phenomenon, scientists have been studying other aspects of honeybees for over a century.
- (D) Genetic variation in bee colonies generally improves bees' productivity, disease resistance, and ability to regulate body temperature.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the passage already has an appropriate concluding sentence that addresses "the future of efforts to combat CCD." This sentence supports the last paragraph's focus on "commonsense measures" by outlining potential CCD-prevention efforts such as "[a] decrease in the use of certain pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides" and stating that these efforts "could begin a shift in a favorable direction."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don't address "the future of efforts to combat CCD" that the question demands. Choice B describes the current impact of diminishing bee populations instead of discussing the future. Choice C introduces a new topic that departs from the paragraph's main topic. Choice D introduces a related topic that needs further elaboration.

## Question 23

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) stood;
- (C) stood—
- (D) stood

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Unnecessary punctuation

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each inserts unnecessary punctuation that disrupts the meaning of the sentence, which is to state where Giuseppe Ferrua stood.

Question 24

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) inside
- (C) for
- (D) on

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Usage / Conventional expression

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the preposition “with” correctly reflects the relationship between the subject, verb, and object: “landscape,” “dotted,” and “vineyards,” respectively.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a preposition that does not appropriately represent the relationship between the subject, verb, and object. A landscape can be dotted “with” vineyards; it cannot be dotted “inside,” “for,” or “on” vineyards.

Question 25

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) however,
- (C) by contrast,
- (D) thereafter,

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the information in the sentence elaborates on and supports the claim in the previous sentence: that lunar farming “is driven by the belief that the Moon influences levels of moisture in the soil.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not appropriately signal the information in the sentence, which elaborates on and supports the claim in the previous sentence. Rather, Choices B and C suggest that the writer is drawing a contrast, and Choice D introduces a time sequence that is not present in the paragraph.

Question 26

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Given that
- (C) So
- (D) DELETE the underlined portion and begin the sentence with a capital letter.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence. It also correctly reflects the relationship specified in the passage between moisture and the lunar calendar.

Choice A is incorrect because “Although” suggests that the second clause will say something contrary to the first. Choices C and D are incorrect because each results in a grammatically incomplete sentence.

Question 27

Which choice most effectively sets up the paragraph?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) People all over the world farm by the Moon.
- (C) Farming by the Moon is not new.
- (D) Talk of the Moon’s influence is far-reaching.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Proposition

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it acts effectively as a transition between the previous paragraph and this one.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none of the three introduces the paragraph’s main topic, the long history of lunar farming.

Question 28

Which choice provides the most specific information on the type of advice a lunar calendar offers?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) actions relevant to farming.
- (C) points in time at which to undertake certain tasks.
- (D) optimal times to plant, weed, prune, and harvest.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Precision

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides “the most specific information on the type of advice a lunar calendar offers.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each is vague; specifically, “farm chores,” “actions,” and “certain tasks” are all nebulous terms, and the question asks for the “most specific information.”

Question 29

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) almanacs’s
- (C) almanac’s
- (D) almanacs’

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Possessive nouns and pronouns

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the grammatically correct option for a possessive singular noun. The editor belongs to, or is affiliated with, the almanac.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to provide a grammatically correct possessive noun. There is only one almanac, the “*Old Farmer’s Almanac*,” to which the editor belongs.

Question 30

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) skeptics, who have yet to be convinced.
- (C) skeptics—those who doubt the method.
- (D) skeptics.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Effective Language Use / Concision

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it introduces the paragraph’s topic succinctly without repeating information. By definition, skeptics are people who are unsure, have yet to be convinced, doubt the method, etc.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because all three include redundant information about skeptics.

Question 31

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) those
- (C) it’s
- (D) its

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Usage / Possessive determiners

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides the possessive pronoun that grammatically corresponds to a singular noun, “agriculture.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each fails to provide a grammatically correct or appropriate possessive pronoun. Choice A presents a possessive pronoun for a plural antecedent rather than a singular one. Choice B’s “those” is vague, leaving the reader unsure of the relationship between the practices and agriculture. Choice C presents a grammatically incorrect construction of the possessive pronoun for it.



Question 32

The writer wants to conclude the paragraph effectively while also reinforcing the point that skepticism toward lunar farming still exists. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) and therefore no sound scientific data on the subject exist to date.
- (C) yet many continue to practice lunar farming.
- (D) leading many to conclude that the practice is based in folklore, not fact.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it satisfies the directions of the question by “reinforcing the point that skepticism toward lunar farming still exists.” Only Choice D refers back to the skeptics mentioned at the beginning of the paragraph, acknowledging that “many...conclude that the practice” of lunar farming is “based in folklore, not fact.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because, while each makes a logical connection with the preceding part of the sentence, none of the three refers back to the skeptics mentioned at the beginning of the paragraph.

