

## Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

### DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a "NO CHANGE" option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

### Filling in the Blank

1 Every Wednesday on a weekly basis for over fifty years, Nadia Boulanger would invite her current pupils to her Parisian apartment for an afternoon of

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) On Wednesdays—that is, every week—
- C) Every Wednesday
- D) Each and every Wednesday in her apartment

music and discussion. **2** Some of the twentieth century's greatest composers attended these intellectually rigorous weekly gatherings. They were just some of the attendees. From the 1920s until her death in 1979, countless aspiring composers—like Aaron Copland, Philip Glass, and Quincy Jones—sought out Boulanger's mentorship, as if it were a rite of passage in their musical careers. Boulanger, a gifted performer and composer in her own right, was famous for her demanding curriculum that stressed not only the **3** obligations composers have to their audience but also the need for every student to discover his or her own individuality as a composer.

[1] Central to Boulanger's teaching was her insistence that students master the fundamentals of classical music, which to her meant gaining a proficiency in music theory and analysis while also cultivating listening skills. [2] Boulanger used various exercises to drill her students in music basics such as harmony (combining two or more notes) and counterpoint (combining melodies). [3] During private lessons and weekly gatherings, Boulanger **4** leads line-by-line analyses of

2

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) Of the attendees at these intellectually rigorous weekly gatherings, some of them were among the twentieth century's greatest composers.
- B) These intellectually rigorous weekly gatherings had attendees, and among them were some of the twentieth century's greatest composers.
- C) Some of the twentieth century's greatest composers attended because these were intellectually rigorous weekly gatherings.
- D) Among the attendees to these intellectually rigorous weekly gatherings were some of the twentieth century's greatest composers.

3

Which choice best sets up the main idea of the next paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) advantages of dramatic formats like opera
- C) importance of musical form
- D) value of learning to play several instruments

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) would lead
- C) will lead
- D) has been leading

famous musical compositions, identifying their

5 structures and what she discerned as their weaknesses as well. [4] From these intensive sessions with Boulanger, Glass claims 6 that, he “learned to hear.” 7

While Boulanger believed devoutly in musical traditions of the past, she also encouraged her students to experiment and forge their own styles—which they certainly did. Copland, who studied for three years with Boulanger, began composing classical pieces that took inspiration from American folk songs, as in his 1938 ballet *Billy the Kid*. Glass, a later student, developed a more minimalist approach, breaking music down to its basic components. In the 1968 composition *Two Pages*, for example, a pattern of five notes is repeated for eighteen dizzying minutes. Jones, one of the few jazz musicians to study with 8 Boulanger, went on to compose dozens of film scores and produce some of the most iconic pop albums of the century, such as Michael Jackson’s 1982 hit *Thriller*. To Boulanger,

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) structures and what she discerned as their weakness’s
- C) structures’ and what she discerned as their weaknesses’
- D) structure’s and what she discerned as their weaknesses

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) that
- C) that:
- D) that—

7

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 1 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.

8

Which choice best sets up the information that follows in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Boulanger went on—to
- C) Boulanger went on to
- D) Boulanger went on to,

who **9** once taught the composer of the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, it was only natural her pupils would take such diverse paths and make such unique music.

Above all, Boulanger was truly dedicated to music, and she **10** past on a legacy of musical devotion to several generations of composers. She famously once said, “False notes can be forgiven; false music cannot,” and Boulanger **11** became renowned more for her teaching than for her own musical compositions.

9

Which choice best supports the information that follows in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) held that one must first master the rules of composition before breaking them,
- C) taught for years at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau,
- D) believed that composers must find ways to individuate themselves,

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) past for
- C) passed on
- D) passed for

11

The writer wants a conclusion that summarizes the passage’s discussion of Boulanger’s legacy. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) will long be remembered for her formidable knowledge of composers and compositions as well as her own musical skills.
- C) taught her pupils the foundational skills that allowed them to be trailblazers, true to their own creative impulses.
- D) never claimed to be able to inspire creativity in her students, only to train them in technical matters.

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

### Dating Rocks

When a fossilized millipede called *Pneumodesmus newmani* was discovered in Scotland in 2004,

**12** it's estimated age led researchers to conclude it could be the oldest air-breathing animal. It would take the efforts of a determined University of Texas student to show a flaw in **13** it.

The fossil was initially dated to around 428 million years **14** ago. This dating of the fossil was based on the abundance of period-specific plant spores found in nearby sediment. Professor Elizabeth Catlos of the Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at **15** Austin, knew that radiometric analysis could provide a more accurate age, but such an analysis had

**12**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they're
- C) their
- D) its

**13**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) this hypothesis.
- C) them.
- D) those.

**14**

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) ago, with this being
- B) ago: initial dating was
- C) ago
- D) ago, and the dating was

**15**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Austin knew:
- C) Austin knew
- D) Austin; knew

not been performed because researchers were unable to extract the **16** necessary minerals that they required from soil samples. Specifically, they needed grains of zircon, a mineral that traps uranium within its structure when it forms. Uranium isotopes decay into particular isotopes of lead at known rates, so researchers can determine how much time has passed since the zircon formed by measuring the ratios of the lead isotopes to the remaining uranium isotopes in the mineral. Carlos believed that zircon grains, or zircons, could be found in the **17** samples she asked her student Stephanie Suarez to find them.

