Question #1

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

After the orchestra completed their last performance of the evening, the crowd rose up and applauded exuberantly.

1. rose up
2. rise up
3. rised up
4. raised up
5. risen up

Key: A

The sentence is correct as it is. This sentence requires the past tense of the verb *rise*, which is *rose*.

Question #2

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

In order to remain anonymous, the benevolent donor called the charity, pledged to make a donation, and he asked not to be identified by name.

1. and he asked not to be identified by name
2. and asked not to be identified by name
3. and had asked not to be identified by name
4. and was asking not to be identified by name
5. and he did ask not to be identified by name

Key: B

This correct answer is B. This sentence needs to be corrected for parallel structure. The phrase *and asked not to be identified by name* parallels *called the charity* and *pledged to make a donation*. Choice B makes all three parts of the sentence’s list parallel to each other.

Question #3

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

During a school fire drill, students are required to line up alphabetically, follow their teacher out of the building and to the parking lot, and remaining quiet and attentive at all times.

1. remaining quiet and attentive at all times
2. remains quiet and attentive at all times
3. remained quiet and attentive at all times
4. remain quiet and attentive at all times
5. will remain quiet and attentive at all times

Key: D

This correct answer is D. This sentence needs to be corrected for parallel structure. The phrase *remain quiet and attentive at all times* parallels *line up alphabetically* and *follow their teacher out of the building*. Choice D makes all three parts of the sentence’s list parallel to each other.

Question #4

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

The Portuguese Man o’ War is found most commonly is the tropical and subtropical regions of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, it lives at the surface of the water.

1. Pacific and Indian Oceans, it lives at the surface of the water.
2. Pacific and Indian Oceans, because it lives at the surface of the water.
3. Pacific and Indian Oceans, and it lives at the surface of the water.
4. Pacific and Indian Oceans, however it lives at the surface of the water.
5. Pacific and Indian Oceans, even though it lives at the surface of the water.

Key: C

This is a run-on sentence and must be corrected in order to be a compound sentence. The coordinating conjunction *and* is needed in order to connect the two sentences correctly.

Question # 5

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

According to legend, a Danish sea captain named Hanson Gregory accidentally invented the doughnut, considered by many to be one of the greater sweet treats of all time.

1. one of the greater sweet treats of all time
2. one of the great sweet treats of all time
3. one of the greatest sweet treats of all time
4. one of the more great sweet treats of all time
5. one of the more greater sweet treats of all time

Key: C

The correct answer is C. When comparing three or more things, the superlative case is needed. In this sentence, since more than three sweet treats are being compared, the superlative *greatest* must be used.

Question # 6

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

As society’s awareness increases regarding the need to conserve and preserve our natural resources, the incidents of unnecessary polluting have become exceedingly rare.

1. exceedingly rare
2. exceed rare
3. exceed rarely
4. exceedingly rarely
5. exceedingly and rarely

Key: A

This sentence is written correctly. The adverb *exceedingly* is needed to modify the adjective *rare*.

Question # 7

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

Since Nancy was interested in applying to a law school program and needed to know the requirements, she decided to contact an old high school friend of her’s who had recently become a lawyer.

1. her’s
2. hers
3. her
4. hers’s
5. she

Key: B

In this sentence a possessive pronoun is needed, which eliminates choice E. Possessive pronouns end in *s* but do not take an apostrophe. Thus, choice B is the correct answer.

Question # 8

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

The visiting team decided to be cordial to their rivals and made sure to leave the mens’ locker room as clean as possible after the game.

1. mens’
2. mens
3. men’s
4. mens’s
5. man’s

Key: C

The correct answer is D. *Men* is a plural noun, so in order to make it possessive, an apostrophe and an *s* is added.

Question # 9

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

According to one recent study, nearly one-third of American children under the age of eleven are considered to be overweight today.

1. study, nearly
2. study: nearly
3. study; nearly
4. study nearly
5. study-nearly

Key: A

This sentence is correct as it is. A comma is necessary after an introductory subordinate clause.

Question # 10

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

Before the airplane began to taxi down the runway, the pilot announced, “We expect to have a smooth flight today.” Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.

1. “We expect to have a smooth flight today.” Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.
2. We expect to have a smooth flight today. Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.
3. We expect to have a smooth flight today. “Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.”
4. “We expect to have a smooth flight today.” “Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.”
5. “We expect to have a smooth flight today. Our estimated flight time is approximately four hours.”