Question 33

Which choice gives an additional supporting example that emphasizes the importance of the senses in judging the success of the lunar farming method?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) She has taken photographs of the grapevines and landscape.
- (C) She takes careful notes about Ferrua’s farming methods, asking Ferrua to clarify how he prepares the soil.
- (D) She dips bread into Ferrua’s olive oil as he explains a soil preparation he does in the fall.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Support

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it corresponds with the question's instructions to choose "an additional supporting example that emphasizes the importance of the senses." Professor Coffman's statement about the fragrant rosemary logically follows the English farmer's statement about his potatoes, as both use sensory impressions to attest to the success of lunar farming.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each fails to provide an additional supporting example that demonstrates that Professor Coffman "has a similar response" to that of the English farmer. Choices B and D both involve the senses, but neither uses sensory impressions to judge the success of lunar farming. Choice C doesn't involve a sensory experience; it recounts an experience of information gathering.

Question 34

The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion (ending the sentence with a period). Should the writer make this deletion?

- A) Yes, because the underlined portion detracts from the paragraph's focus on the Szathmary collection.
- B) Yes, because the information in the underlined portion is provided in the previous sentence.
- C) No, because the underlined portion defines a term that is important to the passage.
- D) No, because the underlined portion gives an example of a particular culinary artifact.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Development / Focus

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the term "manuscript recipe books" is unclear without the underlined portion to define it.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion is consistent with the paragraph's focus; it does not detract from it. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined information does not appear in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because, while it asserts correctly that the underlined portion should not be deleted, it does not offer a persuasive reason for keeping the definition of "manuscript recipe books."

Question 35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Regardless of
- C) In contrast to
- D) In addition to

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. “Because of” supports the cause-effect relationship between the two clauses in the sentence, which state that as result of the 20,000-item donation’s size and range, figuring out how to make the information available to the public was “a challenge.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not support the cause-effect relationship between the two clauses.

Question 36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) donation of so many culinary artifacts,
- C) massive donation of cookbooks,
- D) donation,

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Effective Language Use / Concision

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it does not contain information that has already been established in the preceding sentences of the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they repeat information already established in the preceding sentences of the passage.

Question 37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for
- C) and
- D) but

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a conjunction, “but,” that accurately reflects the relationship between the two clauses. This relationship contrasts the librarians’ desire to share all the objects in the collection with the problem of presenting the delicate manuscripts.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each provides a conjunction that does not reflect the relationship between the two clauses.

Question 38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) his or her
- C) their
- D) one’s

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Usage / Agreement / Pronoun-antecedent agreement

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the possessive pronoun “their” grammatically corresponds to the plural “volunteers.”

Choice A is incorrect because it provides a possessive pronoun that would correspond with “we,” which would only be valid if the writer were part of the group of volunteers. Choices B and D are incorrect because each provides a possessive pronoun for a singular noun, yet the subject of the clause is the plural noun “volunteers.”

Question 39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) simple directions
- C) bare-bones how-tos
- D) facile protocols

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it offers wording that is clear and consistent with the style of the passage.

Choices A and D are incorrect because both use jargon, or unnecessarily esoteric language, which is inconsistent with the passage’s formal yet accessible style. Choice C is incorrect because the wording is clunky and too colloquial for the passage’s style.

Question 40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) therefore,
- C) however,
- D) in short,

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. It provides a conjunction, “however,” which captures the contrast between transcribing the recipes, described as “easy,” and recognizing some of the ingredients and measurements in the recipes, described as “puzzling.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to capture the relationship between the sentence in which the conjunction appears and the sentence preceding it. Choice A is incorrect because it proposes a conjunction that suggests the sentence is building upon information in the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” suggests a cause-effect relationship between the two sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it suggests that the second sentence is providing a shortened version of information introduced in the first sentence. Instead, the difference between “easy” in the first sentence of the sequence and “puzzling” in the second denotes a contrast.

Question 41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) access to
- C) excess of
- D) excess to

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Usage / Frequently confused words

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the correct noun, “access,” to indicate the ability to utilize something, and the correct preposition, “to,” to link the noun to the prepositional phrase that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect because it provides a noun and preposition combination that does not correspond to standard English. Choices C and D are incorrect because both present the noun “excess,” which is a close homonym of “access,” but means a surfeit or overabundance.

Question 42

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) work
- C) worked
- D) could have worked

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Sentence Structure / Inappropriate shifts in construction / Verb tense, mood, and voice

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a verb in the present tense (“work”), which is consistent with the present tense verb “don’t fare” that opens the sentence.

Choices A and C are incorrect because both use verbs in the past tense. Choice D is incorrect because the compound verb “could have worked” presents a possibility that is not consistent with the tone or purpose of the sentence, in which the writer is making a comparison between archival recipes that don’t hold up well in the present day and those that do.