[1] Suarez received soil samples from three beds near the one where the millipede fossil was found. [2] “The ashes clumped together, and no zircons sank to the bottom,” she recalls. [3] “It was very messy and unsuccessful.” [4] Suarez did some research and came across another method that used sonic vibrations to separate zircons. [5] This technique **18** worked; yielding numerous grains of zircon from two of the

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) minerals they needed to extract for analysis
- C) necessary minerals
- D) minerals that were necessarily needed

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) samples; and
- C) samples,
- D) samples, and she

18

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) worked, it yielded
- C) worked, yielding
- D) worked, and yielding

beds. [6] Suarez and other researchers isolated forty zircons from each of these beds for analysis. **19**

Performing the radiometric analysis, researchers found that numerous grains in each bed were as old as the original estimate or older. However, they also discovered that some were much younger, including a grain in bed 16COW3 dated to **20** 420.0 million years ago and one in bed 16COW1 dated to 410.4 million years ago. A total of **21** two grains in 16COW3 and eight in 16COW1 dated to the Devonian period, which lasted from about 419.2 to 358.9 million years ago.

Ages of Selected Zircon Grains in Beds near *Pneumodesmus newmani* Fossil

	Grain #	Age (millions of years)
Grains in bed 16COW3	4	414.3
	9	415.0
	26	418.7
	3	426.0
	37	447.7
Grains in bed 16COW1	34	410.4
	6	413.7
	1	413.8
	12	414.0
	14	414.0
	27	415.0
	19	418.8
	2	420.0

Adapted from Stephanie E. Suarez et al., "A U-Pb Zircon Age Constraint on the Oldest-Recorded Air-Breathing Land Animal." ©2017 by Stephanie E. Suarez et al.

19

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

She first tried to separate zircons from volcanic ash in the samples by crushing the minerals up and applying an organic solvent, but this method proved ineffective.

The best placement for the sentence is

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

20

Which choice most accurately represents the information in the table?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 413.8
- C) 414.3
- D) 418.8

21

Which choice most accurately represents the information in the table?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) at least four grains in each bed
- C) five grains in 16COW3 and three in 16COW1
- D) three grains in 16COW3 and seven in 16COW1

Since the Devonian is already known to have given rise to other air-breathing animals, the presence of grains from this period around the fossil indicated that *Pneumodesmus newmani* is not the oldest air-breathing animal. Together with Catlos and two other scientists, Suarez published her results in the journal PLOS ONE in 2017; thanks to Suarez, **22** the search for the oldest air-breathing animal now continues.

22

Which choice most effectively concludes the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the tricky problem of how to extract zircons was solved.
- C) important data about the Devonian period were discovered.
- D) researchers have a new reason to be interested in ancient soil beds.



Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

### Managing Expectations

[1] In the workplace, managers' expectations regularly **23** become self-fulfilling prophecies, for better or worse, employees end up performing like their managers believe they will. [2] Researchers have long known both that positive managerial expectations can lead to increased employee performance and that supervisors often have difficulty communicating such beliefs, especially if **24** it is not sincerely held. [3] For example, subtle nonverbal signals, such as facial expressions, operate on a subconscious **25** level, betraying and showing bosses' true feelings. [4] Although it can be challenging to control such signals, supervisors can create an environment of positive expectations by incorporating two concrete strategies into their leadership style. **26**

Managers can start by setting challenging, yet realistic, performance goals for their employees. In the 1960s, an experiment at the Metropolitan Life Insurance

**23**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) become self-fulfilling prophecies
- C) become: self-fulfilling prophecies,
- D) become self-fulfilling prophecies:

**24**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) that is
- C) this is
- D) they are

**25**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) level, betraying
- C) level beyond conscious awareness, showing
- D) level, and these signals betray

**26**

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

Thus, managers' words may tell one story, and their faces, another.

The best placement for the sentence is

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

Company demonstrated how **27** can ambitious goals powerfully communicate positive expectations? One of the company's district managers selected his six best insurance agents, placed them under the leadership of his best assistant manager, and tasked the group with a lofty sales **28** goal, which acted as a clear sign of management's confidence in the group's abilities. People within the company began referring to this group as the "super **29** staff." The six agents who made up the group performed accordingly, boosting the performance of the agency by 40 percent. The takeaway is simple: to create super staff, give them super goals.

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) can ambitious goals powerfully communicate positive expectations.
- C) ambitious goals can powerfully communicate positive expectations?
- D) ambitious goals can powerfully communicate positive expectations.

28

Which choice most effectively supports the idea in the previous sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) goal: the manager would report the results of the experiment at an industry meeting in 1963.
- C) goal; sales goals are typically set once the market potential of a product has been determined.
- D) goal, as part of a plan based on the manager's observations of trends at various insurance agencies.

