

PREP2012 PACK 1

语法部分 带解释

共 75 题

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-001 Vsc07546 EASY

The concept of the grand jury dates from the twelfth century, when Henry II of England ordered panels of common citizens should prepare lists of who were their communities' suspected criminals.

- A. should prepare lists of who were their communities' suspected criminals
- B. would do the preparation of lists of their communities' suspected criminals
- C. preparing lists of suspected criminals in their communities
- D. the preparing of a list of suspected criminals in their communities
- E. to prepare lists of suspected criminals in their communities

Grammatical construction

The sentence fails to use the familiar idiomatic construction *ordered x to do y*. The awkward *who were* should be omitted. A list should be followed by the elements that compose it, so lists here should be followed by *of suspected criminals*, preventing the possible misreading of *lists of communities*.

- A. *Ordered* should be followed by *to prepare*; *who were* is awkward and unnecessary; *lists* should be followed by *suspected criminals*
- B. *Ordered* is followed by *would do* rather than *to prepare*; *do the preparation* is wordy; *lists* should be followed by *suspected criminals*
- C. *Ordered* is followed by *preparing* rather than *to prepare*
- D. *Ordered* is followed by *the preparing of* rather than *to prepare*
- E. **Correct.** In this sentence, *ordered* is correctly followed by *to prepare*; *lists* is immediately followed by *of suspected criminals*, and placing *in their communities* at the end prevents misreading.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-002 VSC07625 EASY

Efforts to the funds available to school districts, a major goal of education reformers and many states in the 1970's, has not significantly reduced the gaps existing between the richest and poorest districts.

- A. has not significantly reduced the gaps existing
- B. has not been significant in reducing the gap that exists
- C. has not made a significant reduction in the gap that exists
- D. have not significantly reduced the gap that exists
- E. have not been significant in a reduction of the gaps existing

Agreement

The plural subject of this sentence, *efforts*, does not agree with the singular verb *has... reduced*. Efforts requires the plural verb *have reduced*.

- A. *Has reduced* does not agree with *efforts*
- B. Subject and verb do not agree; changes make the construction wordy
- C. *Efforts* does not agree with *has reduced*; *made a significant reduction in* is wordy
- D. **Correct.** In this clear, concise sentence, *efforts* agrees with the plural verb *have... reduced*.
- E. This alternative is wordy and awkward

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-003 VSC07627 EASY

Unlike a typical automobile loan, which requires a fifteen-to twenty-percent down payment, the lease-loan buyer is not required to make an initial deposit on the new vehicle.

- A. the lease-loan buyer is not required to make
- B. with lease-loan buying there is no requirement of
- C. lease-loan buyers are not required to make
- D. for the lease-loan buyer there is no requirement of
- E. a lease-loan does not require the buyer to make

Logical predication; parallelism

A comparison or contrast evaluates two parallel elements. The point of this sentence is to contrast two kinds of loans, but the sentence has been written so that *a typical automobile loan* is contrasted with *the lease-loan buyer*. The correct contrast is between *a typical automobile loan* and *a lease-loan*. This change makes the two verbs active voice (*requires... does not require*) and parallel.

- A. *Loan* is incorrectly contrasted with *Iease-loan buyer*
- B. *Loan* is contrasted with *lease-loan buying* instead of *lease-loan*; prepositional phrase (*with...*) begins an awkward and wordy construction
- C. *Loan* is contrasted with *lease-loan buyers* instead of *lease-loan*
- D. *Loan* is contrasted with *lease-loan buyer* instead of *lease-loan*; prepositional phrase (*for...*) begins an awkward and wordy construction
- E. **Correct.** In this sentence, *loan* is properly contrasted with *lease-loan*, and, in place of the passive voice *is required*, the active voice *does... require* parallels *requires*.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-004 VSC07630 EASY

The first decision for most tenants living in a undergoing being converted to cooperative ownership is if to sign a no-buy pledge with the other tenants.

- A. being converted to cooperative ownership is if to sign
- B. being converted to cooperative ownership is whether they should be signing
- C. being converted to cooperative ownership is whether or not they sign
- D. conversion to cooperative ownership is if to sign
- E. conversion to cooperative ownership is whether to sign

Diction; idiom

This sentence fails because of poor word choice: *undergoing being converted* is as redundant as it is awkward. The process of *being converted* does not need to be shown since *undergoing* already contains the idea of process. To complete the sentence grammatically, *undergoing* should be followed by the noun *conversion* rather than the phrase *being converted*. When only two alternatives are possible, to sign or not to sign, *whether* (or *whether or not*) is properly used rather than *if*.

- A. *Being converted* is redundant and awkward; *if* is incorrectly substituted for *whether*
- B. *Being converted* must be replaced by the noun *conversion*; *whether* must be followed by the concise infinitive *to sign*
- C. *Being converted* must be replaced by the noun *conversion*; *whether* must be followed by the concise infinitive *to sign*
- D. *Whether* should be used in place of *if*
- E. **Correct.** In this sentence, the noun *conversion* grammatically completes the phrase begun by *undergoing*, and *whether* is correctly followed by *to sign*.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-005 VSC002282 EASY

In Alexandria, the Ptolemy's founded a library so as the written remains of Greek literature could be gathered together and systematized.

- A. so as
- B. in which
- C. and
- D. whereby
- E. by which

Idiom; Logical predication

The sentence describes the Ptolemy's' objective in founding a library as a location where Greek literature could be *gathered together and systematized*. The correct version of the sentence makes this locational importance clear.

- A. The connector *so as* is imprecise and unidiomatic. The correct expression would be *so that*.
- B. **Correct.** A library is a location, and the phrase in which is consistent with this meaning.
- C. The additive conjunction *and* does not accurately describe the relationship between the library and the gathering and systematizing of literature.
- D. *Whereby* indicates that the library is a means of gathering and systematizing, instead of a place where this happens.
- E. *By which* indicates that the library is an agent of gathering and systematizing, which makes no sense.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-006 VSC002356 EASY

Glaciers form when the snow, sleet, and hail that fall in a given climatic region exceed the amount capable of being lost through evaporation or melting.

- A. the snow, sleet, and hail that fall in a given climatic region exceed the amount capable of being
- B. a given climatic region's fallen snow, sleet, and hail exceeds the amount able to be
- C. the amount of snow, sleet, and hail that falls in a given climatic region exceeds the amount
- D. the snow, sleet, and hail in a given region exceeds the amount able to be
- E. a given climatic region exceeds the amount of snow, sleet, and hail that falls and cannot be

Logical predication; Idiom

The point of this sentence is to explain the ratio of precipitation to loss of moisture that causes glaciers to form *in a given climatic region*. Some versions of the sentence obscure this explanation by introducing *the climatic region* into the ratio.

- A. The phrase *capable of being* is excessively wordy. It introduces unnecessary ambiguity to the sentence, raising the possibility that a similar amount of water may or may not be lost through evaporation or melting. Comparison of precipitation forms with amount is illogical.
- B. *Able to be* causes similar problems as *capable of being* in A. As in A, this has a similarly illogical comparison of precipitation forms.
- C. **Correct.** This sentence makes the logical comparison between amounts of precipitation that fall and amounts that evaporate or melt.
- D. The phrase *able to be* is wordy and ambiguous as in A and B. As in A, this has a similarly illogical comparison of precipitation forms.
- E. This sentence makes the illogical comparison between a region and an amount of precipitation that falls. The verb *cannot be* has no logical subject. The double negative *exceeds the amount that cannot be lost* is confusing at best.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-007 VSC002364 EASY

It is the powerful compound capsaicin that makes a chili pepper hot; a single drop that has no taste and odor is capable of detection by humans at one part per million.

- A. a single drop that has no taste and odor is capable of detection
- B. a single drop is detectable, though without taste and odor,
- C. a single tasteless and odorless drop can be detected
- D. single tasteless and odorless drops are capable of detection
- E. single drops that have no taste or odor can be detectable

Idiom; Rhetorical construction

This sentence describes the strength of the ingredient that makes chili peppers hot. Some versions of the sentence obscure this meaning by introducing unnecessary verbiage or by misplacing modifiers so that it is not clear how humans are involved in detecting capsaicin.

- A. The use of the relative clause to attribute qualities of taste and odor makes the sentence unnecessarily wordy; the phrase *is capable of detection by humans* is indirect and obscure.
- B. Placing the modifier *though without taste and odor* between *detectable* and *by humans* introduces confusion and ambiguity about who can detect a single drop of capsaicin.
- C. **Correct.** This is the most efficient, direct, and clear form for conveying the meaning of the sentence.
- D. The phrase *capable of detection* is wordy; the adjective *single* is confusing when attached to the plural noun *drops*.
- E. The phrase *can be detectable* is wordy and redundant; *single* doesn't logically fit with the plural *drops*.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-008 VSC002396 EASY

The military governors and samurai warriors who ruled Japan were trained to respect simplicity, be austere, and a ritualized code of observed behavior.

- A. to respect simplicity, be austere, and a ritualized code of observed behavior
- B. to respect simplicity, be austere, and observe a ritualized code of behavior
- C. that they should respect simplicity, be austere, and observe a ritualized code of behavior
- D. that they should respect simplicity, austerity, and a code of behavior that was ritualized and observed
- E. in order to respect simplicity, austerity, and a code of behavior that was ritualized and observed

Parallelism; Idiom

The sentence describes three objectives of the training received by the governors and warriors. Some versions of the sentence obscure these objectives by presenting them in grammatical constructions that violate parallel structure.

- A. The objects of the verb *were trained* plus *to* must be in parallel form; *a ritualized code* . . . violates the parallel structure set up by the first two items, both of which begin with verbs followed by objects.
- B. **Correct.** The three items following the main verb *were trained* are in parallel form, all beginning with verbs that complete the infinitive construction introduced by *to*.
- C. The relative clause beginning *that they should* introduces unnecessary wordiness, and *trained* should not be followed by *that* in the context of this sentence.
- D. Both relative clauses *that they should* and *that was ritualized and observed* introduce unnecessary wordiness. In addition, this sentence introduces ambiguity: who observed this code?
- E. The phrase *in order to* is unnecessarily wordy; the objections to the final relative clause, *that was ritualized* . . . in D apply again.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-009 VSC002452 EASY

Roughly twice each century the planet Venus passes between the Earth and the Sun, an occasion known as a transit of Venus, during which it makes the outline of the planet visible in stark relief.

- A. during which it makes the outline of the planet
- B. during which the outline of the planet becomes
- C. so that it makes the outline of the planet
- D. such that during which the of the planet becomes
- E. such that the outline of the planet becomes

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence explains that the event known as *a transit of Venus* is an occasion when the outline of the planet is visible. The correct form of the sentence must clarify that the visible outline is a function of this occasion, not the result of some agent's action.

- A. There is no referent for *it*; to say that the planet Venus makes the outline of the planet visible is nonsensical.
- B. **Correct.** Outline is the appropriate subject for the verb *becomes* (*visible*).
- C. There is no referent for *it*. The causal conjunction *so* is confusing when it immediately follows the appositive phrase *an occasion known as a transit of Venus*.
- D. The string of connecting phrases *such that during* which is confusing and nonsensical; the relative pronoun *which* has no referent.
- E. The reference of *such that* is ambiguous when it immediately follows the appositive phrase, *an occasion known as a transit of Venus*.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-010 VSC002496 EASY

Though the artifacts of pre-Columbian civilization created a stir from the very first European contacts with the New World in the sixteenth century, it was not until the latter half of the nineteenth century that Western designers, artists, and crafters were inspired to imitate them.

- A. it was not until the latter half of the nineteenth century that Western designers, artists, and crafters were inspired to imitate them
- B. they did not inspire imitations of Western designers, artists, and crafters until it was the latter half of the nineteenth century
- C. not until the latter half of the nineteenth century was it that they have inspired Western designers, artists, and crafters to imitation
- D. until the latter half of the nineteenth century Western designers, artists, and crafters have not been inspired to imitate
- E. they were not inspirations of Western designers, artists, and crafters imitations until the latter half of the nineteenth century

Verb form; Rhetorical construction

The point of this sentence is to assert that although pre-Columbian artifacts were enthusiastically received by Europeans in the sixteenth century, a long period of time elapsed before these artifacts were once again a source of inspiration to Western artisans.

The correct form of the sentence needs to make clear this sequence of events.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence correctly uses past tense for both past, completed time frames—sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- B. There is no referent for the pronoun *it*.
- C. The present-perfect tense *have inspired* is inappropriate because the nineteenth century is a completed time in the past. There is no referent for *it*. The phrase *was it that they have* is wordy and indirect.
- D. The present-perfect verb *have not been inspired* is inappropriate for describing action in a time completed in the past.
- E. The sentence is wordy, and it requires the possessive form of *designers, artists, and crafters*.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-011 VSC002546 EASY

On a glacier in the High Himalayas, a Japanese zoologist has found a species of midge that is unlike any other known insect in its spending its entire life cycle in the snow and ice of a glacier.