Question 43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) almond, cheesecake summer, mince,
- C) almond cheesecake summer, mince
- D) almond, cheesecake, summer, mince,

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Items in a series

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it provides items in a series that are whole discrete items, each one an example of a dessert from the Szathmary collection. Each item in the series is presented in standard English with the adjective preceding the main noun, for example, “summer mince pie.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each one scrambles the names of the dessert items by separating the parts of their names by commas.

Question 44

The writer plans to add the following sentence to this paragraph.

“The judges reported that the entries were delicious.”

To make this paragraph most logical, the sentence should be placed

- A) after sentence 1.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Organization / Logical sequence

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the proposed sentence logically follows information about a contest at the Iowa State Fair. At no other point in the paragraph does the writer mention a contest.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the writer has yet to state that there was a contest or other situation that involved an official judge, so placement of the proposed sentence after any of the first three sentences would be illogical.

**Answer Key**

<b>Reading</b>		<b>Writing &amp; Language</b>		<b>Math Test – No Calculator</b>		<b>Math Test – Calculator</b>	
Q 1	A	Q 1	C	Q 1	A	Q 1	C
Q 2	A	Q 2	D	Q 2	B	Q 2	A
Q 3	B	Q 3	C	Q 3	A	Q 3	C
Q 4	C	Q 4	D	Q 4	D	Q 4	C
Q 5	C	Q 5	C	Q 5	B	Q 5	C
Q 6	B	Q 6	A	Q 6	B	Q 6	D
Q 7	B	Q 7	B	Q 7	A	Q 7	D
Q 8	D	Q 8	B	Q 8	D	Q 8	D
Q 9	B	Q 9	B	Q 9	B	Q 9	C
Q 10	C	Q 10	D	Q 10	D	Q 10	B
Q 11	B	Q 11	D	Q 11	C	Q 11	C
Q 12	A	Q 12	C	Q 12	A	Q 12	B
Q 13	A	Q 13	B	Q 13	D	Q 13	B
Q 14	D	Q 14	B	Q 14	300	Q 14	B
Q 15	D	Q 15	B	Q 15	2	Q 15	B
Q 16	A	Q 16	D	Q 16	9	Q 16	C
Q 17	D	Q 17	A	Q 17	4	Q 17	C
Q 18	C	Q 18	A			Q 18	C
Q 19	D	Q 19	D			Q 19	A
Q 20	C	Q 20	C			Q 20	C
Q 21	D	Q 21	C			Q 21	C
Q 22	A	Q 22	A			Q 22	B
Q 23	B	Q 23	D			Q 23	D
Q 24	B	Q 24	A			Q 24	A
Q 25	D	Q 25	A			Q 25	A
Q 26	D	Q 26	B			Q 26	D
Q 27	A	Q 27	C			Q 27	A
Q 28	A	Q 28	D			Q 28	6
Q 29	B	Q 29	C			Q 29	9
Q 30	C	Q 30	D			Q 30	510
Q 31	D	Q 31	D			Q 31	10.2, 51/5
Q 32	C	Q 32	D				
Q 33	B	Q 33	A				
Q 34	D	Q 34	C				
Q 35	C	Q 35	A				
Q 36	D	Q 36	D				
Q 37	B	Q 37	D				
Q 38	D	Q 38	C				
Q 39	B	Q 39	B				
Q 40	D	Q 40	C				
Q 41	B	Q 41	B				
Q 42	A	Q 42	B				
Q 43	C	Q 43	A				
Q 44	C	Q 44	D				
Q 45	B						
Q 46	C						
Q 47	A						



## Answer Explanations

# SAT Practice Test #1

### Section 1: Reading Test

#### QUESTION 1.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In the passage, a young man (Akira) asks a mother (Chie) for permission to marry her daughter (Naomi). The request was certainly surprising to the mother, as can be seen from line 47, which states that prior to Akira’s question Chie “had no idea” the request was coming.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage depicts two characters engaged in a civil conversation, with Chie being impressed with Akira’s “sincerity” and finding herself “starting to like him.” Choice C is incorrect because the passage is focused on the idea of Akira’s and Naomi’s present lives and possible futures. Choice D is incorrect because the interactions between Chie and Akira are polite, not critical; for example, Chie views Akira with “amusement,” not animosity.

#### QUESTION 2.

**Choice B is the best answer.** The passage centers on a night when a young man tries to get approval to marry a woman’s daughter. The passage includes detailed descriptions of setting (a “winter’s eve” and a “cold rain,” lines 5-6); character (Akira’s “soft, refined” voice, line 33; Akira’s eyes “sh[ining] with sincerity,” line 35); and plot (“Naomi was silent. She stood a full half minute looking straight into Chie’s eyes. Finally, she spoke,” lines 88-89).

Choice A is incorrect because the passage focuses on a nontraditional marriage proposal. Choice C is incorrect because the passage concludes without resolution to the question of whether Akira and Naomi will receive permission to marry. Choice D is incorrect because the passage repeatedly makes clear that for Chie, her encounter with Akira is momentous and unsettling, as when Akira acknowledges in line 73 that he has “startled” her.