Key: E

Choice E is correct because all of the speaker’s words should be surrounded by quotation marks. There is no need to break up the quotation marks between sentences.

Question # 11

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

Joseph Campbell, a famous American writer of mythology, once said that, “A hero is someone who has given their life to something bigger than oneself.”

A.    their life

B.    your life

C.    their lives

D.    his or her life

E.    they’re life

Key: D Since *hero* is singular, a singular possessive pronoun is needed.  His or her is the appropriate choice because the sex of the hero is not indicated in the sentence.

Question # 12

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Grammar

**Directions: Choose the best version of the underlined segment of each sentence. Choice A is identical to the original sentence, so choose A if you believe the original sentence is best left alone. Otherwise, choose the best revision that can be made.**

After Ulysses finally arrived back home to Ithaca, he struggled to keep his mind free of thoughts of Nausicaa, a princess whom Ulysses had met at the closure of his journey.

A.    princess whom

B.    princess who

C.    princess that

D.    princess which

E.    princess who’s

Key: A

This sentence is written correctly.  Since Ulysses is the subject of the sentence, then Nausicaa is the object, and the object pronoun *whom* is needed to refer to the princess.

Question #13

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

After winning eight gold medals in the 2008 Summer Olympics, Michael Phelps celebrated his

A B C

achievement and supports his fellow teammates. No Error

D E

Key: D

This sentence has an error with verb tenses. All tenses in a sentence should be consistent. Since *celebrated* is in the past tense, then *supported* is the necessary verb tense in order to remain consistent.

Question #14

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

The teen vampire novels of Stephanie Meyer has earned high praise for cultivating a passion for

A B C

reading in enormous amounts of young adults. No error.

D E

Key: B

This sentence contains an error with subject-verb agreement. Since the subject *novels* in plural, the verb needs to be plural as well. *Has earned* is a singular verb and needs to be changed to *have earned*.

Question #15

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

The Berlin Wall, a physical barrier that separated East Germany from West Germany for more

A B

than a quarter-century, was finally opened on November 9 1989. No error.

C D E

Key: D

For dates, a comma is necessary to separate the date from the year. Therefore, the date should read *November 9, 1989.*

Question #16

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

When a devastating tornado ripped through a small town, the community had scarcely no

A B C

resources until a disaster-relief organization arrived with much needed aid and supplies.

D

No error.

E

Key: C

This error is a double negative. *Scarcely* and *no* are both negatives, so they cannot be used in the same sentence. The correction to this would be *scarcely any.*

Question #17

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

After several hours of intense deliberation, the resolution that was finally agreed with by the

A B

condominium association allowed residents to own up to two pets per household with the

C D

payment of a security deposit. No error.

E

Key: B

This is an incorrect form of an idiom. It should read *agreed to*, not *agreed with*.

Question #18

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

Everyday, numerous traffic accidents occur due to driver negligence, most often as a result of the

A B C

following cell phone activities: texting, phone calls, and emailing. No error.

D E

.

Key: A

This is an example of a commonly mistaken word. *Everyday* written as one word means “normal, usual,” and is written as an adjective. As two separate words, *every day* means “each day.” This is the usage necessary in the sentence.

Question #19

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

Teenage bullying has become a devastating problem in our nation’s school system, teenage girls

A B

are especially prone to silent, passive forms of bullying, such as online taunting and social

C D

isolation. No error.

E

Key: B

This is a run-on sentence. The two independent clauses need to be joined with a coordinating conjunction after the comma, such as *and,* or broken into two separate sentences with a period and a capital *Teenage*, in order to correct this error.

Question #20

Alexander, Annesophia

Writing: Sentence Correction

**Directions: In the following sentences, you will need to identify possible errors in grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, wordiness, redundancy, or sentence fragments. Each sentence will only have one error, and some sentences do not contain any errors. Choose the underlined segment of each sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct, choose Choice E – No Error.**

This year’s awards assembly honored the top five finalists of the school’s essay contest

A B C

in the auditorium. No error.

D E

Key: D

This is an example of a misplaced modifier. The sentence currently states that essay contest was held in the auditorium instead of the awards assembly. The correct sentence should read: *This year’s awards assembly in the auditorium honored the top five finalists of the school’s essay contest.*

The following passage should be used for Questions 21-25

One of the premier products of Portugal that contributes greatly to its economic growth is cork. Cork is obtained from the bark of the cork oak tree and is harvested for a period of about nine years. Portugal accounts for about 50% of the total cork production in the world and the Mediterranean type climate of Portugal is immensely conducive to its growth. Cork is a vegetable tissue and because of its versatility, it has had a variety of uses from being used in fishing boats, roads, and floor tiles, although its most prevalent use has been as cork stoppers in wine bottles. This shows how significantly cork production supplements wine production in Portugal as well.