- A. that is any other known insect in its spending
- B. that is unlike any insect known as it spends
- C. that, unlike any other known insect, spends
- D. unlike any insect known because it spends
- E. unlike any other insect that is known, spending

Grammatical construction; Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence reports a zoologist's discovery of a *species of midge* that is unique among all the insect species on earth. The sentence needs to clarify that the species discovered is being compared to *other* insects.

- A. The phrase *in its spending its* is awkward and confusing because of the unnecessary repetition of *its*.
- B. Without other to modify *insect*, the sentence excludes *species of midge* from the category *insect* where it logically belongs.
- C. **Correct.** The qualified category *other known insects* is logically distinct from the noun *midge*, so the comparison makes sense.
- D. The category *insect* must be by the adjective *other*, as explained in C.
- E. The phrase *that is* introduces unnecessary words to this version of the sentence. Because of its placement, the adjective phrase *spending its entire life . . .* seems at first to be describing the Japanese zoologist, not the midge.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-012 VSC002555 EASY

Shliapentokh's study indicated that, in the Soviet Union, women's absenteeism from their jobs, despite their home duties and their child-care responsibilities, were only a fifth of men.

- A. were only a fifth of men
- B. were only a fifth of men's
- C. was only a fifth of men's
- D. was only a fifth of men
- E. was a fifth only of that of the men

Agreement; Logical predication

The point of the sentence is to compare *women's absenteeism* with *men's absenteeism*, but the sentence has been written in such a way that it appears to compare *women's absenteeism* with *men*.

- A. The singular subject *absenteeism* disagrees with the plural verb *were*, and this sentence illogically compares *absenteeism* with *men*.
- B. The plural verb *were* still disagrees with the singular subject.
- C. **Correct.** The singular subject *absenteeism* agrees with the singular subject *was*.
Possessive *men's* makes it clear that the *absenteeism* of men and women are being compared.
- D. This sentence illogically compares *absenteeism* with *men*.
- E. The placement of *only* in this wordy sentence illogically asserts that women's absenteeism was a fifth of men's absenteeism and probably additional fractions (other than a fifth) of other kinds of absenteeism.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-013 VSC002568 EASY

In February 1995, Doris Schopper became president of the international council of Médecins sans Frontières, known in English as "Doctors Without Borders," the world's largest independent, international, voluntary emergency medical assistance and relief organization.

- A. known in English as "Doctors Without Borders,"
- B. the English for "Doctors Without Borders,"
- C. in English named as "Doctors Without Borders,"
- D. "Doctors Without Borders," as they are known in English
- E. or "Doctors Without Borders," which is in English

Idiom; Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

The sentence translates the French name of an international council into English. Some versions of the sentence suggest that the council itself is being translated, or that the council is the English language.

- A. **Correct.** The adjective phrase *known in English . . .* correctly describes the international council named in French.
- B. This sentence incorrectly illogically suggests that Médecins sans Frontières is the English translation of *Doctors without Borders*.
- C. The phrase *named as. . .* is a departure from the idiomatic *named. . .*
- D. The plural *they* does not have a clear referent. Without a comma after *English* the sentence is ungrammatical; although even with a comma the sentence would be awkward and confusing.
- E. The placement of the modifier *in English* makes it an adjective describing *the world's. . .* organization instead of the phrase *Doctors without Borders*.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-014 VSC002587 EASY

Restorers say that if allowed to remove and replace the discolored layer of varnish on the *Mona Lisa*, the colors Leonardo da Vinci painted nearly five hundred years ago will once again shine through.

- A. If
- B. if it is
- C. if they are
- D. when
- E. when it is

Logical predication; Agreement

The sentence reports a claim *restorers* make about the results *they* could bring about if given a chance to restore the *Mona Lisa*.

- A. The placement of the modifier *if allowed*. . . on the "*Mona Lisa*" makes this illogically a descriptor of *colors*, the subject of the independent clause that immediately follows.
- B. The pronoun *it* either has no referent, or it refers to *colors*, which is not only illogical but is also an instance of noun-pronoun disagreement in number.
- C. **Correct.** The pronoun *they* makes *restorers* the subject of the verb *allowed*, which is logically sound.
- D. This version of the sentence has the same problem as A; *when allowed* nonsensically describes *colors*.
- E. The referent of the singular pronoun *it* is absent from the sentence.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-015 VSC002602 EASY

After long years of indifferent reception by the scientific community, Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn has now been acknowledged to be of major importance; her analyses show that movable elements control the action of genes and thus cause mutations.

- A. Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn has now been acknowledged to be of major importance
- B. Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn has now been acknowledged as being major
- C. it has now been acknowledged that Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn is major in importance
- D. there is now acknowledgment of Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn as of major importance
- E. the importance of Barbara McClintock's subtle work on the genetics of corn has now been acknowledged to be major

Logical predication; Idiom

The subject of the first clause in this sentence is *Barbara McClintock's subtle work*. This clause requires a passive verb to explain how important her work *has been acknowledged to be now*, after a long period of *indifferent reception*.

- A. **Correct.** The opening prepositional phrase logically modifies *Barbara McClintock's subtle work*, the subject of the main clause.
- B. The phrase *as being major* is wordy and non-idiomatic. It's not clear what major means.
- C. In the opening phrase, because of the meaning of *reception*, *indifferent reception* needs to modify something specific, *Barbara McClintock's subtle work*, rather than the whole clause; the phrase *is major in importance* is wordy and non-idiomatic.
- D. As in C, the opening phrase needs to modify something specific rather than the whole clause. *As of major importance* is non-idiomatic.
- E. As in C, the opening phrase needs to modify something specific rather than the whole clause. The meaning of *major* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-016 VSC002795 EASY

Nineteenth-century doctors thought that alcohol, when ingested, passed through the stomach into the bloodstream and was broken down only by the liver; recent studies, however, have led them to conclude that the stomach breaks down up to 20 percent of ingested alcohol before it reaches the liver.

- A. have led them to conclude
- B. have led to their conclusion
- C. have led doctors to conclude
- D. lead to doctors concluding
- E. lead to the doctors' conclusion

Verb form; Logical predication; Idiom

The sentence compares the beliefs of nineteenth-century doctors to those of contemporary doctors who have the benefit of recent studies of alcohol ingestion. Some versions of the sentence indicate that the same nineteenth-century doctors now benefit from these studies.

- A. The pronoun *them* refers to *Nineteenth-century doctors*, which makes no sense, because doctors of a previous century were not exposed to *recent studies*.
- B. The pronoun *their* refers to *Nineteenth-century doctors*, causing the same logical problem that plagues A.
- C. **Correct.** Specifying *doctors* as the subject of the second independent clause differentiates between nineteenth-century doctors and contemporary doctors who have been exposed to *recent studies*.
- D. The present tense verb *lead* does not capture the sequence of events—first the studies are undertaken and then conclusions are drawn from them. The phrase *lead to doctors concluding* is awkward.
- E. The present tense verb is still problematic as in D; the definite article *the* indicates that the doctors exposed to recent studies are the same *nineteenth-century doctors* who appear as the subject in the first main clause of the sentence.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-017 VSC002819 EASY

Despite the criticism in the early 1890's that if journalists use pictures the intellectual quality of publications would diminish, by the late 1890's photographs were found in most newspapers and magazines.

- A. that if journalists use pictures the intellectual quality of publications would diminish,
- B. that if journalists use pictures it will diminish the intellectual quality of publications,
- C. that the use of pictures by journalists would diminish the intellectual quality of publications,
- D. of the intellectual quality of publications being diminished by the use of pictures by journalists,
- E. of the use of pictures by journalists diminishing the intellectual quality of publications,

Verb form; Grammatical construction

The sentence is about the growing popularity of photojournalism throughout the 1890s despite criticism early in the period that *photos* would compromise journalistic integrity. The concern is about *the use of photos*, not about *journalists*.

- A. The phrase *if journalists use* is indirect, because the criticism is about the consequence of *use*, not *journalists*. The verb tenses are problematic too because they are out of sequence: present tense *use* with past tense *found*.
- B. The sentence is still indirect, as explained for A; the pronoun *it* has no reference.
- C. **Correct.** *Use* is the logical subject for the verb *would diminish*. The past conditional *would* is the appropriate tense for specifying a criticism made in the past.
- D. The string of prepositions *of* and *by* is confusing and wordy.
- E. The participial phrase *diminishing the intellectual quality*. . . is misplaced; it appears to be nonsensically describing *journalists* rather than *the use of pictures*.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-018 VSC003047 EASY

The airline's proposed purchases of as many as 250 medium-range planes will probably be the basis of an overhaul of its routes; it is expected that they will increase the number of direct point-to-point flights, instead of continue to use feeder aircraft to bring passengers to major hubs.

- A. it is expected that they will increase the number of direct point-to-point flights, instead of continue
- B. it is expected that it will increase the number of direct point-to-point flights, rather than to continue
- C. it is expected that the number of direct point-to-point flights will increase, instead of their continuing
- D. the airline is expected to increase the number of direct point-to-point flights, rather than continue
- E. the airline is expected to increase the number of direct point-to-point flights, instead of its continuing

Parallelism; Grammatical construction; Agreement

The point of the sentence is to explain the effects of the *airline's proposed purchases* of some planes. In some versions, the expected results of the purchases are presented in ungrammatical and unparallel ways.

- A. The plural pronoun *they* does not agree with the singular *airline* but has no other plausible antecedent. The phrase *it is expected that* introduces unnecessary words.
- B. The reference of the second pronoun *it* is ambiguous because of its placement in the sentence. The comparative construction *it will . . . rather than. . .* requires parallel verb forms, so the *to* is extraneous in *rather than to continue*. Like A, this sentence is wordy.
- C. The reference of the plural pronoun *their* is ambiguous. Logically the only referent is *airline*, but the syntax obscures this connection, as does the disagreement in number.
- D. **Correct.** This is the most direct and economical expression of the sentence's meaning because it clearly identifies the subject by repeating the noun *airline* and makes this noun directly responsible for the expected action of parallel verbs *to increase . . . rather than continue*. The infinitive marker *to* governs both verbs.
- E. The possessive pronoun *its* followed by the gerund *continuing* awkwardly introduces unnecessary words.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-019 VSC003165 EASY

In contrast to India, where many early followers of Buddhism were itinerants travelling the countryside to disseminate the Buddha's teachings, those in China lived in monastic communities in which rules were developed for purposes of administrative organization, discipline, and the management of monastic lands and properties.

- A. India, where many early followers of Buddhism were itinerants travelling the countryside to disseminate the Buddha's teachings, those in China
- B. Buddhism's early followers in India, many of whom were itinerants who travelled the countryside and were disseminating the Buddha's teachings, in China they
- C. Buddhism in India, with early followers who were itinerants, and many of them travelling the countryside and disseminating the Buddha's teachings, China's early followers of Buddhism
- D. early followers of Buddhism in India, who were itinerants, many of them travelling the countryside, and they disseminated the Buddha's teachings, in China they
- E. early followers of Buddhism in India, many of whom were itinerants travelling the countryside in order to disseminate the Buddha's teachings, those in China

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication; Parallelism

The point of the sentence is to compare *itinerant Buddhists in India* with *Buddhist monks in China*. Some versions of the sentence obscure the terms of this comparison.

- A. This sentence illogically compares India with monks in China.
- B. Because the two terms of the comparison are not in parallel form; the pronoun *they* has no clear antecedent; the sentence appears nonsensically to say that in China, Buddhism's early followers in India in monastic communities.
- C. The sentence Illogically compares Buddhism with China's followers of Buddhism.
- D. The referent for the pronoun *they* is ambiguous; the coordinating conjunction *and* introduces a wordy construction that obscures the comparison being made.
- E. **Correct.** This sentence correctly compares *early followers of Buddhism* in India with early followers (signaled by *those*) in China. Parallel structures clarify the comparison.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-020 VSC07621 Medium

Unlike computer skills or other technical skills, there is a disinclination on the part of many people to recognize the degree to which their analytical skills are weak.

- A. Unlike computer skills or other technical skills, there is a disinclination on the part of many people to recognize the degree to which their analytical skills are weak.
- B. Unlike computer skills or other technical skills, which they admit they lack, many people are disinclined to recognize that their analytical skills are weak.
- C. Unlike computer skills or other technical skills, analytical skills bring out a disinclination in many people to recognize that they are weak to a degree.
- D. Many people, willing to admit that they lack computer skills or other technical skills, are disinclined to recognize that their analytical skills are weak.
- E. Many people have a disinclination to recognize the weakness of their analytical skills while willing to admit their lack of computer skills or other technical skills.

Logical predication; rhetorical construction

The point of this sentence is to contrast how people feel about their *computer skills or other technical skills* with how they feel about their *analytical skills*. However, the awkward, wordy construction that begins with *there is* confuses this comparison, so that *computer skills...* are illogically contrasted with *disinclination*. Making the sentence more concise allows the contrast to be clear.