# L2

## QUESTION 3.

**Choice C is the best answer.** Akira “came directly, breaking all tradition,” (line 1) when he approached Chie and asked to marry her daughter, and he “ask[ed] directly,” without “a go-between” (line 65) or “mediation,” because doing otherwise would have taken too much time.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in these contexts, “directly” does not mean in a frank, confident, or precise manner.

## QUESTION 4.

**Choice A is the best answer.** Akira is very concerned Chie will find his marriage proposal inappropriate because he did not follow traditional protocol and use a “go-between” (line 65). This is clear in lines 63-64, when Akira says to Chie “Please don’t judge my candidacy by the unseemliness of this proposal.”

Choice B is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira worries that Chie will mistake his earnestness for immaturity. Choice C is incorrect because while Akira recognizes that his unscheduled visit is a nuisance, his larger concern is that Chie will reject him due to the inappropriateness of his proposal. Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira worries Chie will underestimate the sincerity of his emotions.

## QUESTION 5.

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 63-64, Akira says to Chie, “Please don’t judge my candidacy by the unseemliness of this proposal.” This reveals Akira’s concern that Chie may say no to the proposal simply because Akira did not follow traditional practices.

Choices A, B, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because line 33 merely describes Akira’s voice as “soft, refined.” Choice B is incorrect because lines 49-51 reflect Chie’s perspective, not Akira’s. Choice D is incorrect because lines 71-72 indicate only that Akira was speaking in an eager and forthright matter.

## QUESTION 6.

**Choice D is the best answer** because Akira clearly treats Chie with respect, including “bow[ing]” (line 26) to her, calling her “Madame” (line 31), and looking at her with “a deferential peek” (line 34). Akira does not offer Chie utter deference, though, as he asks to marry Naomi after he concedes that he is not following protocol and admits to being a “disruption” (line 31).

Choice A is incorrect because while Akira conveys respect to Chie, there is no evidence in the passage that he feels affection for her. Choice B is incorrect because neither objectivity nor impartiality accurately describes how Akira addresses Chie. Choice C is incorrect because Akira conveys respect to Chie and takes the conversation seriously.

# L2

## QUESTION 7.

**Choice D is the best answer.** The first paragraph (lines 1-4) reflects on how Akira approached Chie to ask for her daughter’s hand in marriage. In these lines, the narrator is wondering whether Chie would have been more likely to say yes to Akira’s proposal if Akira had followed tradition: “Akira came directly, breaking all tradition. Was that it? Had he followed form—had he asked his mother to speak to his father to approach a go-between—would Chie have been more receptive?” Thus, the main purpose of the first paragraph is to examine why Chie reacted a certain way to Akira’s proposal.

Choice A is incorrect because the first paragraph describes only one aspect of Japanese culture (marriage proposals) but not the culture as a whole. Choice B is incorrect because the first paragraph implies a criticism of Akira’s individual marriage proposal but not the entire tradition of Japanese marriage proposals. Choice C is incorrect because the narrator does not question a suggestion.

## QUESTION 8.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In line 1, the narrator suggests that Akira’s direct approach broke “all tradition.” The narrator then wonders if Akira had “followed form,” or the tradition expected of him, would Chie have been more receptive to his proposal. In this context, following “form” thus means following a certain tradition or custom.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context “form” does not mean the way something looks (appearance), the way it is built (structure), or its essence (nature).

## QUESTION 9.

**Choice C is the best answer.** Akira states that his unexpected meeting with Chie occurred only because of a “matter of urgency,” which he explains as “an opportunity to go to America, as dentist for Seattle’s Japanese community” (lines 41-42). Akira decides to directly speak to Chie because Chie’s response to his marriage proposal affects whether Akira accepts the job offer.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira is worried his parents will not approve of Naomi. Choice B is incorrect because Akira has “an understanding” with Naomi (line 63). Choice D is incorrect; while Akira may know that Chie is unaware of his feelings for Naomi, this is not what he is referring to when he mentions “a matter of urgency.”

## QUESTION 10.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 39-42, Akira clarifies that the “matter of urgency” is that he has “an opportunity to go to America, as dentist for Seattle’s Japanese community.” Akira needs Chie’s answer to his marriage proposal so he can decide whether to accept the job in Seattle.

## L2

Choices A, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because in line 39 Akira apologizes for interrupting Chie's quiet evening. Choice C is incorrect because lines 58-59 address the seriousness of Akira's request, not its urgency. Choice D is incorrect because line 73 shows only that Akira's proposal has "startled" Chie and does not explain why his request is time-sensitive.

## Answer Explanations

# SAT Practice Test #2

## Section 1: Reading Test

### QUESTION 1.

**Choice A is the best answer.** The narrator admits that his job is “irksome” (line 7) and reflects on the reasons for his dislike. The narrator admits that his work is a “dry and tedious task” (line 9) and that he has a poor relationship with his superior: “the antipathy which had sprung up between myself and my employer striking deeper root and spreading denser shade daily, excluded me from every glimpse of the sunshine of life” (lines 28-31).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the narrator does not become increasingly competitive with his employer, publicly defend his choice of occupation, or exhibit optimism about his job.

