

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.

In Search of Vikings

In 1961, Norwegian archaeologists set out across the Atlantic Ocean to investigate the legendary Viking presence in North America. While many scholars believed the land referred to in the Norse epics as Vinland was a part of Canada or the United States, no physical evidence of a Norse village had ever been discovered in North America. **1** The absence of physical evidence can be a major issue for crime investigators, but historians struggle with this problem as well.

1

Which choice provides the most effective transition to the discussion that follows in the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Physical evidence of Norse villages, however, is extensive throughout Scandinavia and has been carefully studied by archaeologists.
- C) Regardless of what these archaeologists discovered, the Norse epic Saga of the Greenlanders contains interesting information about the alleged Viking presence in North America.
- D) That changed when these archaeologists began excavating a remote stretch of the Canadian coast.

The team of researchers, which included Anne Stine Ingstad, who studied archaeology at the University of Oslo, sailed around the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, **2** looked for a place that fit the description in the Norse sagas. A local fisherman from the village of L'Anse aux Meadows led them to a nearby site that featured large, unusual dirt-covered mounds that looked like houses, and the team decided to begin digging. **3** With Ingstad supervising the dig **4** at the course of several years, their excavations provided the first solid archaeological evidence for the theory of Norse contact with North America. Ingstad and her team uncovered the remains of nine structures, including a great hall with a central fireplace just like the ones the Vikings built in Greenland, Iceland, and Scandinavia.

While the architectural elements found by Ingstad's team indicated possible Norse occupation, some thought these remains could be evidence of the Indigenous Beothuk people, who populated the area at least five hundred years prior to the alleged Viking landing. Ingstad sought proof that the remains were Norse in particular. The Beothuk people were hunter-gatherers who made advanced tools and structures out of wood and bone, **5** and they used canoes made of bark for many activities. When Ingstad and her team found one-thousand-year-old scraps of iron, melted metal, and part of a stone anvil, they concluded the remains were Norse, providing proof of a westward Norse migration.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) looking
- C) they looked
- D) and who were looking

3

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

In a published account of her work with the team, Ingstad describes L'Anse aux meadows and its environs as "a fair land . . . bathed in sunshine."

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides an effective transition to the sentence that follows.
- B) Yes, because it offers evidence that supports the main ideas of the paragraph.
- C) No, because it offers loosely related information that interrupts the discussion in the paragraph.
- D) No, because it contradicts information provided in the previous sentence.

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) over the course to
- C) over the course of
- D) at the course along

5

Which choice provides the best transition to the paragraph's concluding sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) but they did not employ ironworking.
- C) and they lived in tents during the summer.
- D) though researchers do not know much about their religious practices.

Not only did Ingstad's excavation establish the presence of Vikings, but it also **6** revealed much about their daily lives. Ingstad uncovered **7** structures. These structures included sheds for protecting boats as well as the remains of a bathhouse. She also found a small stone spinning wheel. According to the sagas, spinning yarn was work generally performed by Norse **8** women this find suggested that women were among the settlers on

6

Which choice most effectively sets up the details provided in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) led to an excellent book about the team's adventures.
- C) prompted the Newfoundland government to establish the excavation site as an authentic ancient monument.
- D) helped cement Ingstad's reputation as a first-rate archaeologist.

7

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

- A) structures, ones such as sheds for the protection of boats and
- B) structures, and these structures also included sheds for boats' protection as well as
- C) structures such as sheds for protecting boats and
- D) structures; those that were discovered included sheds that were used in order to protect boats as well as

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) women, thus,
- C) women, consequently,
- D) women, so

the site. The artifacts that Ingstad found led **9** her, to conclude that more than one hundred Vikings had lived at the site for several years, using **10** them as a base to explore other parts of the coastline. The archaeologists' findings definitively **11** rewrote the history of Viking exploration, confirming that Europe and North America had far older links than people had previously believed.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) her to conclude that
- C) her, to conclude that,
- D) her to conclude, that

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it
- C) those
- D) each of these

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) revised, thanks to their discoveries, the history
- C) rewrote and reworked the history
- D) rewrote in an authoritative manner the historical account

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

The New Fish on the Block

Species throughout time have been shaped by divergent evolution, in which a population becomes more distinct from the rest of its species as **12** they adapt to a habitat. Biologists have long assumed that most organisms will **13** initially struggle in the beginning to survive when faced with an unfamiliar environment. **14** However, a recent study by biologists Daniel Bolnick and William Stutz at the University of Texas at Austin shows how newcomers to an ecosystem can **15** thrive. When they thrive it allows locally rare traits to persist and keeps different populations within the same species genetically closer together.