- A. An awkward, wordy construction prevents clarity of meaning; the comparison of *computer skills... to disinclination* is illogical
- B. *Computer skills or other technical skills* are illogically compared to *many people*
- C. The construction *skills bring out a disinclination in many people* is wordy, awkward, and idiomatically incorrect
- D. **Correct.** Making *people* the subject of the sentence allows a construction that clearly contrasts how they feel about the two sets of skills.
- E. *Have a disinclination* is wordy (the verb *disinclined* is preferred) and, when followed by *while willing*, creates an incomplete construction

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-021 VSC07622 Medium

Displays of the aurora borealis, or “northern lights,” can heat the atmosphere over the arctic enough to affect the trajectories of ballistic missiles, induce electric currents that can cause blackouts in some areas and corrosion in north-south pipelines.

- A. to affect the trajectories of ballistic missiles, induce
- B. that the trajectories of ballistic missiles are affected, induce
- C. that it affects the trajectories of ballistic missiles, induces
- D. that the trajectories of missiles are affected and induces
- E. to affect the trajectories of ballistic missiles and induce

Grammatical construction; logical predication

This sentence describes two effects of the aurora borealis. It heats the atmosphere enough *to affect* *x* and *(to) induce y*; the preposition *to* does not need to be repeated because it is understood. The conjunction *and* is necessary to show that the two effects are equal and separate. When they are separated only by a comma, the second effect appears to be part of the first one, which is not true.

- A. *To affect* and *(to understood) induce* should be joined by the conjunction *and* rather than separated by a comma
- B. The correct idiom is *can heat... enough to affect*; *that* violates the idiom and introduces an illogical sequence of verbs (*are affected, induce*)
- C. The correct idiom is *can heat... enough to affect*; *that* violates the idiom; the verbs should be joined by a conjunction rather than separated by a comma
- D. *That* violates the correct idiom *can heat... enough to affect*; the verbs illogically change tenses
- E. **Correct.** In this sentence, the two effects are shown to be equal and separate in a grammatical construction that correctly joins *to affect* and *(to understood) induce*.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-022 VSC07623 Medium

If the proposed expenditures for gathering information abroad are reduced even further, international news reports have been and will continue to diminish in number and quality.

- A. have been and will continue to diminish
- B. have and will continue to diminish
- C. will continue to diminish, as they already did,
- D. continue to diminish, as they have already,
- E. will continue to diminish

Verb form; grammatical construction

This sentence is based on the conditional construction *if x happens, then y will happen*. In this case, *x* is *proposed expenditures* and the present-tense verb is *are reduced*; *y* is *news reports*, but the verb is incorrect. The construction calls for a verb in the future tense, *will continue to diminish*.

- A. *Have been* is the wrong verb tense; the construction is also not grammatical
- B. *Have* is the wrong verb tense; the construction is also not grammatical
- C. *As they already did* is awkward and redundant; *continue* expresses this idea
- D. *As they have already* is awkward and redundant; *continue* expresses this idea
- E. **Correct.** *Will continue to diminish* provides the correct future tense verb for the conditional construction in this sentence.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-023 VSC07624 Medium

Visitors to the park have often looked up into the leafy canopy and saw monkeys sleeping on the branches, whose arms and legs hang like socks on a clothesline.

- A. saw monkeys sleeping on the branches, whose arms and legs hang
- B. saw monkeys sleeping on the branches, whose arms and legs were hanging
- C. saw monkeys sleeping on the branches, with arms and legs hanging
- D. seen monkeys sleeping on the branches, with arms and legs hanging
- E. seen monkeys sleeping on the branches, whose arms and legs have hung

Verb form; logical predication

The subject of the main clause is *visitors*, which should be followed by two verbs using the same tense: *have looked* and *have seen*. *Have* does not need to be repeated in the second verb; it is entirely correct simply to let it be understood. The modifying clause *whose arms and legs* illogically refers to *branches*, which immediately precedes it, rather than to *monkeys*. Replacing the clause with the phrase *with arms and legs hanging* corrects this error.

- A. *Saw* is the wrong verb tense; the clause incorrectly modifies *branches*
- B. *Saw* is the wrong verb tense; the clause does not modify *monkeys*
- C. *Saw* is the wrong verb tense
- D. **Correct.** The verb tense is correct in this sentence, and the phrase correctly modifies *monkeys*.
- E. The clause modifies *branches* rather than *monkeys*; *have hung* is the wrong tense

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-024 VSC07628 Medium

While larger banks can afford to maintain their own data-processing operations, many smaller regional and community banks are finding that the cost associated with upgrading data-processing equipment and with the development and maintenance of new products and technical staff are prohibitive.

- A. cost associated with
- B. costs associated with
- C. costs arising from
- D. cost of
- E. costs of

Agreement; parallelism

What *are prohibitive*? For the sake of subject-verb agreement, the plural noun *costs* must be used rather than the singular *cost*: *the costs... are prohibitive*. The phrase *associated with* is required to complete the parallel construction *costs associated with upgrading... and with the development of...*

- A. Singular *cost* does not agree with the plural verb *are*
- B. **Correct.** The plural noun *costs* agrees with the plural verb *are*; using *costs associated with* means that *with upgrading* is parallel to *with the development*.
- C. *From upgrading* is not parallel to *with the development of*
- D. Singular *cost* does not agree with the plural verb *are*; *of upgrading* is not parallel to *with the development of*
- E. *Of upgrading* is not parallel to *with the development of*

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-025 VSC07629 Medium

The financial crash of October 1987 demonstrated that the world's capital markets are integrated more closely than ever before and events in one part of the global village may be transmitted to the rest of the village—almost instantaneously.

- A. integrated more closely than ever before and
- B. closely integrated more than ever before so
- C. more closely integrated as never before while
- D. more closely integrated than ever before and that
- E. more than ever before closely integrated as

Parallelism; idiom

The 1987 crash demonstrated two truths: *that the world's capital markets are integrated... and that events... may be transmitted*. Because these two truths must be presented in grammatically parallel structure, *that* must be added to the second clause. The correct idiom is *more than ever*, not *more than never*.

- A. Second subordinate clause must begin with *that*; *more than never* is incorrect
- B. Moving *more* distorts the meaning; *so* is not parallel to *that*
- C. *More... as never before* is not correct; *while* is not parallel to *that*
- D. **Correct.** In this sentence, the two clauses are parallel, each beginning with *that*, and they are correctly joined with the conjunction *and*; the correct idiom is used.
- E. This word sequence is incoherent; *as* is not parallel to *that*

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-026 VSC07631 Medium

Architects and stonemasons, huge palace and temple clusters were built by the Maya without benefit of the wheel or animal transport.

- A. huge palace and temple clusters were built by the Maya without benefit of the wheel or animal transport
- B. without the benefits of animal transport or the wheel, huge palace and temple clusters were built by the Maya
- C. the Maya built huge palace and temple clusters without the benefit of animal transport or the wheel
- D. there were built, without the benefit of the wheel or animal transport, huge palace and temple clusters by the Maya
- E. were the Maya who, without the benefit of the wheel or animal transport, huge palace and temple clusters

Logical predication; verb form

Architects and stonemasons are people, not things. This introductory element cannot logically modify *huge palace and temple clusters*. Revising the sentence so that *the Maya* immediately follows *architects and stonemasons* not only corrects the error in modification, it also transforms the sentence from the passive voice (*were built*) to the preferred active voice (*built*).

- A. *Architects and stonemasons* illogically modifies *huge palace and temple clusters*
- B. Moving the prepositional phrase (*without...*) does not correct the modification error
- C. **Correct.** In this sentence, *architects and stonemasons* describes *the Maya*, and the active voice *built* replaces the passive voice *were built*.
- D. Introduction of *there were* does not correct the modification error; wordy and awkward passive construction
- E. *Architects and masons, were the Maya* is not a grammatical construction

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-027 VSC07632 Medium

The Coast Guard is conducting tests to see whether pigeons can be trained to help find survivors of wrecks at sea.

- A. to see whether pigeons can be trained to help find
- B. to see whether pigeons can be trained as help to find
- C. to see if pigeons can be trained for helping to find
- D. that see if pigeons are able to be trained in helping to find
- E. that see whether pigeons are able to be trained for help in finding

Idiom; rhetorical construction

This correct sentence clearly states the purpose of the test, *to see whether pigeons can be trained*, and the purpose of the training, *to help find survivors*. The sentence is concise and idiomatically correct.

- A. **Correct.** This sentence concisely states both the purpose of the test and the purpose of the training.
- B. *As help to find* is not the correct idiom
- C. *For helping to find* is not the correct idiom; *whether* is preferred to *if* when there are only two alternatives
- D. *That see* is ungrammatical; *whether* is preferred to *if* when there are only two alternatives; *are able to be* should be replaced by the concise *can*; *in helping to find* should be *to help find*
- E. *For helping in finding* is not the correct idiom; *are able to be* should be replaced by the concise *can*

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-028 VSC07633 Medium

The golden crab of the Gulf of Mexico has not been fished commercially in great numbers, primarily on account of living at great depths—2,500 to 3,000 feet down.

- A. on account of living
- B. on account of their living
- C. because it lives
- D. because of living
- E. being they live

Diction

The second part of the sentence explains the first: the crab is not fished *because* it lives at great depths. The clearest and most direct way of showing the relationship between the two parts of the sentence is to use *because* to introduce a subordinate clause.

- A. *On account of living* is awkward and wordy
- B. *On account of* is awkward and wordy; *their* does not agree with *crab*
- C. **Correct.** Using *because* to introduce a subordinate clause is best way to show the effect-cause relation of the two parts of this sentence.
- D. *Because of living* is not the correct idiom
- E. *Being* is neither logical nor idiomatic; *they* does not agree with *crab*

The correct sentence is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-029 VSC07634 Medium

In Holland, a larger percentage of the gross national product is spent on defense of their coasts from rising seas than is spent on military defense in the United States.

- A. In Holland, a larger percentage of the gross national product is spent on defense of their coasts from rising seas than is spent on military defense in the United States.
- B. In Holland they spend a larger percentage of their gross national product on defending their coasts from rising seas than the United States does on military defense.
- C. A larger percentage of Holland's gross national product is spent on defending their coasts from rising seas than the United States spends on military defense.
- D. Holland spends a larger percentage of its gross national product defending its coasts from rising seas than the defense spending of the United States.
- E. Holland spends a larger percentage of its gross national product on defending ms coasts from rising seas than the United States does on military defense.

Logical predication; parallelism

The comparison between Holland and the United States is not clear because it is not parallel; making the comparison parallel eliminates the other problems in the sentence, such as the use of a plural pronoun (*their*) without a referent. Starting the sentence *Holland spends* makes the emphasis clear. To be parallel, the comparison should be: *Holland spends more x on y than the United States spends on z*. The grammatical structure is the same in each clause: the country is the subject; *spends* and *does* (*spend* understood) are the verbs; (*x*) *the percentage of gross national product* is the point of comparison; and (*y*) *on defending...* and (*z*) *on military defense* are parallel phrases completing the sentence.

- A. Lack of parallelism leads this sentence to say that part of Holland's gross national product is spent on *military defense in the United States*; *their* has no referent
- B. *In Holland they spend* is not parallel to *the United States spends*; *they* has no referent
- C. *A... percentage... is spent on* is not parallel to *the United States spends*
- D. The clause *Holland spends...* is not parallel to the phrase *the military defense spending of the United States*
- E. **Correct.** This sentence has two parallel clauses that make the comparison clear and easily understood.

The correct sentence is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-030 VSC001573 Medium

A recent poll of elected officials suggests that candidates, when in the midst of a tough campaign, often make statements about an opponent that they may not think is true.

- A. Is
- B. are
- C. to be
- D. of as
- E. it is

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

This sentence reports poll results about officials who make *statements*, a plural object that, when made into a subject as a relative pronoun, requires a plural verb.

- A. The relative pronoun *that* refers to plural statements; therefore, the subject of the clause, that, does not agree with the singular verb, *is*.
- B. **Correct.** As explained above, *that* agrees with the plural verb *are*.
- C. The phrase *may not think to be true* is a hypercorrection or a colloquialism. It makes sense, but it's awkward in Standard Written English.
- D. The phrase *may not think of as true* is a colloquialism. It makes sense but is rhetorically awkward and indirect in Standard Written English.
- E. *That* is the subject of the to-be verb; therefore, the extra pronoun *it* is redundant and ungrammatical.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-031 VSC001578 Medium

Over the past few years, banks have systematically raised their old fees and invented new ones that are harder and harder for consumers to avoid.

- A. banks have systematically raised their old fees and invented new ones that are harder and harder for consumers to avoid
- B. banks are systematically raising their old fees and inventing new ones that become harder and harder for consumers to avoid
- C. banks systematically raising old fees and inventing new ones make them harder and harder for consumers to avoid
- D. as banks systematically raised their old fees and invented new ones, avoiding them becomes harder and harder for consumers
- E. as banks have systematically raised their old fees and invented new ones, it is becoming harder and harder for consumers to avoid them

Logical predication; Agreement

This sentence introduces action that began in the past and has continued up to the present, necessitating the use of the present perfect tense in the main clause and the present tense in the relative clause that concludes the sentence by describing the current consequences of the systematic rise in fees.