### QUESTION 2.

**Choice B is the best answer.** The first sentence of the passage explains that people do not like to admit when they’ve chosen the wrong profession and that they will continue in their profession for a while before admitting their unhappiness. This statement mirrors the narrator’s own situation, as the narrator admits he finds his own occupation “irksome” (line 7) but that he might “long have borne with the nuisance” (line 10) if not for his poor relationship with his employer.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the first sentence does not discuss a controversy, focus on the narrator’s employer, Edward Crimsworth, or provide any evidence of malicious conduct.

### QUESTION 3.

**Choice C is the best answer.** The first paragraph shifts from a general discussion of how people deal with choosing an occupation they later regret (lines 1-6) to the narrator’s description of his own dissatisfaction with his occupation (lines 6-33).

# L3

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the first paragraph does not focus on the narrator's self-doubt, his expectations of life as a tradesman, or his identification of alternatives to his current occupation.

## QUESTION 4.

**Choice A is the best answer.** In lines 27-33, the narrator is describing the hostile relationship between him and his superior, Edward Crimsworth. This relationship causes the narrator to feel like he lives in the “shade” and in “humid darkness.” These words evoke the narrator's feelings of dismay toward his current occupation and his poor relationship with his superior—factors that cause him to live without “the sunshine of life.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the words “shade” and “darkness” do not reflect the narrator's sinister thoughts, his fear of confinement, or his longing for rest.

## QUESTION 5.

**Choice D is the best answer.** The narrator states that Crimsworth dislikes him because the narrator may “one day make a successful tradesman” (line 43). Crimsworth recognizes that the narrator is not “inferior to him” but rather more intelligent, someone who keeps “the padlock of silence on mental wealth which [Crimsworth] was no sharer” (lines 44-48). Crimsworth feels inferior to the narrator and is jealous of the narrator's intellectual and professional abilities.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the narrator is not described as exhibiting “high spirits” or “rash actions,” but “Caution, Tact, [and] Observation” (line 51). Choice B is incorrect because the narrator's “humble background” is not discussed.

## QUESTION 6.

**Choice B is the best answer.** Lines 61-62 state that the narrator “had long ceased to regard Mr. Crimsworth as my brother.” In these lines, the term “brother” means friend or ally, which suggests that the narrator and Crimsworth were once friendly toward one another.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the narrator originally viewed Crimsworth as a friend, or ally, and later as a hostile superior; he never viewed Crimsworth as a harmless rival, perceptive judge, or demanding mentor.

## QUESTION 7.

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 61-62, the narrator states that he once regarded Mr. Crimsworth as his “brother.” This statement provides evidence that the narrator originally viewed Crimsworth as a sympathetic ally.

# L3

Choices A, B, and C do not provide the best evidence for the claim that Crimsworth was a sympathetic ally. Rather, choices A, B, and C provide evidence of the hostile relationship that currently exists between the narrator and Crimsworth.

## QUESTION 8.

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 48-53, the narrator states that he exhibited “Caution, Tact, [and] Observation” at work and watched Mr. Crimsworth with “lynx-eyes.” The narrator acknowledges that Crimsworth was “prepared to steal snake-like” if he caught the narrator acting without tact or being disrespectful toward his superiors (lines 53-56). Thus, Crimsworth was trying to find a reason to place the narrator “in a ridiculous or mortifying position” (lines 49-50) by accusing the narrator of acting unprofessionally. The use of the lynx and snake serve to emphasize the narrator and Crimsworth’s adversarial, or hostile, relationship.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the description of the lynx and snake does not contrast two hypothetical courses of action or convey a resolution. Choice C is incorrect because while lines 48-56 suggest that Crimsworth is trying to find a reason to fault the narrator’s work, they do not imply that an altercation, or heated dispute, between the narrator and Crimsworth is likely to occur.

## QUESTION 9.

**Choice B is the best answer.** Lines 73-74 state that the narrator noticed there was no “cheering red gleam” of fire in his sitting-room fireplace. The lack of a “cheering,” or comforting, fire suggests that the narrator sometimes found his lodgings to be dreary or bleak.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the narrator does not find his living quarters to be treacherous or intolerable. Choice C is incorrect because while the narrator is walking home he speculates about the presence of a fire in his sitting-room’s fireplace (lines 69-74), which suggests that he could not predict the state of his living quarters.

## QUESTION 10.

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 68-74, the narrator states that he did not see the “cheering” glow of a fire in his sitting-room fireplace. This statement provides evidence that the narrator views his lodgings as dreary or bleak.