The experiment's subject was the three-spined stickleback fish. Bolnick and Stutz examined how two **16** ecotypes, or, geographic variants, of stickleback—relatively smaller ones from lakes and larger ones from streams—fared when removed from their usual habitats.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) those adapt
- C) it adapts
- D) these adapt

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) initially struggle with great effort
- C) initially, at the beginning, struggle quite extensively
- D) initially struggle

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In addition,
- C) Therefore,
- D) Moreover,

15

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

- A) thrive—in doing this, it allows locally rare traits to persist and keeps
- B) thrive and so then allows locally rare traits to persist and keeps
- C) thrive: and in this way locally rare traits can persist, keeping
- D) thrive, allowing locally rare traits to persist and keeping

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) ecotypes or geographic variants,
- C) ecotypes or, geographic variants
- D) ecotypes, or geographic variants,

They also wanted to test whether there was an advantage to being the less-common **17** ecotype, the researchers placed sticklebacks from each environment into multiple cages in lakes and streams. Each cage contained two fish of one ecotype and one of the other. In half the cages, lake sticklebacks were in the **18** majority; in the other half, stream sticklebacks were in the majority. The scientists then measured fish survival rates over six weeks.

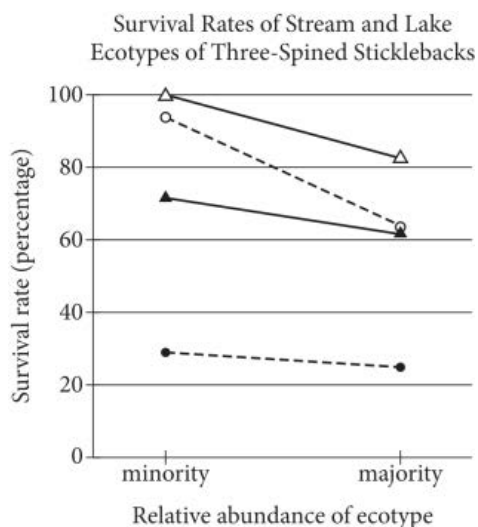
17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) ecotype, so, then the
- C) ecotype. The
- D) ecotype: and the

18

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) majority,
- C) majority
- D) majority:

The results suggested that moving into a new habitat could be beneficial. The survival rate **19** of lake-origin sticklebacks in both lake and stream cages was higher than that of stream-origin sticklebacks in both cages, regardless of whether they were in the majority or the minority. This advantage was attributed to the greater amount of nutrients in stream ecosystems. Independent of a fish's origin or destination, though, both ecotypes survived at higher rates when they were in the minority. When stream fish were placed into lake cages, for example, their survival rate as the majority ecotype was about **20** 60 percent. When they were in the minority, nearly 75 percent survived. The researchers inferred that an advantage of the rare ecotype was having a diet that differed from that of the residents. "You come in and you eat something nobody else around you eats, so you aren't competing for food," Bolnick notes.



19

Which choice offers the best interpretation of the data in the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) was highest for stream-origin sticklebacks placed in lake cages,
- C) of lake-origin sticklebacks in stream cages was more than twice that of lake-origin sticklebacks in lake cages,
- D) was lowest for lake-origin sticklebacks in stream cages,

20

Which choice makes the writer's description of the figure most accurate?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 65 percent. When they were in the minority, nearly 95
- C) 30 percent. When they were in the minority, nearly 35
- D) 85 percent. When they were in the minority, nearly 100

The **21** researcher's concluded that because newcomers face less competition, they are able to survive more often and pass on their genes in their new environment. As a result, the pace of divergent evolution, the process by which populations within a species become genetically different, slows. In addition, as genes are passed on, genetic variation increases. Since variation allows species to express traits that were once rare but are often advantageous, the **22** species can rely on diet to survive.