- A. **Correct.** The introductory phrase *over the past few years* introduces a present-perfect verb tense, *have . . . raised*.
- B. The present tense verb *are . . . raising* does not agree with the time indicated by the introductory phrase.
- C. In this sentence, the referent of the pronoun *them* is ambiguous.
- D. The referent of the pronoun *them* is ambiguous and the present-tense verb *becomes* does not agree with either the introductory phrase or the past tense framing of the adverbial phrase (*raised* and *invented*).
- E. The referent of the pronoun *them* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-032 VSC001593 Medium

The auto company attributed its recent increase in profits to both its introduction of new models in North America that are less expensive in their manufacture and to success in making its factories more efficient.

- A. to both its introduction of new models in North America that are less expensive in their manufacture and to success in
- B. to both its introduction of new models in North America that are less expensive in manufacturing and success in its
- C. to both its introducing new models in North America that are less expensive in manufacturing and to success in
- D. both to its introduction of new models in North America that are less expensive to manufacture and to success in
- E. both to its introducing new models in North America that are less expensive in their manufacturing and to success in its

Verb form; Idiom; Parallelism

In this sentence the word *both* introduces two reasons identified by the auto company for its increased profits, and these must be presented in parallel form, in this case as objects of the preposition *to* which completes the verb *attribute(s) to*.

- A. *Both* introduces a plural object of the preposition *to*; both objects must be in parallel form. The first of these objects is a noun phrase *its introduction . . .* but the second is a prepositional phrase *to success. . .*. Therefore they are unparallel.
- B. The words *to both* introduce a series of two objects of the preposition *to*. While technically the phrases *its introduction . . .* and *success in . . .* might be considered parallel noun phrases, the use of the possessive *its* twice in the second phrase in positions that are not parallel with the appearance of *its* in the first phrase is both awkward and circuitous.
- C. *To both* introduces two objects of the preposition *to*; the second object proposed in this sentence is itself a prepositional phrase *to success. . .* and therefore not parallel with the first item. Moreover, the prepositional phrase *in manufacturing* is awkward and imprecise.
- D. **Correct.** *Both to* introduces a series of two parallel prepositional phrases, *to its introduction . . .* and *to success*
- E. The preposition gerund phrase *to its introducing . . .* is not parallel to the preposition noun phrase, *to success*; the phrase *its making its factories more efficient* is unnecessarily redundant.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-033 VSC001601 Medium

The infant mortality rate has decreased steadily over the past decades and is now at a lower rate than ever before.

- A. now at a lower rate than
- B. now bower than
- C. now a lower rate than
- D. presently lower than it was
- E. presently lower than the rate was

Logical predication; Diction; Rhetorical construction

The subject of the sentence, *infant mortality rate*, governs two verbs, the first describing a change over time and the second describing a present state. The subject of compound verbs does not need to be repeated in describing this present state.

- A. It is redundant and nonsensical to say, as this sentence attempts to do, that a rate is *at a rate*.
- B. **Correct.** This is the most direct and succinct way to explain the decline of the mortality rate to its present nadir.
- C. The repetition of *rate* is unnecessarily redundant.
- D. The phrase *ever before* introduces a continuous expanse of time before the present moment (*presently*) that should be described with the present perfect tense *it has been* rather than the simple past tense of *it was*. Also the word order *it was ever* is the reverse of the more standard and less awkward *it ever was*.
- E. The repetition of *rate* is unnecessarily redundant. The use of *was* is also a problem here for the same reason as in D.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-034 VSC001615 Medium

A row of upright fan-shaped plates running down the spine provided the Stegosaurus dinosaur with an especially efficient solar heating and cooling system to allow them to move comfortably through different climatic regions.

- A. to allow them to move comfortably
- B. to allow it a comfortable movement
- C. that allowed it to move comfortably
- D. that allowed their comfortable movement
- E. allowing them to move comfortably

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

The subject of the underlined portion of the sentence, *the Stegosaurus dinosaur*, is generic singular and must be referred to in singular terms. In some of the versions, Stegosaurus dinosaurs are presented as plural in the latter half of the sentence.

- A. *The Stegosaurus dinosaur* is singular, so the pronoun referring to it must also be singular; *them* is plural and could illogically be read to refer to the *fan-shaped plates*.
- B. The phrase *a movement* is awkward and suggests that the Stegosaurus only had one way of moving, when in fact it had a range of movements facilitated by this heat-regulation system.
- C. **Correct.** The singular pronoun *it* agrees with the singular antecedent *the Stegosaurus dinosaur*.
- D. The plural possessive pronoun *their* does not agree with the singular antecedent *the Stegosaurus dinosaur*. It also causes confusion because as in A it seems illogically to be referring to the *fan-shaped plates*.
- E. The plural pronoun *them* does not agree with the singular antecedent *the Stegosaurus dinosaur*. As in A and D, the plural is confusing.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-035 VSC001632 Medium

The possible long-term health risks to airline personnel who repeatedly cross multiple time zones has been a concern since the first jet transports went into service in the 1950s.

- A. who repeatedly cross multiple time zones has been a concern since the first jet transports went
- B. who are repeatedly crossing multiple time zones has been a concern since the first jet transports that went
- C. who repeatedly cross multiple time zones have been a concern since the first jet transports went
- D. repeatedly crossing multiple time zones has been a concern since the first jet transports went
- E. repeatedly crossing multiple time zones have been a concern since the first jet transports going

Verb form; Agreement

The plural subject of the sentence, **risks**, requires a plural verb.

- A. The plural subject *risks* does not agree with the singular verb *has been*.
- B. The final clause in the sentence, *that went into service* does not provide a verb to complete the subordinate clause that begins with the words *since the first jet transports* . . . Also, *are repeatedly crossing* is the wrong tense, since it refers to airline personnel who worked as far back as sixty years ago.
- C. **Correct.** The plural verb *have been* agrees with the plural subject *risks*.
- D. The plural subject *risks* does not agree with the singular verb *has been*.
- E. The subordinate clause beginning with *since the first jet transports* requires a main verb, not a participial (adjective instead of verb).

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-036 VSC001641 Medium

In a state of pure commercial competition, there would be a large number of producing firms, all unfettered by governmental regulations, all seeking to meet consumer needs and wants more successfully than each other.

- A. all seeking to meet consumer needs and wants more successfully than each other
- B. all seeking more successfully to meet consumer needs and wants than the others
- C. each seeking to meet consumer needs and wants more successfully than one another
- D. each seeking to meet consumer needs and wants more successfully than the others
- E. each seeking more successfully to meet consumer needs and wants than another

Logical predication; Diction; Rhetorical construction

The sentence initially focuses on *a large number of producing firms*, but in the final phrase shifts that focus to individual firms within that large group. This individual focus is better expressed with the singular pronoun *each* than the plural *all*. The point of this sentence is to explain what individual firms would do in a state of pure commercial competition, but many of the versions are written in such a way that this focus is obscured through the term *all*. *Each other* normally indicates a reciprocal relationship and is thus inconsistent with the necessarily asymmetrical nature of *than*. On the other hand, if *each other* is intended in this case to mean "each of the others," it is unclear and misleading.

- A. The *all* serving as the subject of the participial *seeking* refers to *a large number*.
- B. In this sentence, the modifier *more successfully* refers nonsensically to *seeking* rather than to *to meet*.
- C. The singular subject *each* directs the sentence's focus to one competitive efforts against all the others; This wording nonsensically suggests either that each firm seeks a contradictory situation in which it meets the needs and wants more successfully than do the other firms, and *vice versa*, or that each firm seeks to meet the needs better than the wants and to meet the wants better than the needs.
- D. **Correct.** *Each* focuses on one competing firm at a time; at any given time, each firm is competing against all the others.
- E. This sentence nonsensically asserts that each individual firm is more successful than the others in *seeking* to compete for consumers.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-037 VSC001651 Medium

In the English-speaking world Anton Chekhov is by far better known for his plays than for his short stories, but it was during his lifetime that Chekhov's stories made him popular while his plays were given a more ambivalent reception, even by his fellow writers.

- A. by far better known for his plays than for his short stories, but it was during his lifetime that
- B. by far better known for his plays than he was for his short stories, but during his lifetime
- C. known far better for his plays than he was for his short stories, but during his lifetime it was
- D. far better known for his plays than were his short stories, but it was during his lifetime that
- E. far better known for his plays than for his short stories, but during his lifetime

Idiom; Rhetorical construction

The point of this sentence is to contrast Anton Chekhov's current reputation *in the English-speaking world* with his reputation in his own lifetime. His current reputation is described in comparative terms, using the template *better (known) for. . . than for. . .*

- A. The *it was. . . that. . .* construction introduces additional words that do not contribute to meaning. If *by far* is intended to modify *is better known. . .* it should be placed after *known*, or set off by commas, to prevent *far* from seeming to go with *better*. If *by far* is intended to modify *better*, this is incorrect usage.
- B. *He was* introduces additional words that do not contribute to meaning. If *by far* is intended to modify *is better known. . .* it should be placed after *known*, or set off by commas, to prevent *far* from seeming to go with *better*. If *by far* is intended to modify *better*, this is incorrect usage.
- C. *It was* introduces the grammatical need for the relative pronoun *that* as the subject for *made*. The relative pronoun is absent from the ending of the sentence, and even if it were inserted, it would introduce unnecessary verbiage.
- D. This sentence attempts nonsensically to compare Chekhov's renown for plays with his stories' renown for plays.
- E. **Correct.** This is the clearest, most concise way to compare the reasons Chekhov is well known now with how he was known during his lifetime.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-038 VSC001673 Medium

Now generally regarded as a forgery, the Kensington Rune Stone, a 90-kilogram slab of inscribed rock discovered in Minnesota in 1898, was said to have recorded an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explorers in 1362 and thus was cited as evidence that Europeans explored North America in pre-Columbian times.

- A. was said to have recorded an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explored in 1362 and thus was cited as evidence that Europeans explored
- B. was said to record an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explorers in 1362, thus being cited as evidence for European exploration of
- C. said to have recorded an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explorers in 1362, and thus cited as evidence for European exploration of
- D. which was said to record an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explorers in 1362, and thus cited as evidence that Europeans explored
- E. which, said to have recorded an encounter between Native Americans and Norse explorers in 1362, was thus cited as evidence for Europeans exploring

Grammatical construction; Verb form

This sentence explains how people have regarded the *Kensington Rune Stone*. As the *Stone*, an object, is the subject of the sentence, the verbs need to be in the passive voice. Because the stone is ancient and was discovered in the nineteenth century, the verbs must also indicate the past time of its interpretations and the function it was claimed to have served.

- A. **Correct.** The present perfect infinitive *to have recorded* correctly describes that were held about a recording event that occurred in the past but is now no longer considered to be a historical recording event. The passive verb *was cited* is consistent with the passive statement *was said*; the unnamed agent is the same for both verbs.
- B. The present infinitive does not accurately represent an act of recording that occurred in the distant past; the referent for the participial *being* is ambiguous.
- C. The verb *cited* needs to be in passive voice in order for the final clause to make sense. To be a full sentence, this needs a main verb. The word *said* introduces a dependent clause modifying *Stone*.
- D. Stringing together an appositive and a relative clause makes this sentence fragment syntactically awkward and extremely difficult to follow. The additive logic of the sentence renders nonsensical the cause-effect logic introduced by the adverbial conjunction *thus*. This version is not a complete sentence.
- E. Stringing together the many modifiers and relative clauses makes the logic of the sentence fragment extremely difficult to follow; the causal relationship indicated by *thus* is obscured by embedding the reason the Stone was considered to be evidence of early European exploration in an adjectival phrase modifying the relative pronoun *which*.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-039 VSC001708 Medium

In his experiments with gravity, Isaac Newton showed how the motion of each planet in the solar system results from the combined gravitational pull of the Sun and of all the other planets, each contributing according to their mass and distance from the others.

- A. of all the other planets, each contributing according to their
- B. of all the other planets, with each of them contributing according to their
- C. all the other planets, each of which contributing according to its
- D. all the other planets, each contributing according to its
- E. all the other planets, each of which contribute according to their

Agreement; Verb form

This sentence presents Newton's explanation of how the gravitational pull of the Sun and other planets affects the motion of individual planets. In the underlined section, the focus is on each individual celestial body as a single entity, so pronouns and verbs in this phrase must all be singular.