Choices A, B, and C do not provide the best evidence that the narrator views his lodgings as dreary. Choices A and C are incorrect because they do not provide the narrator’s opinion of his lodgings, and choice B is incorrect because lines 21-23 describe the narrator’s lodgings only as “small.”

# W2

## Section 2: Writing and Language Test

### QUESTION 1.

**Choice D is the best answer** because “outweigh” is the only choice that appropriately reflects the relationship the sentence sets up between “advantages” and “drawbacks.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each implies a competitive relationship that is inappropriate in this context.

### QUESTION 2.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it offers a second action that farmers can undertake to address the problem of acid whey disposal, thus supporting the claim made in the previous sentence (“To address the problem of disposal, farmers have found a *number of uses* for acid whey”).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not offer examples of how farmers could make use of acid whey.

### QUESTION 3.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it results in a sentence that is grammatically correct and coherent. In choice A, “waterways,” the correct plural form of “waterway,” conveys the idea that acid whey could impact multiple bodies of water. Additionally, the compound verb “can pollute” suggests that acid whey presents an ongoing, potential problem.

Choices B and D are incorrect because both use the possessive form of “waterway.” Choice C is incorrect because it creates an unnecessary shift in verb tense. The present tense verb “can pollute” should be used instead, as it is consistent with the other verbs in the paragraph.

### QUESTION 4.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it utilizes proper punctuation for items listed in a series. In this case those items are nouns: “Yogurt manufacturers, food scientists, and government officials.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because both fail to recognize that the items are a part of a series. Since a comma is used after “manufacturers,” a semicolon or colon should not be used after “scientists.” Choice D is incorrect because the comma after “and” is unnecessary and deviates from grammatical conventions for presenting items in a series.

### QUESTION 5.

**Choice C is the best answer** because sentence 5 logically links sentence 2, which explains why Greek yogurt production yields large amounts of acid



# W2

they, and sentence 3, which mentions the need to dispose of acid whey properly.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each would result in an illogical progression of sentences for this paragraph. If sentence 5 were left where it is or placed after sentence 3, it would appear illogically after the discussion of “the problem of disposal.” If sentence 5 were placed after sentence 1, it would illogically discuss “acid-whey runoff” before the mention of acid whey being “difficult to dispose of.”

## QUESTION 6.

**Choice D is the best answer** because the paragraph includes several benefits of consuming Greek yogurt, particularly in regard to nutrition and satisfying hunger, to support the sentence’s claim that the conservation efforts are “well worth the effort.” This transition echoes the passage’s earlier claim that “the advantages of Greek yogurt outweigh the potential drawbacks of its production.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they inaccurately describe the sentence in question.

## QUESTION 7.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a grammatically standard preposition that connects the verb “serves” and noun “digestive aid” and accurately depicts their relationship.

Choice A is incorrect because the infinitive form “to be” yields a grammatically incorrect verb construction: “serves to be.” Choices C and D are incorrect because both present options that deviate from standard English usage.

## QUESTION 8.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it presents a verb tense that is consistent in the context of the sentence. The choice is also free of the redundant “it.”

Choice A is incorrect because the subject “it” creates a redundancy. Choices B and D are incorrect because they present verb tenses that are inconsistent in the context of the sentence.

## QUESTION 9.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it properly introduces an additional health benefit in a series of sentences that list health benefits. “Also” is the logical and coherent choice to communicate an addition.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none of the transitions they offer logically fits the content that precedes or follows the proposed choice.

# W2

## QUESTION 10.

**Choice A is the best answer** because “satiated” is the only choice that communicates effectively that Greek yogurt will satisfy hunger for a longer period of time.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is improper usage in this context. A person can be “fulfilled” spiritually or in other ways, but a person who has eaten until he or she is no longer hungry cannot be described as fulfilled. Neither can he or she be described as being “complacent” or “sufficient.”

## QUESTION 11.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a syntactically coherent and grammatically correct sentence.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the adverbial conjunctions “therefore” and “so,” respectively, are unnecessary following “Because.” Choice D is incorrect because it results in a grammatically incomplete sentence (the part of the sentence before the colon must be an independent clause).

## QUESTION 12.

**Choice B is the best answer** because the graph clearly indicates that, on March 5, average low temperatures are at their lowest point: 12 degrees Fahrenheit.

Choice A is incorrect because the phrase “as low as” suggests that the temperature falls no lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, but the chart shows that in January, February, and March, the temperature frequently falls below that point. Choices C and D are incorrect because the information each provides is inconsistent with the information on the chart.

## QUESTION 13.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it concisely combines the two sentences while maintaining the original meaning.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is unnecessarily wordy, thus undermining one purpose of combining two sentences: to make the phrasing more concise.

## QUESTION 14.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a conjunctive adverb that accurately represents the relationship between the two sentences. “However” signals an exception to a case stated in the preceding sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a transition that does not accurately represent the relationship between the two sentences, and as a result each compromises the logical coherence of these sentences.