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) researchers' concluded that because newcomer's
- C) researchers' concluded that because newcomers'
- D) researchers concluded that because newcomers

22

Which choice provides the most effective conclusion to the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) species' chances of survival grow.
- C) species can survive in both lakes and streams.
- D) species' survival depends on its members' relative size.

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

A Space of One's Own

23 Until Shelly Palmer—the CEO of a technology and marketing company—returned home from a meeting, he found that a family member had cleaned and organized his notoriously messy desk. Palmer quickly realized that he could not find the materials he needed and that the space was poorly suited to the way he was used to working. 24 Stringent workplace rules may trigger employee complaints in many traditional offices, where employers implement “clean desk policies” based on the notion that having too many items on and around one’s desk can be distracting, hampering an employee’s performance. 25 As it turns out, the state of an employee’s desk can reflect a number of things about an employee’s personality.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) When
- C) Whereas
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

24

Which choice provides the most effective transition from the previous sentences to the information that follows in this sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In home offices such as Palmer’s, workers are not typically bound to a strict schedule, unlike
- C) Such imposition of order onto a worker’s desk occurs on a larger scale
- D) Complex filing systems can hinder the efficiency of workers

25

Which choice most effectively sets up the main claim of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) As experts confirm, employees can work more efficiently by organizing their materials according to how frequently they use them.
- C) Some companies have gone to the extreme of distributing detailed handbooks explaining what employees should and should not keep at their desks.
- D) Researchers have been challenging that idea, however—and employers would be wise to listen.

As a study by psychologists at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom 26 have suggested, employees may experience increased productivity 27 and satisfaction when they are allowed to determine the number and arrangement of items on their desks or in their offices. The psychologists, Craig 28 Knight and S. Alexander Haslam, asked some participants to do administrative tasks in a “clean” office that contained only a chair and an empty desk. Other participants were given the same furniture along with pictures and plants and told to decorate the office and desk using any items they liked. They then conducted the same tasks as those in the bare office. Participants who had the freedom to arrange their spaces completed tasks more quickly and with fewer errors than those confined to the “clean” office, and more frequently reported feeling empowered.

Some employers might argue that 29 a clean desk policy is necessary. In the absence of a clean desk policy, workers would be free to let their desks devolve into outright clutter. However, a University of Minnesota study led by Dr. Kathleen D. Vohs shows that disorderly work spaces can be an asset. Vohs placed participants either at a tidy desk with papers arranged in piles or 30 placed them at a messy desk with papers strewn across the desk and floor. She then instructed the participants to brainstorm new uses for Ping-Pong balls for a manufacturer. Those at the messy desk were judged to have developed more creative ideas than those at the tidy desk, leading Vohs and her team to conclude that “disorderly environments seem to inspire breaking free of tradition, which can produce fresh insights.”

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) are suggesting,
- C) suggests,
- D) suggest,

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and increased satisfaction, both of which are experienced by employees
- C) and, in addition, satisfaction
- D) as well as satisfaction that increases

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Knight, and S. Alexander Haslam
- C) Knight—and S. Alexander Haslam,
- D) Knight and S. Alexander Haslam;

29

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

- A) a clean desk policy, being necessary, would keep workers from being
- B) without a clean desk policy, workers would be
- C) when a necessary clean desk policy is absent, workers would be
- D) workers lacking a clean desk policy, which employers find necessary, would be

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they were placed
- C) placed
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

Requiring workers to maintain sparse desks may **31** have a negative impact on office productivity. For example, employers may have little choice but to adopt a clean desk policy in cases where limited office space requires that single desks be shared by multiple employees. **32** Still, in workplaces where people have their own desks, employers would **33** as well consider the potential benefits of permitting workers to arrange—or clutter—their desks as they like.

31

Which choice most effectively sets up the example in the sentence that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) not present a challenge for certain types of employees.
- C) result in heightened tensions for some employees.
- D) be necessary in some work environments.