- A. *Each* is singular, and therefore is not in agreement with the plural pronoun *their*.
- B. The addition of *with* is unnecessary, creating wordiness; the plural pronoun *their* doesn't agree with its singular antecedent, *each*.
- C. The use of the participle *contributing* makes this ungrammatical.
- D. **Correct.** The singular possessive pronoun *its* agrees with the singular antecedent, *each*.
- E. The singular subject of the clause *each* requires a singular verb (*contributes*) and a singular possessive pronoun (*its* instead of *their*).

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-040 VSC001735 Medium

The region of Norden is comprised of five sovereign states, each of which recognize a stronger cultural bond to their Nordic neighbors than to any other cultural grouping.

- A. which recognize a stronger cultural bond to their Nordic neighbors than to
- B. which recognize a stronger cultural bond with their Nordic neighbors than
- C. which recognizes a stronger cultural bond with its Nordic neighbors than with
- D. them recognizing a stronger cultural bond with its Nordic neighbors than they have with
- E. them recognizing a stronger cultural bond to their Nordic neighbors than they have to

Agreement; Parallelism; Logical predication

With the phrase *each of which*, the sentence develops a focus on individual states in Norden. In this part of the sentence where *each of which* becomes the subject of the clause, the verb and pronouns referring to the subject must be singular.

- A. The subject of the relative clause *each* is singular, and therefore requires a singular verb.
- B. *Each* requires a singular verb; the comparison must be in parallel form *with_____ than with_____* .
- C. **Correct.** The singular verb *recognizes* agrees with the singular subject *each*; the comparison of international bonds is in parallel form.
- D. This version is wordy. It is also unclear as to what the plural *they have* refers to—*neighbors* or *five sovereign states*.
- E. The plural pronoun *their* does not agree with the most plausible antecedent *each*. If the intended antecedent is, instead, *five sovereign states*, it is unclear what *they* refers to, and the *Nordic neighbors* seem, somewhat puzzlingly, to be countries other than these five.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-041 VSC001983 Medium

Contemporary cognitive scientists maintain that emotions, which are biological functions, evolved in the nervous system to help animals survive in hostile environments and procreate, and feelings are products of the conscious mind, reflecting the interpretation of emotions.

- A. procreate, and feelings are products of the conscious mind, reflecting
- B. procreate, and that feelings, as products of the conscious mind, reflecting
- C. procreate, and that feelings, which are products of the conscious mind, reflect
- D. to procreate, and feelings are products of the conscious mind, which reflect
- E. to procreate, and that feelings, which are products of the conscious mind, reflecting

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

This sentence reports what *cognitive scientists maintain* about *emotions and feelings*. As their claims about emotions are presented in a relative clause beginning with *that*, their claims about feelings are best presented in parallel form—also in a relative clause.

- A. The sentence presents two direct objects of the verb *maintain*; both objects need to be in parallel form—in this case relative clauses introduced by *that*. The absence of the relative pronoun *that* to introduce the second clause (*feelings are products...*) violates the parallelism requirement.
- B. The participle *reflecting* makes the second relative clause ungrammatical; it should be *reflect*.
- C. **Correct.** This version of the sentence achieves parallelism with two occurrences of the relative pronoun *that* and infinitive verb forms in both clauses.
- D. The reference of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous. Parallelism is violated as in A.
- E. As in B, the participle *reflecting* makes the second relative clause ungrammatical.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-042 VSC002034 Medium

Unlike many other countries, Thailand's commercial crafts are influenced both by ancient beliefs and tradition and have remained relatively unchanged over the years.

- A. many other countries, Thailand's commercial crafts are influenced both by
- B. many other countries, commercial crafts in Thailand have as an influence both
- C. the commercial crafts of many other countries, in Thailand they are influenced both by
- D. the commercial crafts of many other countries, those of Thailand are influenced by both
- E. in many other countries, Thailand's commercial crafts have as an influence both

Logical predication; Diction; Rhetorical construction

The point of the sentence is to compare commercial crafts in Thailand with those of other countries, but the sentence compares crafts (in Thailand) with other countries themselves.

- A. This sentence nonsensically tries to compare *Thailand's commercial crafts* with *other countries*.
- B. This sentence also compares *commercial crafts* with *other countries*.
- C. The prepositional phrase *in Thailand* makes the sentence unnecessarily wordy and indirect, and the reference of the pronoun *they* is ambiguous.
- D. **Correct.** This sentence correctly compares the commercial crafts of other countries with similar crafts (*those*) in Thailand.
- E. This sentence compares a location *in many other countries* with a concrete noun *crafts*.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-043 VSC002057 Medium

The typical size difference between males and females has lessened since the origins of the human species because the size increase in males has been slight while the size increase in females has been great.

- A. the size increase in males has been slight while the size increase in females has been great
- B. the male size increase has been slight and because it has been great in females
- C. the size increase had been slight for males but great for females
- D. of the size increase being slight for males for females it was great
- E. of slightly increasing the male size while greatly increasing it in females

Parallelism; Verb form; Rhetorical construction

The point of this sentence is to explain how *size difference between males and females has lessened* over time, and this explanation has two parts: *size increase in males* and *size increase in females*.

Because the rates at which these increases have occurred differ for males and for females, the comparison in the underlined section of the sentence is best expressed in parallel clauses, each focusing on one part of the explanation. The appropriate tense in these clauses is present perfect, since the increases in size began in the past and continue up to and including the present.

- A. **Correct.** The sentence correctly employs parallel form to compare the size increase in males and females during the same time span.
- B. The repetition of *because* makes it appear that the reduction in size difference is due, separately, to each of the two factors rather than to their combination. The recurrence of *because* and the violation of parallelism makes this sentence wordy and confusing.
- C. The past perfect tense of *had been* is inconsistent with the present perfect verb tense of the main clause *has lessened*.
- D. This sentence is unnecessarily wordy and confusing because it violates parallel structure.
- E. This version of the sentence lacks an agent for the participle, *increasing*. It implies that someone or something increased the sizes of males and females, but the agent is not present in the sentence.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-044 VSC002074 Medium

In 1982, archaeologists recovered Henry VIII's ship Mary Rose, which having sunk in 1545 with more than artifacts on board, everything from arrows and longbows to a barber-surgeon's chest containing items commonly used by sixteenth-century medics.

- A. In 1982, archaeologists recovered Henry VIII's ship Mary Rose, which, having sunk in 1545, with more than 17,000 artifacts on board,
- B. Henry ship Mary Rose sank in 1545 and, recovered by archaeologists in 1982, they found more than 17,000 artifacts on board,
- C. When Henry ship Mary Rose, which sank in 1545, was recovered in 1982, archaeologists found more than 17,000 artifacts on board,
- D. Having sunk in 1545, Henry VIII's ship Mary Rose was recovered in 1982 by archaeologists, finding more than 17,000 artifacts on board, with
- E. Finding more than 17,000 artifacts on board, Henry ship Mary Rose, which sank in 1545, was recovered in 1982 by archaeologists and it had

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

This sentence details the artifacts found on Henry VIII's ship *Mary Rose*, a ship that sank in 1545 and was recovered in 1982. The sentence focuses on the discovery of the artifacts by archaeologists, so the subject of the main clause should be *archaeologists*, not *Mary Rose*. Historical background information should be subordinated in relative clauses and dependent clauses.

- A. The clause starting with *which* is ungrammatical because it needs a main verb: sank rather than *having sunk*.
- B. The conjunction *and* anticipates a second verb to parallel *sank*. Instead, this sentence introduces a new clause, not a new verb. The subject of this new clause *they* has no antecedent; it cannot refer to archaeologists, because the placement of the modifier indicates that *they* were recovered by archaeologists.
- C. **Correct.** The introductory dependent clause provides a subject *Mary Rose* and a main (infinitive) verb *was recovered*. The independent clause also provides a subject *archaeologists* and main (infinitive) verb: *found*.
- D. The participial *finding* has no agent in this version of the sentence. The preposition *with* makes the sentence wordy and nonsensical, as it is not clear what is being connected *with* the artifacts.
- E. The placement of the participial phrase *finding . . .* is nonsensical, as it claims that the *Mary Rose* (subject of the main clause) found artifacts on board itself; the conjunction *and* introduces unnecessary wordiness, because it requires a pronoun *it* to restate the subject.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-045 VSC002117 Medium

In undisturbed primary forests, the Honduran mahogany grows up to a height of 130 feet, having a buttressed trunk and a crown that spread over the canopy of lesser trees.

- A. up to a height of 130 feet, having a buttressed trunk and a crown that spread
- B. up to 130 feet in height, and with a buttressed trunk and a crown spreading
- C. to as high as 130 feet in height, having a buttressed trunk and with a crown that spread
- D. to a height of 130 feet, with a buttressed trunk and with a crown that spreads
- E. as high a height as 130 feet, having a buttressed trunk and a crown spreading

Idiom; Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

The sentence describes the *Honduran mahogany* tree in terms of height, trunk structure, and foliage. In rewritten versions, these descriptors are presented in excessively wordy and repetitious phrases. Some of the versions are worded in such a way that *spread* could refer illogically to both the trunk and the crown.

- A. The word *up* is redundant, because trees can only grow in one direction, *up to a height*. The relative pronoun *that* refers to the singular noun *crown*, and therefore requires a singular verb *spreads*.
- B. The conjunction *and* anticipates a new clause but instead is followed by a prepositional phrase, leaving the second clause without a verb.
- C. The words *as high as* are redundant because they say the same thing *as in height*. The preposition *with* is unnecessary and nonsensical in the participial phrase *having . . .*
- D. **Correct.** This version of the sentence doesn't suffer from the wordiness of the others. The second *with* also makes it clear that *spread* refers only to the *crown* and not to the *buttressed trunk*.
- E. The phrase *as high a height as* is wordy and redundant.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-046 VSC002161 Medium

While recognizing that lying often facilitates social interactions, psychiatrists are seeking to determine when they become destructive and which kinds of mental problems they can signal.

- A. they become destructive and which kinds of mental problems they can signal
- B. they become destructive and the mental problems that are signaled by them
- C. it becomes destructive and what are the kinds of mental problems they signal
- D. it becomes destructive and the mental problems that are signaled by it
- E. it becomes destructive and which kinds of mental problems it can signal

Agreement; Rhetorical construction (Parallelism)

This sentence is about psychiatrists' interest in *lying* as both a *destructive* behavior and a symptom of *mental problems*. *Lying* is a singular noun that must be referred to with singular pronouns. Several versions of the sentence use plural pronouns that logically refer to *lying* but do not do so grammatically.

- A. The uses of the plural pronoun *they* are not in agreement with the singular antecedent *lying*.
- B. The plural pronouns *they* and *them* are not in agreement with the singular antecedent *lying*. The shifting focus from *lying* to *mental problems* in the second half of the sentence is confusing and violates parallelism.
- C. The second pronoun, *they*, doesn't agree with the singular antecedent, *lying*.
- D. Parallelism dictates that the objects of the main verb *determine* be in the same form-introduced by an interrogative pronoun (e.g., *which* or *what*).
- E. **Correct.** The singular pronoun *it* agrees with the singular antecedent *lying*, and the objects of the verb *determine* are in parallel form, both introduced by an interrogative

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-047 VSC002214 Medium

The rain has flooded drainage canals in many orange-tree groves, which has caused the fruit to fall before it ripen and also threatened to kill the trees.

- A. which has caused the fruit to fall before it will ripen and also threatened to kill
- B. which not only caused the fruit to fall before ripening, but also threatened killing
- C. not only causing the fruit to fall before ripening, but also threatening to kill
- D. causing the fruit to fall before it will ripen, which will threaten killing
- E. causing the fruit to have fallen before it ripened, which threatened to kill

Logical Predication; Idiom; Verb form

The sentence describes a causal connection between rain-flooded canals and two consequences: prematurely falling fruit and fruit-tree fatalities. Several versions of the sentence employ an ambiguous relative pronoun that obscures the central causal connection.

- A. The relative clause *which . . .* uses more words that are needed to convey the meaning of the sentence; the future tense verb *will ripen* makes no sense in a sentence about a past event that is continuing in the present.
- B. The relative clause causes unnecessary wordiness, and the gerund *killing* is an inappropriate verbal form.
- C. **Correct.** The *not only . . . but also . . .* form is the most efficient way to convey the meaning of the sentence. The parallel structure is maintained.
- D. The future tense verb *will ripen* makes no sense in this sentence about fruit that has already fallen; the relative clause is wordy and imprecise (what is the antecedent for *which*?)
- E. The present perfect infinitive to *have fallen* makes no sense and the relative clause is wordy.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-048 VSC002263 Medium

In 1926, in her second attempt to swim across the English Channel, Gertrude Ederle not only crossed the Channel against currents that forced her to swim thirty-five miles instead of the minimal twenty-one, but she set a record for speed as well, by swimming the distance in almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done.