29

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) staff," and the six agents performed
- B) staff," and the group made up of six agents performed
- C) staff"; they (the six agents) performed
- D) staff," with the agents, all six of them, performing

Providing employees with learning opportunities **30** —such as attending a professional conference or taking an online course—also communicates positive expectations because such activities signal to employees that they possess skills and abilities worth developing. In 2009, researchers in the Netherlands surveyed 904 manager-employee pairs from a variety of professions and found that managers who had higher expectations of their employees provided them with more opportunities for learning. However, the research team noted that some bosses were biased; they made these activities available only to employees they considered to have high potential—a behavior that **31** risk creating a situation in which employees considered to have low potential fail to develop their skills. **32** In determining an employee's potential, supervisors should make these experiences available to all.

30

The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion. Should the underlined portion be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it clarifies the paragraph's main point by offering examples of learning opportunities.
- B) Kept, because it provides a valid counterpoint to a claim about performance made in the previous paragraph.
- C) Deleted, because it fails to effectively set up the discussion of the research that follows in the paragraph.
- D) Deleted, because it introduces a detail that undermines the passage's argument about employer expectations.

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) risks
- C) have risked
- D) are risking

32

Which choice provides the most effective transition from the previous sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In spite of inevitable failure,
- C) Though some skills are more difficult to learn,
- D) To avoid this pitfall,

These two strategies are simple, yet powerful, and workplace leaders would be wise to employ them. The evidence is clear: managers and staff alike benefit from an atmosphere **33** that expectations are high and opportunities to exceed them are abundant.

**33**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) in that
- C) in which
- D) which

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

### Postal Privacy

[1] In his 1928 dissent on the case of *Olmstead v. United States*, US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis **34** pledged that phone conversations are **35** subjected to privacy protections under the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits “unreasonable searches and seizures” of people’s “houses, papers, and effects.” [2] Brandeis’s argument is a key precedent for **36** modern legal interpretations of the Fourth Amendment. [3] Indeed, the influence of his argument has been so widespread that many in the United States today assume that the Fourth Amendment plainly guarantees a right to privacy of communications. [4] According to law professor Anuj Desai, the guarantee can principally be ascribed not to the Constitution but rather to the early history of the US Postal Service and the judicial reverberations of that history through time. [5] However, the US Constitution makes no explicit reference to such privacy. **37**

**34**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) asserted
- C) demanded
- D) divulged

**35**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) subjects of
- C) the subjection of
- D) subject to

**36**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) lawyer-type thinking these days on
- C) the things legal bigwigs say today about
- D) what law pundits have reckoned lately regarding

**37**

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 2.
- D) after sentence 3.

As tensions between loyalists and revolutionaries escalated during the 1770s, the British-controlled colonial postal service became an increasing source of concern, **38** even though the American Secretary, Lord Dartmouth, wanted to avoid going to war. In response to this anxiety, the Second Continental Congress established an independent mail service in 1775 that **39** had provided safeguards for confidentiality, such as **40** a provision that mail for delivery “be under lock and key.” When the US Postal Service was founded in 1792, prohibitions against opening mail without a warrant were written into its charter. Although the Bill of Rights had

38

Which choice most effectively develops the information earlier in the sentence and sets up the information in the sentence that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) but new taxation measures were the immediate catalyst for the outbreak of the American Revolution.
- C) with colonists of both affiliations fearing access to their private communications by opponents.
- D) and Benjamin Franklin’s partner, newspaper publisher William Goddard, was one of its vocal critics.

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) provides
- C) provided
- D) will be providing

40

Which choice gives a supporting example that is most relevant to the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) service to and from each of the thirteen colonies.
- C) delivery six days out of the week.
- D) the appointment of Benjamin Franklin as the first Postmaster General.

been ratified in 1791, Desai **41** notes that, the legal guarantee of private mail was established independently of the Fourth Amendment. There is no evidence that the amendment was designed to include sealed letters sent through the mail among the “papers” protected from unreasonable searches.

US Supreme Court **42** justices, those who eventually held that certain forms of surveillance violated the Fourth Amendment drew on a tradition of protections derived from colonial experience. In the 1878 case *Ex parte Jackson*, Justice Stephen Johnson Field crucially extended the meaning of “papers” in the Fourth Amendment to include sealed letters in the postal

**41**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) notes that
- C) notes, that
- D) notes that:

**42**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) justices, and who
- C) justices
- D) justices who

system, **43** moreover, making postal policy a constitutional principle. This opinion, in turn, set the precedent for Brandeis's equating of private phone calls with sealed letters.

Early postal policymakers were instrumental in guaranteeing the right to privacy of correspondence, but new forms of communication in the digital age mean that privacy matters are far from resolved. In grappling with questions surrounding twenty-first-century methods, **44** courts will likely continue to be influenced by decisions made in colonial times.

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) thus
- C) conversely,
- D) meanwhile,

44

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it is by decisions made in colonial times that courts will likely continue to be influenced.
- C) decisions made in colonial times will likely continue to influence courts.
- D) the influence on courts will likely continue to be decisions made in colonial times.

**STOP**

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.  
Do not turn to any other section.**