# W2

## QUESTION 15.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it provides commas to offset the non-restrictive modifying clause “an associate professor of geology at Ohio State.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each provides punctuation that does not adequately separate the nonrestrictive modifying clause about Jason Box from the main clause.

## QUESTION 16.

**Choice C is the best answer** because the colon signals that the other factor that contributed to the early thaw is about to be provided.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a sentence that deviates from grammatical standards: a semicolon should be used to separate two independent clauses, but in choice A the second clause only has a subject, not a verb. Choice B is incorrect because it is unnecessarily wordy. Choice D is incorrect because “being” is unnecessary and creates an incoherent clause.

## QUESTION 17.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it provides the correct preposition (“of”) and relative pronoun (“which”) that together create a dependent clause following the comma.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses cannot be joined with only a comma.

## QUESTION 18.

**Choice A is the best answer** because the verb tense is consistent with the preceding past tense verbs in the sentence, specifically “produced” and “drifted.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each utilizes a verb tense that is not consistent with the preceding past tense verbs in the sentence.

## QUESTION 19.

**Choice D is the best answer** because “their” is the possessive form of a plural noun. In this case, the noun is plural: “snow and ice.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because the possessive pronoun must refer to a plural noun, “snow and ice,” rather than a singular noun. Choice C is incorrect because “there” would result in an incoherent sentence.

## QUESTION 20.

**Choice D is the best answer.** The preceding sentences in the paragraph have established that a darker surface of soot-covered snow leads to more melting

# W2

because this darker surface absorbs heat, whereas a whiter surface, free of soot, would deflect heat. As the passage points out, exposed land and water are also dark and cannot deflect heat the way ice and snow can. Only choice D reflects the self-reinforcing cycle that the preceding sentences already imply.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the information each provides fails to support the previous claim that the “result” of the soot “is a self-reinforcing cycle.”

## QUESTION 21.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it is free of redundancies.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each of the three presents a redundancy: Choice A uses “repeat” and “again”; Choice C uses “damage” and “harmful effects”; and Choice D uses “may” and “possibly.”

## QUESTION 22.

**Choice D is the best answer** because sentence 5 describes the information Box seeks: “to determine just how much the soot is contributing to the melting of the ice sheet.” Unless sentence 4 comes after sentence 5, readers will not know what the phrase “this crucial information” in sentence 4 refers to.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each results in an illogical sentence progression. None of the sentences that would precede sentence 4 provides details that could be referred to as “this crucial information.”

## QUESTION 23.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it is free of redundancies and offers the correct form of the verb “wear” in this context.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because all three contain a redundancy. Considering that “quickly” is a fixed part of the sentence, choice A’s “soon” and choice B and C’s “promptly” all result in redundancies. Choices A and B are also incorrect because each uses an incorrect form of the verb.

## QUESTION 24.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it is the only choice that provides a grammatically standard and coherent sentence. The participial phrase “Having become frustrated. . .” functions as an adjective modifying “I,” the writer.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each results in a dangling modifier. The participial phrase “Having become frustrated . . .” does not refer to choice A’s “no colleagues,” choice B’s “colleagues,” or choice C’s “ideas.” As such, all three choices yield incoherent and grammatically incorrect sentences.

# W2

## QUESTION 25.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides the correct preposition in this context, “about.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a preposition that deviates from correct usage. One might read an article “about” coworking spaces but not an article “into,” “upon,” or “for” coworking spaces.

## QUESTION 26.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it provides the correct punctuation for the dependent clause that begins with the phrase “such as.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each presents punctuation that deviates from the standard way of punctuating the phrase “such as.” When “such as” is a part of a nonrestrictive clause, as it is here, only one comma is needed to separate it from the main independent clause.

## QUESTION 27.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a transitional phrase, “In addition to equipment,” that accurately represents the relationship between the two sentences connected by the transitional phrase. Together, the sentences describe the key features of coworking spaces, focusing on what the spaces offer (equipment and meeting rooms).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a transition that does not accurately represent the relationship between the two sentences.

## QUESTION 28.

**Choice C is the best answer** because the sentence is a distraction from the paragraph’s focus. Nothing in the paragraph suggests that the cost of setting up a coworking business is relevant here.

Choices A and D are incorrect because neither accurately represents the information in the paragraph. Choice B is incorrect because it does not accurately represent the information in the next paragraph.

## QUESTION 29.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it logically follows the writer’s preceding statement about creativity and accurately represents the information in the graph.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they present inaccurate and unsupported interpretations of the information in the graph. In addition, none of these choices provides directly relevant support for the main topic of the paragraph.

# W2

## QUESTION 30.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it provides a relative pronoun and verb that create a standard and coherent sentence. The relative pronoun “who” refers to the subject “the people,” and the plural verb “use” corresponds grammatically with the plural noun “people.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because “whom” is the relative pronoun used to represent an object. The noun “people” is a subject performing an action (using the coworking space). Choices B and C are also incorrect because they display a form of the verb “to use” that does not correspond to the plural noun “people.”