- A. but she set a record for speed as well, by swimming the distance in almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done
- B. but also set a record for speed, swimming the distance almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done
- C. but also swam the distance in almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done, and setting a record for speed
- D. but also setting a record for speed by swimming the distance in almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done
- E. but, swimming the distance almost two hours faster than anyone had yet done, she also set a record for speed

Idiom; Grammatical construction; Parallelism

The sentence explains two accomplishments of Gertrude Ederle: swimming thirty-five miles and setting a speed record. These two accomplishments need to be presented in parallel form because the sentence introduces the *not only. . . but also* template. Some versions of the sentence violate this parallelism and obscure the meaning of the sentence.

- A. The *not only. . .* followed by a past-tense verb (*crossed*) anticipates a *but also . . .* followed by a past-tense verb in the second half of the sentence. The *but. . . as well* construction violates this formula and adds unnecessary words. Moreover, the *in* anticipates a positive amount of time, not the comparative indicated *faster than*. The *she* also violates parallelism because of the position of *Gertrude* before *not only*.
- B. **Correct.** This version completes the *not only. . . but also . . .* construction and offers the correct comparative form of *faster than*.
- C. The *in* is unnecessary for reasons explained in A; in the second half of the sentence, the coordinating conjunction, *and*, needs a verb to parallel *swam* (set instead of *setting*).
- D. The *not only. . . but also . . .* requires parallel verbs; *setting* is a participial, whereas *crossed* is a past-tense infinitive.
- E. This version is unnecessarily wordy and *she* violates parallelism.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-049 VSC002305 Medium

Even though interest rates rose last year, they were not nearly as high as the early 1980s, when the economy tumbled into a recession and markets were depressed.

- A. they were not nearly as high as the early 1980s, when
- B. they were not nearly as high as interest rates in the early 1980s, when
- C. they were not nearly at the levels they were in the early 1980s, at the time when
- D. they had not approached the high levels of the early 1980s, during the time in which
- E. the high levels of the 1980s were not being approached, when

Logical predication; Idiom

The point of this sentence is a comparison between *interest rates* last year and *interest rates* several decades ago. Some versions of the sentence erroneously make comparisons between interest rates and *the 1980s*.

- A. This sentence nonsensically compares interest rates with the early 1980s.
- B. **Correct.** This sentence compares like items—interest rates last year and interest rates in the 1980s.
- C. This version of the sentence is unnecessarily wordy, because of the phrases *at the levels* and *at the time when* (which repeats the sense of *the 1980s*). Also, *the levels they were* makes no sense.
- D. This version of the sentence is even wordier than C; *during the time in which can and should be reduced to when*.
- E. The passive voice verb *not being approached* adds a new element of wordiness and further obscures meaning, leaving readers wondering what or who is not approaching the interest levels of the 1980s.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-050 VSC002315 Medium

In build-to-suit projects, developers design and construct to meet the needs of a primary tenant, who pays the developer a marginal fee for design and construction work and agrees to buy the completed building or will occupy all or most of it in exchange for a favorable long-term lease.

- A. will occupy all or most of it
- B. will occupy all of it, or most of it,
- C. to occupy all or most of it
- D. occupy all of it, or most,
- E. they will occupy all of it, or most,

Parallelism; Idiom

This sentence describes two options available to *tenants* in build-to-suit projects: *to buy* the completed building or *to occupy* on a long-term basis. Some versions of the sentence obscure this meaning with faulty parallelism.

- A. The coordinating conjunction *or* should connect two parallel structures—but in this version of the sentence, the second structure is a future-tense verb *will occupy*, which is not parallel to the infinitive phrase *to buy*.
- B. This version of the sentence suffers from the same lack of parallelism as A. There is no reason to set off the phrase *or most of it* with commas.
- C. **Correct.** This version achieves parallelism, as *or* connects two infinitive phrases, *to buy* . . . and *to occupy* . . .
- D. The parallelism is fairly well maintained in this sentence, but it's not clear what *or most* refers to, or why it's set off with commas.
- E. The subject of *agrees* is the singular relative pronoun *who* (referring to *the primary tenant*); therefore, it makes no sense to introduce a plural subject *they*—which seems to refer nonsensically to the only plural subject in the sentence, *developers*.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-051 VSC002339 Medium

Reptiles, by drawing their body heat directly from the Sun rather than burning calories to generate it, can survive on ten percent of the nourishment that a mammal of similar size would normally require.

- A. rather than burning calories to generate it
- B. rather than the generation of body heat by burning calories
- C. and not from generating it by burning calories
- D. instead of by burning calories for generating it
- E. instead of body heat generated by burning calories

Parallelism; Logical predication; Diction

This sentence explains why *reptiles* require less nourishment than similarly sized mammals. The reason is explained in terms of what reptiles do (draw body heat from the sun) and what they do not do (burn calories to generate heat).

- A. **Correct.** The construction *by . . . rather than . . .* introduces objects of the preposition (by) that must be parallel in form—in this case, gerunds *drawing* and *burning*.
- B. This version introduces unnecessary wordiness and violates the parallelism requirement.
- C. The repetition of the preposition *from* leads the reader to think that the following information will be a source of heat not used by reptiles. The sentence is wordy and confusing.
- D. The series of two prepositions (*of* and *by*) is awkward and confusing; *for* is the incorrect preposition to describe the connection between burning calories and generating heat.
- E. *Instead of* indicates that the sentence will reveal another means of acquiring body heat; it makes no sense that body heat would be another source of body heat. The repetition is wordy and inaccurate.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-052 VSC002367 Medium

The industrial pollutants known as PCBs were first manufactured in 1929 and were used as coolants for electrical equipment in Europe and North America until the 1970s, when studies showed that the compounds had entered the food chain and were harmful to some animals.

- A. that the compounds had entered the food chain and were harmful to some animals
- B. the compounds to have entered the food chain and be harmful to some animals
- C. the entry of the compounds into the food chain as harmful to some animals
- D. the entry of the compounds into the food chain and its harmfulness to animals
- E. the compounds entering into the food chain and harming some animals

Logical predication; Parallelism

The sentence addresses the history of PCBs, from their first manufacture in 1929, to their use as coolants until the 1970s when research revealed their contamination of the food chain and their negative effects on some animals. The sentence needs to make clear both the sequence of events and the side effects of the compounds.

- A. **Correct.** The word that introduces a noun clause composed of a single subject *compounds* and a compound verb indicating a sequence of events *had entered* and *were harmful*.
- B. The verb *showed* relates somewhat differently to two factors, one a completed event referred to with the perfect infinitive phrase *have entered* the food chain, the other a continuing property of PCBs, referred to with the simple infinitive phrase *be harmful*. For clarity and proper parallelism, *to* should be repeated before *be harmful*.
- C. The noun clause with the subject entry requires a verbal form (*to be*) in place of *as*.
- D. The reference of the possessive pronoun *its* is ambiguous because the singular noun *food chain* is interposed between *harmfulness* and *entry*. The word *harmfulness* is awkward.
- E. The preposition *into* is redundant after the word *entering*. This wording also appears to indicate that the studies depicted or displayed the events while the events were unfolding.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-053 VSC002381 Medium

A recent survey showed that while many banks have service charges on interest-bearing and non-interest-bearing accounts with balances that are falling below a set minimum, some banks provide virtually free checking regardless of the account balance.

- A. with balances that are falling below
- B. whose balances fall below
- C. whose balances fall below that of
- D. that have balances below that of
- E. that have balances that fall below those of

Logical predication; Idiom

The sentence explains survey results that reveal two kinds of banks: those imposing service charges on accounts *whose balances fall below a set minimum* and those that impose virtually no service charges *regardless of the amount balance*. The sentence needs to make clear that the main comparison is between banks, not balances.

- A. The phrase *that are falling* illogically suggests that the crucial factor is the ongoing process of falling instead of the fact that the balances drop to a certain level, and it makes this version unnecessarily wordy.
- B. **Correct.** This is the clearest, most efficient, and direct way to convey the meaning of the sentence.
- C. The unnecessary words *that of* are redundant and nonsensical, implying *a balance of a set minimum balance*.
- D. The words *that of* are problematic for reasons explained for C.
- E. The relative pronoun *that* introduces unnecessary wordiness. The phrase *those of* is problematic for the same reasons explained for *that of* in C.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-054 VSC002451 Medium

Antipoverty initiatives have had to contend with two decades of economic shifts that have depressed wages of workers with little or no technical skills.

- A. that have depressed wage of workers with little or no technical skills
- B. having depressed wages of workers with little or no technical skills
- C. that have depressed the wages of workers with few or no technical skills
- D. in which the workers' wages with few or no technical skills have been depressed
- E. in that workers with few or no technical skills have wages that are depressed

Diction; Rhetorical construction; Idiom

This sentence is about the challenges *two decades of economic shifts* have posed for *antipoverty*. The sentence particularly identifies the effects these *shifts* have had on workers without technical skills. The sentence needs to clarify this causal sequence as well as the attributes of the workers who are the most vulnerable.

- A. The count noun *skills* requires the count adjective *few* rather than the bulk adjective *little*.
- B. It is not clear whether the modifier *having depressed* . . . describes *antipoverty initiatives* or *decades of economic shifts*. There should also be a comma after *shifts*, if using a participial phrase.
- C. **Correct.** *Few* is the correct adjective to describe *skills*.
- D. The placement of the prepositional phrase *with few or no technical skills* nonsensically describes wages rather than workers. The passive construction loses the causal sequence that the shifts caused the depressed wages.
- E. The connecting phrase *in that* is imprecise and wordy; the relative clause *that are depressed* introduces wordiness. As in D, the passive construction loses the causal sequence that the shifts caused the depressed wages.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-055 VSC002465 Medium

Though widely used for decades to fuel home heating systems, utility boilers, and industrial furnaces, natural gas has accounted for far less of the energy consumed in the United States than has oil.

- A. natural gas has still accounted for far less of the energy consumed in the United States than has oil
- B. natural gas has still accounted for far less of the energy consumed in the United States as oil
- C. natural gas still has accounted for far less of the energy consumed in the United States as oil has
- D. still far less of the energy consumed in the United States has been accounted for by natural gas as by oil
- E. still far less of the energy consumed in the United States has been accounted for by natural gas than has oil

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction; Diction

The point of the sentence is to assert that natural gas accounts for much less energy consumption than oil, despite its long and varied use in homes and industry. The sentence needs to make clear this central comparison between the amount of natural gas consumed and the amount of oil consumed. Some versions of the sentence incorrectly compare oil or energy consumption with what gas has.

- A. **Correct.** This sentence correctly compares what natural gas has done with what oil has done.
- B. The comparative term *as* is incorrectly paired with *far less*, which requires completion with a phrase beginning with *than*. The sentence attempts to compare oil with what gas has done.
- C. The comparative term *as* is incorrectly paired with *far less*.
- D. The comparative term *as* is incorrectly paired with *far less*.
- E. This sentence attempts to make an illogical comparison between energy and oil.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-056 VSC002523 Medium

Like humans and other warm-blooded animals, researchers report that the lotus has the remarkable ability of keeping its temperature in a narrow range.

- A. Like humans and other warm-blooded animals, researchers report that the lotus has the remarkable of keeping its temperature in a narrow range.
- B. Researchers report that within a narrow range, the lotus has the remarkable ability to keep its temperature humans and other warm-blooded animals do.
- C. Researchers report that the lotus has the remarkable ability of keeping its temperature to a narrow range, as humans and other warm-blooded animals can.
- D. Researchers report that the lotus has the remarkable ability to keep its temperature within a narrow range, as do humans and other warm-blooded animals.
- E. As humans and other warm-blooded animals can, researchers report that the lotus has the remarkable of keeping its temperature in a narrow range.

Logical predication; Grammatical construction; Idiom

The point of the sentence is to report how *researchers* have compared the *lotus* to *humans and other warm-blooded animals*, but the sentence has been written in a way that compares *humans and other warm-blooded animals* to *researchers*.

- A. Grammatically, the opening adjective phrase *like humans and other warm-blooded animals* describes the immediately following noun, *researchers*. Logically this excludes researchers from either category, although one assumes they in fact belong in both.
- B. The placement of the adverbial modifier *within a narrow range*, has this phrase explaining where the lotus has the ability to *keep* its temperature (as opposed to giving it away?).
- C. The preposition *of* after the noun *ability* departs from the idiomatic *ability to*.
- D. **Correct.** The conjunction *as* correctly makes a comparison between what the *lotus* can do and what *humans and other warm-blooded animals* can do.
- E. This sentence nonsensically compares what can be reported by researchers to what can be reported by *humans and other warm-blooded animals*.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-057 VSC002708 Medium

Since digital recording offers essentially perfect reproduction—on compact discs, digital audiotapes, or digital videodiscs—audiophiles can accumulate vast collections of music, transferring them from one format to another, copying it, and digitally altering it with little effort and not damaging the sound quality.