            If one goes down the pages of history, it is interesting to find that since scores of years before the birth of Christ, the usage of cork had been prevalent in various Asian countries and in some European countries like Italy as well. Portugal was covered with abundant cork oak tree plantations because of the favorable climatic conditions and the Portuguese should be credited for being the first in the world to introduce suitable norms related to the conservation and preservation of these cork oak trees. Moreover, during the Age of Discovery in the 14th Century the Portuguese explorers used cork wood as ship building material. In those days, cork oak wood was referred to as ‘sovaro’ and considered as perfect to withstand harsh weather conditions and its unique quality was that it never rotted. However, it was the Englishman Robert Hooke who for the first time devised the use of cork for sealing wine bottles, and since then cork has been widely used as cork stoppers. In a country like Portugal, where its wine is one of the most famous delicacies, abundant availability of cork has only been an additional boon.

Question #21

Alexander, Annesophia

Reading – Recognizing the Main Idea

The primary purpose of this passage is to:

1. Outline the reasons why Portuguese cork is superior to cork produced in other countries.
2. Argue that current climate changes are negatively impacting the growth of Mediterranean oak trees.
3. Explain the history of Portugal’s cork production and illustrate its benefit to the country’s wine industry.
4. Compare and contrast various methods of harvesting cork.
5. Evaluate the different uses for cork and prove that it is superior to wood in as a ship building material.

Key: C

The primary purpose of this passage is to explain the history of Portugal’s cork production and illustrate its benefit to the country’s wine industry. This is evident in the description of the history of cork in Portugal, as well as with the line *This shows how significantly cork production supplements wine production in Portugal as well.* Another sentence that provides evidence of the passage’s purpose is *In a country like Portugal, where its wine is one of the most famous delicacies, abundant availability of cork has only been an additional boon.*

Question #22

Alexander, Annesophia

Reading – Evaluation of Evidence

According to the article, all of the following traits can be associated with cork except:

1. versatile
2. resilient to weather
3. resistant to rot
4. malleable
5. fragile

Key: E.

According to the article, cork is a versatile product that is a great substitute for wood in certain uses due to its suppleness. Some of cork’s best features are its resistance to harsh weather and rot. The one trait that does not match the article’s description of cork is *fragility*.

Question #23

Alexander, Annesophia

Reading – Drawing Inferences

Which statement would the author most likely agree with?

1. The Portuguese deserve recognition for their efforts in cork conservation and preservation.
2. Almost all of the world’s cork comes from Portugal.
3. The Englishman Robert Hooke should be credited with the discovery of cork.
4. The wine industry has hurt the harvesting of cork because the demand has outnumbered the supply available.
5. The use of cork in wine stoppers has dwindled in the past few decades due to the decrease in cork production across Europe.

Key: A

The author infers in the second paragraph that he/she believes that the Portuguese deserve recognition for their environmental efforts in relation to cork production. This is evident in the line *the Portuguese should be credited for being the first in the world to introduce suitable norms related to the conservation and preservation of these cork oak trees*

Question #24

Alexander, Annesophia

Reading – Vocabulary Words

The word *boon* in the last line of this passage most nearly means:

1. growth
2. Benefit
3. Shortcoming
4. Burden
5. Detriment

Key: B

Because wine is one of Portugal’s most famous delicacies, the fact that cork is readily available and produced in abundance make it an added advantage or *benefit*. Therefore, the correct answer is B. Choice A does not best fit the definition of the word in this context. Choices C, D, and E are all antonyms of *boon*.

Question #25

Alexander, Annesophia

Reading – Recognizing the Organization of Passages

This passage would most likely be found in

1. A financial magazine
2. A letter to a friend
3. A newspaper editorial
4. A conservation blog
5. A travel website illustrating Portugal

Key: E

This passage is expository in nature, written with the intent to inform the reader about Portugal’s cork production. Therefore, choices B, C, and D are incorrect, because they would contain subjective, persuasive-style content. Choice A is incorrect because this passage does not focus on any financial matters. Choice E is the most appropriate source for this type of excerpt.