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In addition,
- C) Therefore,
- D) Likewise,

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) do as well as
- C) do well to
- D) well

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

The U-Wing's Design Makes a U-Turn

Doug Chiang had a problem with his spaceship. Designed for the 2016 film *Rogue One*, the vehicle sketched out by Chiang and his team of concept **34** artists (professionals who help filmmakers and video game producers translate ideas from page to screen— looked a little too **35** above this planet. In any other film, perhaps the futuristic design would have sufficed, but Chiang wasn't working on just any film. He was working on the latest installment of *Star Wars*, a franchise of science-fantasy films whose **36** merchandise includes toy versions of the spaceship Millennium Falcon.

When preparing to make the original *Star Wars* film in the 1970s, director George Lucas turned to concept artists Ralph McQuarrie and Joe Johnston to create art depicting the **37** creatures vehicles and locations described in the screenplay. The aesthetic that emerged from the artists' pens and paintbrushes was a blend of cinematic and world history, incorporating **38** a “used universe” feel: nothing looked shiny and new. Chiang's designs needed to mesh seamlessly with those of

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) artists—professionals
- C) artists, professionals
- D) artists: professionals

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) beyond this planet.
- C) out of this world.
- D) on top of the world.

36

Which choice most effectively establishes a main idea of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) characters frequently travel from planet to planet in spaceships.
- C) themes are drawn from fairy tales and myths.
- D) visual aesthetic draws more heavily on the past than on the future

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) creatures vehicles, and
- C) creatures, vehicles, and
- D) creatures, vehicles and,

38

Which choice best supports a point made earlier in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a distinctive color palette: earth tones for the heroes, and black, gray, and red for the villains.
- C) elements not only from Westerns and samurai films but also from World War II military uniforms.
- D) distinct silhouettes based on basic shapes, such as circles and triangles

McQuarrie and Johnston because the events depicted in Rogue One occur immediately before those of the original Star Wars film. However, when Chiang's new ship, the U-Wing, was placed alongside the iconic X-Wing from the original film, the two vehicles **39** looked as different as night and day. The Rogue One team would need to take the U-Wing back to the drawing board.

[1] He had been working on Star Wars films since the mid-1990s, when Lucas selected him to be the head of the Lucasfilm art department. [2] At the time, Lucas was developing **40** a trilogy of three prequels to the original Star Wars, and **41** he encouraged Chiang to take bold risks and explore the gray area between "what is Star Wars and what is not." [3] This artistic risk-taking often meant that designs would go through dozens of iterations before being finalized, but the results were usually stunning. [4] For Chiang, the U-Wing was just the latest in a series of Star Wars design challenges. **42**

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) were so different, I would have wanted to shout, "Hey, that's not Star Wars!"
- C) were like apples and oranges.
- D) didn't look like they belonged to the same universe, aesthetically.

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a trilogy of prequels to
- C) three prequels in a trilogy that Lucas set before
- D) a trilogy of Star Wars prequels that take place before

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they encouraged him
- C) it encouraged Lucas
- D) he encouraged Lucas

42

The writer wants to add the following sentence to this paragraph

Chiang was no stranger to such trial-and-error design work

The best placement for the sentence is

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

For the next version of the spaceship, Chiang and his team began incorporating elements from real-world vehicles, such as the widely recognized 1960s-era “Huey” helicopter. They also drew directly on ⁴³ McQuarrie’s and Johnston’s visual vocabulary by integrating the engine design from the X-Wing. In the end, the team produced 781 versions of the U-Wing before the director of *Rogue One* approved the design. The result was a spaceship that looked like it could have appeared in the original film. Chiang says that the final design “looks very obvious,” but he adds that ⁴⁴ “we knew the U-Wing was going to be very challenging.”

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) McQuarries and Johnstons
- C) McQuarries’ and Johnstons’
- D) McQuarrie and Johnston’s

44

Which quotation from Chiang best completes the sentence and concludes the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) “you can configure the wings in a hundred different ways, if not thousands.”
- C) “[the U-Wing] became a very organic design.”
- D) “getting to that obvious [look] is always very hard.”

STOP

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