- A. music, transferring them from one format to another, copying it, and digitally altering it with little effort and not damaging
- B. music, transferring it from one format to another, copying it, and digitally altering it with little effort and no damage to
- C. music, transferring them from one format to another, copy them, and digitally alter them with little effort and no damage to
- D. music and transfer it from one format to another, copy it, and then digitally altering it with little effort and not damaging
- E. music and transfer it from one format to another, copying it, and digitally alter it with little effort and no damage to

Parallelism; Agreement

This sentence explains what audiophiles can do with *music*, given the capacities of *digital recording*. The activities of these audiophiles are most economically conveyed with a main clause in which *audiophiles* is the subject and *music* is the object; the main verb, *can accumulate*, is modified by a series of participial phrases describing *music*, the object in the main clause.

- A. It makes little sense to suppose that *it* refers to *one format*, so *transferring . . . , copying . . . , and digitally altering . . .* must be understood as a series in which the antecedent of all three pronouns is the same. If that antecedent is *vast collections*, the pronoun should be plural in all three instances. If, more plausibly, the intended antecedent is *music*, the correct pronoun is *it* in all three instances.
- B. **Correct.** The singular pronoun *it* agrees with its singular antecedent *music*.
- C. The series is unparallel (*transferring, copy, alter*, etc.). The use of *them* raises similar agreement issues as described in A.
- D. The present participles *altering* and *damaging* violate the parallelism of the series of infinitive verb phrases, *transfer . . . copy . . .*. The series is unparallel.
- E. The present participial phrase *copying it* violates the parallelism of verbs for the subject *audiophiles*. The series is unparallel.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-058 VSC002715 Medium

The Scandinavian assault on Western Europe culminated in the early eleventh century with the Danish conquest of the English kingdom, which other Scandinavian kings attempted to repeat, unsuccessfully later in the same century.

- A. which other Scandinavian kings attempted to repeat, unsuccessfully, later in the same century
- B. which other Scandinavian kings attempted to repeat later that same century, but not successfully
- C. an achievement that other Scandinavian kings attempted later in the century to repeat, but were not successful at it
- D. an achievement attempted later in the century by other Scandinavian kings that was not successful
- E. an achievement that other Scandinavian kings attempted to repeat later in the century, but without success

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

The sentence explains that the *Danish conquest of the English kingdom was an achievement* that *other Scandinavian kings subsequently attempted* but failed to emulate. This meaning is most effectively conveyed with an appositive phrase that names the Danish conquest as an *achievement*, positioning it as the object of *other Scandinavian kings'* attempts. Some versions of the sentence attempt to use a relative clause that introduces an ambiguous, unnamed object.

- A. Because of its placement the adverb *unsuccessfully* seems to modify *repeat* rather than *attempted*.
- B. The tag ending *but not successfully* is unnecessarily wordy.
- C. The coordinating conjunction *but* introduces a clause that requires a subject and a verb; this version of the sentence provides the verb *were* but omits the subject.
- D. The sentence provides no reasonable referent for the relative pronoun *that*.
- E. **Correct.** The appositive *an achievement* is made into a direct object in the relative pronoun *that*. The noun *Scandinavian kings* is the subject of the verb *attempted to repeat*, which is modified by the adverbial phrase at the end of the sentence, *but without success*.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-059 VSC002774 Medium

On the surface of Jupiter's moon Europa, water remains frozen, but the gravitational force of Jupiter and its other moons cause contractions that may generate so much heat that it would melt ice below Europa's surface.

- A. moons cause contractions that may generate so much heat that it would melt
- B. moons cause contractions, with enough heat generated for melting
- C. moons causes contractions that may generate enough heat to melt
- D. moons, causing contractions, may generate so much heat to melt
- E. moons, which causes contractions, may generate enough heat for melting

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

The sentence explains a series of events that might cause ice to melt *below Europa's surface*, even though it remains frozen on the surface of Europa. The sentence needs to clarify the causal chain: *gravitational force* causes *contractions* that *generate heat* that may *melt ice*.

- A. The singular subject *force* does not agree with the plural verb *cause*.
- B. The sentence is flawed by the same subject/verb disagreement as explained for A; also, it is not clear how the final prepositional phrase with *enough heat generated*. . . connects to the rest of the sentence. What is with *enough heat generated*?
- C. **Correct.** The singular subject *force* agrees with the singular verb *causes*. The relative clause *that may generate enough heat*. . . unambiguously attributes the generation of heat to *contractions*.
- D. The comparative phrase *so much* anticipates conclusion in a *that* . . . clause; the infinitive *to melt* frustrates this anticipation.
- E. The reference for the relative pronoun *which* is unclear. This sentence erroneously reports that the gravitational force, rather than the contractions, generates heat.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-060 VSC07626 hard

A recording system was so secretly installed and operated in the Kennedy Oval Office that even Theodore C. Sorensen, the White House counsel, did not know it existed.

- A. A recording system was so secretly installed and operated in the Kennedy Oval Office that
- B. So secret was a recording system installation and operation in the Kennedy Oval Office
- C. It was so secret that a recording system was installed and operated in the Kennedy Oval Office
- D. A recording system that was so secretly installed and operated in the Kennedy Oval Office
- E. Installed and operated so secretly in the Kennedy Oval was a recording system that

Idiom; Agreement

This sentence correctly uses the idiomatic construction *so x that y*: the system was *so secretly installed (X) that even... Sorensen... did not know (y) that it existed*. The pronoun *it* clearly refers to *a recording system*.

- A. **Correct.** In this sentence, both pronoun reference and idiomatic construction (*so x that y*) are clear and correct.
- B. *So* must be followed by *that*; inverting the word order makes the pronoun reference ambiguous
- C. *It was* is unnecessary; *that* is required before *even Theodore C. Sorensen...*; the pronoun reference is ambiguous
- D. This construction results in a sentence fragment
- E. The inverted word order does not grammatically fit into the rest of the sentence

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-061 VSC001448 hard

Sculpted boulders found at Lepenski Vir, an example of the earliest monumental art known from central and Western Europe, includes 15 figures with human features similar to Upper forms and to Middle Eastern stone figurines.

- A. Vir, an example of the earliest monumental art known from central and western Europe, includes
- B. Vir, examples of the monumental art known from central and western Europe, include earliest of monumental art known from central and western Europe, include
- C. Vir are examples of the earliest monumental art known from central and western Europe and includes
- D. Vir are examples of the earliest monumental art known from central and western Europe, including

Logical predication; Agreement

The sentence is about *sculpted boulders*, a plural subject, which needs to be discussed in plural terms—as examples of a category of ancient art.

- A. The plural subject, *sculpted boulders* does not agree with the singular verb *includes*; the plural subject *boulders* does not clearly agree with the singular appositive *an example*. If the boulders together constitute a single example, it would be better to begin the sentence with a phrase such as *The group of boulders* or at least *The boulders*.
- B. **Correct.** The plural subject *boulders* agrees in number with both the plural appositive *examples* and the plural verb, *include*.
- C. The concrete, plural subject *boulders* requires a more specific category within the abstraction art—e.g., *earliest of monumental art forms*.
- D. The plural subject *boulders* does not agree with the singular verb *includes*.
- E. The participle *including* seems to be introducing the nonsensical notion that *figures with human features* belong to the category *central and western Europe* or the equally nonsensical claim that 15 figures with human features define an entire category of *earliest monumental art known from central and western Europe*.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-062 VSC002507 hard

Narwhals can be called whales of the ice: in icy channels, ponds, and ice-shielded bays they seek sanctuary from killer whales, their chief predator, and their annual migrations following the seasonal rhythm of advancing and retreating ice.

- A. their annual migrations following
- B. their annual migrations which follow
- C. their annual migrations follow
- D. whose annual migrations following
- E. whose annual migrations follow

Verb form; Grammatical construction

The point of the sentence is to explain why *narwhals* are called *whales of the ice*. The two reasons are most directly and economically presented as two declarative statements, the first explaining where *they seek sanctuary*, and the second explaining how *their annual migrations follow the seasonal rhythm*.

- A. The coordinating conjunction *and* introduces a clause that requires a main verb rather than a present participle *following*.
- B. The relative pronoun *which* is the subject for the verb *follow*, leaving *annual migrations* without a verb.
- C. **Correct.** The coordinating conjunction introduces an independent clause in which the subject is *migrations* and the verb is *follow*.
- D. The reference of the possessive relative pronoun *whose* is ambiguous; the coordinating conjunction introduces a clause that requires a main (infinitive) verb form instead of a present participle.
- E. The reference of the possessive relative pronoun *whose* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-063 VSC002550 hard

Naked mole rats form colonies of approximately twenty animals, each of which consists of a single reproductive female and workers that defend her.

- A. each of which consists
- B. with each of them consisting
- C. each colony consisting
- D. and each of them consist
- E. and each colony consisting

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction; Verb form

The focus of the sentence is *colonies* that consist of a breeding female and worker/defenders. Some versions of the sentence suggest that naked mole rats consist of these individuals.

- A. Placement of the pronoun *each* immediately after *animals* nonsensically indicates that each animal consists of a reproductive female and workers.
- B. The pronoun *each* nonsensically refers to *animals*.
- C. **Correct.** Because of the intervening prepositional phrase of *approximately twenty animals*, the sentence needs to specify that each refers to *colony* and not *animals*.
- D. *Each* could seem to refer nonsensically to *animals* instead of *colony*. *Each* is singular and doesn't agree with the plural verb *consist*.
- E. The coordinating conjunction *and* requires a main verb *consists* instead of the present participle *consisting*.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-064 VSC002625 hard

Although beavers can still be found throughout the western United States, their number has declined compared with the eighteenth century, when the abundance of beavers lured armies of European trappers into the Rocky Mountain region to slaughter them for their pelts.

- A. their number has declined compared with
- B. their numbers have compared with
- C. their numbers have declined since
- D. their numbers have in comparison to those of
- E. the number of them declined since

Logical predication; Verb form

The point of the sentence is to compare the current beaver population in the western United States with the much more abundant beaver populations in the area in the eighteenth century. This comparison is presented as a *decline* that began when European trappers entered the region and has continued to the present. Some versions of the sentence illogically compare beavers or the beaver populations to the eighteenth century.

- A. This sentence erroneously compares the number of beavers with the eighteenth century. The singular *number* is non-idiomatic and does not capture the reality that at different points between the eighteenth century and now, different numbers have described the beaver population in western U.S.
- B. This sentence also compares the numbers of beavers with the eighteenth century.
- C. **Correct.** By using the temporal connector *since*, this version of the sentence correctly distinguishes between numbers of beavers and the time when their population's decline began.
- D. This version of the sentence nonsensically compares numbers of beavers with numbers of eighteenth century.
- E. The past tense is incorrect for describing the decline, which began in the past and continues to the present; present-perfect tense is needed. As in A the singular *number* is non-idiomatic.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-065 VSC003141 hard

In order to conserve the energy and heat they need to spend the entire winter sitting motionless over incubating eggs, male emperor penguins huddle over the nests in groups, thereby reducing the rate at which they burn energy so that it is 25 percent lower than it would be for isolated birds.

- A. thereby reducing the rate at which they burn energy so that it is 25 percent lower than it would be for
- B. thereby reducing their rate of burning energy it is 25 percent lower when compared with
- C. and they thereby reduce by 25 percent the rate they burn energy, as compared to what it would be with
- D. which thereby reduces by 25 percent their rate of burning energy, when comparing them to
- E. which thereby reduces the rate they burn energy so that it is 25 percent lower than

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The point of the sentence is to compare *the rate at which (penguins) burn energy* when huddled in groups to *the rate* at which they'd burn energy in solitude. Some versions of the sentence obscure the terms of this comparison.

- A. **Correct.** Although not the most graceful sentence, this version correctly compares the rate at which birds huddled in groups burn energy with the rate at which they would burn energy as isolated birds.
- B. This version of the sentence does not clarify what is being compared to the rate at which grouped penguins burn energy. What is it 25 percent lower than? Also, it compares a rate for grouped penguins with isolated birds, instead of with the rate for isolated birds.
- C. The coordinating conjunction *and* introduces unnecessary words, as does the awkward phrase *as compared to what it would be with . . .* The preposition *with* is incorrect.
- D. The adverbial phrase *when comparing them. . .* suggests that the rate of energy consumption is reduced through the act of making a comparison.
- E. This version illogically compares the rate at which energy is burned with *isolated birds*.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-066 VSC003211 hard

Unlike amateur clammers, who usually dig clams by hand during the summer, professional clammers work year-round, using all-weather instruments such as the hydraulic dredge or a 20-foot-long implement known as a bull rake.

- A. work year-round, using all-weather instruments such as the dredge or a 20-foot-long implement known as a bull rake
- B. work year-round by using all-weather instruments like hydraulic dredges or 20-foot-long implements known as a bull rake
- C. working year-round and using such all-weather instruments as a hydraulic dredge or a 20-foot-long implement known as a bull rake
- D. working year-round use all-weather instruments like hydraulic dredges or 20-foot-long implements known as a bull rake
- E. work year-round using all-weather instruments, for example, a dredge or 20-foot-long implements known as bull rakes

Agreement; Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The point of the sentence is to compare *amateur clammers* with *professional clammers* and to describe the methods and provide examples of tools that distinguish the latter group.