## QUESTION 31.

**Choice C is the best answer** because the proposed sentence offers a necessary and logical transition between sentence 2, which introduces the facility the writer chose, and sentence 3, which tells what happened at the facility “Throughout the morning.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each would result in an illogical progression of sentences.

## QUESTION 32.

**Choice A is the best answer** because the punctuation it provides results in a grammatically standard and coherent sentence. When an independent clause is followed by a list, a colon is used to link the two.

Choice B is incorrect because the punctuation creates a fragment (a semicolon should be used to link two independent clauses). Choice C is incorrect because its use of the comma creates a series in which “several of my coworking colleagues” are distinguished from the “website developer” and others, although the logic of the sentence would suggest that they are the same. Choice D is incorrect because it lacks the punctuation necessary to link the independent clause and the list.

## QUESTION 33.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it provides a phrase that is consistent with standard English usage and also maintains the tone and style of the passage.

Choice B is incorrect because “give some wisdom” deviates from standard English usage and presents a somewhat colloquial phrase in a text that is generally free of colloquialisms. Choices C and D are incorrect because both are inconsistent with the tone of the passage as well as its purpose. The focus of the paragraph is on sharing, not on proclaiming opinions.

# W2

## QUESTION 34.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it offers a phrase that introduces a basic definition of philosophy and thereby fits the sentence.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each offers a transition that does not suit the purpose of the sentence.

## QUESTION 35.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it offers the most succinct comparison between the basic definition of philosophy and the fact that students can gain specific, practical skills from the study of philosophy. There is no need to include the participle “speaking” in this sentence, as it is clear from context that the writer is offering a different perspective.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they provide options that are unnecessarily wordy.

## QUESTION 36.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a verb that creates a grammatically complete, standard, and coherent sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each results in a grammatically incomplete and incoherent sentence.

## QUESTION 37.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it most effectively sets up the information in the following sentences, which state that (according to information from the 1990s) “only 18 percent of American colleges required at least one philosophy course,” and “more than 400 independent philosophy departments were eliminated” from colleges. These details are most logically linked to the claim that “colleges have not always supported the study of philosophy.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these effectively sets up the information that follows, which is about colleges’ failure to support the study of philosophy.

## QUESTION 38.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it provides a transition that logically connects the information in the previous sentence to the information in this one. Both sentences provide evidence of colleges’ lack of support of philosophy programs, so the adverb “Moreover,” which means “In addition,” accurately captures the relationship between the two sentences.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each presents a transition that does not accurately depict or support the relationship between the two sentences. The second sentence is not a result of the first (“Therefore,” “Thus”), and the sentences do not provide a contrast (“However”).

# W2

## QUESTION 39.

**Choice A is the best answer** because it succinctly expresses the idea that “students who major in philosophy often do better . . . as measured by standardized test scores.”

Choices B and D are incorrect because they introduce a redundancy and a vague term, “results.” The first part of the sentence mentions a research finding or conclusion but does not directly address any “results,” so it is confusing to refer to “these results” and indicate that they “can be” or “are measured by standardized test scores.” The best way to express the idea is simply to say that some students “often do better” than some other students “in both verbal reasoning and analytical writing as measured by standardized test scores.” Choice C is incorrect because there is no indication that multiple criteria are used to evaluate students’ “verbal reasoning and analytical writing”: test scores and something else. Only test scores are mentioned.

## QUESTION 40.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides subject-verb agreement and thus creates a grammatically correct and coherent sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because the verb “has scored” does not correspond with the plural subject “students.” Similarly, Choice C is incorrect because the verb “scores” would correspond with a singular subject, but not the plural subject present in this sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a grammatically incomplete and incoherent sentence.

## QUESTION 41.

**Choice B is the best answer** because it provides a coherent and grammatically standard sentence.

Choices A and D are incorrect because both present “students” in the possessive form, whereas the sentence establishes “students” as the subject (“many students . . . have”). Choice C is incorrect because the verb form it proposes results in an incomplete and incoherent sentence.

## QUESTION 42.

**Choice C is the best answer** because it accurately depicts how inserting this sentence would affect the overall paragraph. The fact that Plato used the dialogue form has little relevance to the preceding claim about the usefulness of a philosophy background.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the proposed sentence interrupts the progression of reasoning in the paragraph. Choice D is incorrect because, as with Choice A, Plato’s works have nothing to do with “the employability of philosophy majors.”



# W2

## QUESTION 43.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it creates a complete and coherent sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each inserts an unnecessary relative pronoun or conjunction, resulting in a sentence without a main verb.

## QUESTION 44.

**Choice D is the best answer** because it provides a possessive pronoun that is consistent with the sentence's plural subject "students," thus creating a grammatically sound sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each proposes a possessive pronoun that is inconsistent with the plural noun "students," the established subject of the sentence.