- A. **Correct.** This sentence correctly compares amateur clammers with professional clammers, describing the methods and instruments of professional clammers with a participial phrase *using . . .* and correctly introduces examples of the clammers' tools with the phrase *such as*.
- B. The preposition *by* is unnecessary, and the comparative word *like* does not clarify that dredges and bull rakes exemplify all-weather instruments. The plural *implements* disagrees with the singular term renaming it (*bull rake*).
- C. There is no verb for *professional clammers* in the final clause, leaving the comparison between amateurs and professionals incomplete.
- D. This version of the sentence combines the problems of B and C, failing to complete the comparison between amateur and professional clammers, and describing the plural implements with the singular term *bull rake*.
- E. The phrase *for example* is awkward and indirect in this sentence, and the combination of singular and plural examples of all-weather instruments in the final phrase is awkward and confusing. There should also be a comma after *year-round* to set off the participial phrase.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-067 VSC003591 hard

Without adequate amounts of sleep, people's newly acquired skills and also new factual information may not get properly encoded into their memory circuits.

- A. Without adequate amounts of sleep, people's newly acquired skills and also
- B. Without the adequate amount of sleep they need, people's newly acquired skills and even
- C. If they do not have adequate amounts of sleep, people's newly acquired skills and even
- D. If people do not get adequate amounts of sleep, newly acquired skills and even
- E. If people do not get the adequate amount of sleep they need, newly acquired and also

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence is about what happens to people's memories when *people* don't get enough sleep. The sentence needs to clarify that it is *people* who need sleep, not their skills or the information they absorb.

- A. The opening modifier *Without adequate amounts of sleep* illogically describes people's skills, rather than people. In addition, this use of *and also* is awkwardly redundant.
- B. The terms *adequate and they need* are redundant; the opening modifier still describes skills, as in sentence A. The pronoun *they* nonsensically refers to *skills* rather than the possessive *people's*.
- C. The pronoun *they* nonsensically refers to *skills* rather than the possessive *people's*.
- D. **Correct.** By inserting the noun *people* as the subject of the main verb *do . . . get*, the sentence clarifies that people rather than skills are without sleep; *skills* then becomes the subject of the second verb *may . . . get*.
- E. The terms *adequate and they need* are redundant, as is the phrase *and also*.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-068 VSC003767 hard

Geologists have found that streams in the Karoo basin of South Africa changed suddenly at the end of the Permian period 250 million years ago, from the meandering shape typically found in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern found in areas without deep-rooted vegetation to hold the soil together.

- A. from the meandering shape typically found in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern found in areas without deep-rooted vegetation to hold
- B. from the meandering shape typically found in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern that they find in areas without deep-rooted vegetation for holding
- C. from the meandering shape typical in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern found in areas where it is without deep-rooted vegetation for holding
- D. shifting from the meandering shape typically found in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern found in areas where it is without deep-rooted vegetation for holding
- E. shifting from the meandering shape that is typical in well-vegetated zones to the braided pattern being found in areas without deep-rooted vegetation to hold

Rhetorical construction; Idiom

The sentence describes geologists' discovery of a sudden shift in the form of certain South African streams at the end of the Permian period. The underlined portion of the sentence explains that this shift entailed a transformation from a *meandering shape* to a *braided pattern* caused by the absence of vegetation to hold soil together. The most direct and economical way to describe this shift is with the formula *from . . . to . . .*

- A. **Correct.** The sentence clearly and economically explains the shift in the Karoo basin streams from a *meandering shape* to a *braided pattern*.
- B. The phrase *that they find* introduces unnecessary words; *for holding* is awkward and indirect. The verb *find* is the wrong tense; it should be *found*.
- C. The sentence is wordy and awkward because the pronoun *it* has no referent.
- D. The pronoun *it* has no referent.
- E. The phrases that is *typical* and *being found* are wordy and awkward.

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-069 VSC003901 hard

Laboratory rats and mice live up to 40 percent longer than usual when fed a diet of at least 30 percent fewer calories than that which they would normally eat, but that otherwise contains all necessary vitamins and nutrients.

- A. of at least 30 percent fewer calories than that which they would normally eat, but that otherwise
- B. with at least 30 percent fewer calories than what they would normally eat though otherwise it
- C. that has at least 30 percent fewer of the calories that they would normally eat, but otherwise it
- D. that has at least 30 percent fewer calories than they would normally eat but that otherwise
- E. that has at least 30 percent fewer calories than that which they would normally eat, though that otherwise

Grammatical construction; Diction

The sentence describes the life-extending effects on rats and mice of a diet that reduces calories but retains the vitamins and nutrients of the animals' normal diet. Some versions of the sentence indicate that the rodents are eating diets of calories, or otherwise obscure the nature of the diets.

- A. The sentence awkwardly describes a diet of calories; the singular pronoun *that* logically refers to diet but syntactically is compared with the plural calories.
- B. The preposition *with* is imprecise; *than what* is awkward and wordy, and its referent is unclear (*calories? diet?*); the sentence needs a comma after *eat*, to introduce an independent clause *it contains*.
- C. The phrase *fewer of the calories that* is wordy and confusing.
- D. **Correct.** The relative pronoun *that* introduces a series of two qualities of the rats' diet. The parallelism is maintained by the second relative clause that *otherwise contains*. . . .
- E. The singular relative pronoun *that* nonsensically refers to the plural *calories*, and the second appearance of *that* is without a referent.

The correct answer is D.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-070 VSC004360 hard

In July 1965 Mariner IV passed by Mars and took the first-ever close-up photographs of another planet, which showed that the Martian surface was like that of the Moon's in that it was pockmarked by moonlike craters and was dry and apparently dead.

- A. which showed that the Martian surface was like that of the Moon's in that it was pockmarked by moonlike craters and was dry and apparently dead
- B. which showed a dry, apparently dead Martian surface, and it was pockmarked by craters like the Moon has
- C. which showed the Martian surface as a dry, apparently dead one, which was pockmarked with craters such as the Moon's
- D. photos showing the Martian surface to be that of the Moon's, dry and apparently dead, and it was pockmarked by moonlike craters
- E. photos that showed a dry, apparently dead Martian surface pockmarked with craters like those on the Moon

Rhetorical construction; Idiom

The sentence explains that close-up photographs of the Martian surface revealed features comparable to those of the Moon's surface. The use of a relative pronoun *which* to refer to the information in the first clause is imprecise and confusing; a superior version of the sentence clarifies the subject with an appositive that names *photos* as the data source informing the comparison between lunar and Martian surfaces.

- A. The reference of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous. The double possessive of the *moon's* is redundant and wordy.
- B. The references of the pronouns *which* and *it* are ambiguous; the comparative term *like* should be used to compare two nouns or noun phrases, not a noun (*craters*) and a clause (*the Moon has*).
- C. The reference of *which* is ambiguous; the preposition *as* is not idiomatic in the expression *showed it as* and should be replaced by *to be* (showed it to be).
- D. The double possessive of the *Moon's* is redundant and wordy. Introducing a new clause to add an adjective after a series of adjectives describing the subject of the new clause is unnecessarily wordy.
- E. **Correct.** The subject *photos* clarifies what showed this view of the Martian surface; the sentence is direct and economical, and the comparative term *like* correctly compares two *craters* and *those*.

The correct answer is E.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-071 VSC004462 hard

Inhospitable places on our planet, from steaming hot springs to the thick ice of the Polar Regions, tend to be populated by specially adapted microbes flourishing, it seems, in these extreme conditions and are therefore called "extremophiles."

- A. flourishing, it seems, in these extreme conditions and are
- B. that seem to flourish with these extreme conditions and
- C. that seem to flourish in these extreme conditions and that are
- D. seeming to flourish in these extreme conditions and are
- E. seeming to flourish with these extreme conditions and that are

Grammatical construction; Diction

The sentence explains that *because* the microbes in question seem to flourish in extreme conditions, they are called *extremophiles*. The correct version of the sentence needs to clarify this causal logic.

- A. There is no subject for the verb *are*.
- B. The preposition *with* changes the sentence meaning in a nonsensical way; the verb *called* needs to be passive because the microbes are the recipients of the name *extremophiles*.
- C. **Correct.** This version clearly conveys the causal logic that the microbes are called *extremophiles* because of where they flourish. Also, repeating the relative pronoun *that* in and that are makes it clear that are refers back to *microbes*.
- D. There is no subject for the verb *are*.
- E. The preposition *with* is incorrect, as explained for B; the present participle *seeming* leads a reader to expect another participle instead of a relative clause after the conjunction *and*.

The correct answer is C.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-072 VSC004493 hard

A study of food resources in the North Pacific between 1989 and 1996 revealed that creatures of the seabed were suffering from dwindling food supplies, possibly a result from increasing sea surface temperatures during the same period.

- A. that creatures of the seabed were suffering from dwindling food supplies, possibly a result from increasing
- B. that creatures of the seabed were suffering because food supplies were dwindling, possibly as a result of an increase in
- C. that creatures of the seabed were suffering because of food supplies, which were dwindling possibly as a result of increasing creatures of the seabed that were suffering from food supplies that were dwindling, possibly resulting from an increase in
- D. creatures of the seabed that were suffering because food supplies were dwindling, which possibly resulted from increasing
- E. creatures of the seabed that were suffering because food supplies were dwindling, which possibly resulted from increasing

Logical predication; Grammatical construction; Idiom

The correct version of this sentence needs to clarify the causal logic of the study: increasing sea surface temperatures may cause dwindling food which cause creatures of the sea bed to suffer.

- A. The placement of the final appositive (*possibly a result. . .*) causes confusion as to what is being described—dwindling food or suffering creatures; the preposition *from* is not idiomatic.
- B. **Correct.** This sentence clarifies the causal relationships among suffering creatures, dwindling food supplies and increasing temperatures.
- C. This sentence claims the sea creatures were suffering because of food supplies; the nonrestrictive relative clause implies that the dwindling of these food supplies was only incidental, not a cause of suffering. If the final phrase *possibly as a result* is to modify the relative clause, *which were dwindling*, it should be preceded by a comma.
- D. The series of relative clauses (*that. . . dwindling*) is wordy and confusing; it is not clear what the final participial phrase is modifying.
- E. The reference of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-073 VSC004703 hard

Although improved efficiency in converting harvested trees into wood products may reduce harvest rates, it will stimulate demand by increasing supply and lowering prices, thereby boosting consumption.

- A. in converting harvested trees into wood products may reduce harvest rates, it will stimulate demand by increasing supply and lowering prices, thereby boosting
- B. in converting harvested trees into wood products may reduce harvest rates, demand will be stimulated because of increasing supply and lowering prices, which boost
- C. of converting harvested trees into wood products may reduce harvest rates, it stimulate demand by increasing supply and lowering prices, which boosts
- D. of harvested trees being converted into wood products may reduce harvest rates, it will stimulate demand, because it will increase supply and lower prices, thereby boosting
- E. when harvested trees are converted into wood products may reduce harvest rates, demand will be stimulated because of increasing supply and lowering prices, which boost

Verb form; Grammatical construction; Idiom

The correct version of the sentence must clarify the sequence of two effects of *improved efficiency in converting harvested trees into wood products*: first, *stimulating demand* and second *boosting consumption*. The first of these effects is itself caused by *increasing supply* and *lowering prices*.

- A. **Correct.** The subject of the independent clause *it* clearly restates the subject of the dependent clause *efficiency*, and the use of active voice in both clauses clarifies the *although* relationship announced at the beginning of the sentence.
- B. The passive voice in the independent clause obscures the sentence's meaning, making the cause of *increasing supply* and *lowering prices* unclear; the relationship between *efficiency* and *demand* is similarly unclear.
- C. The preposition *of* is not idiomatic in the context of this sentence; the referent of the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous.
- D. The passive phrase of *harvested trees being converted* is wordy and unclear.
- E. This sentence obscures the identity of the *efficiency* that may *reduce harvest rates*; the passive construction in the independent clause causes further ambiguity. (What will stimulate demand? How are *increasing supply* and *lowering prices* causally connected to *demand*?)

The correct answer is A.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-074 VSC005220 hard

Because of the Sun, which is 400 times larger than the Moon, but also 400 times farther away from Earth, so both the Sun and the Moon have the same apparent size in the sky.

- A. Because of the Sun, which is 400 times larger than the Moon, but also 400 times farther away from Earth, so both the Sun and the Moon have the same apparent size in the sky.
- B. The Sun, which is 400 times larger than the Moon, is also 400 times farther away from Earth, so the Sun and the Moon have the same apparent size in the sky.
- C. The Sun and the Moon have the same apparent size in the sky because the Sun, which is 400 times larger than the Moon, and also 400 times farther away from Earth.
- D. Four hundred times larger than the Moon and 400 times farther away from Earth, the Sun has the same apparent size in the sky as the Moon's.
- E. Four hundred times larger than the Moon and also 400 times farther away from Earth, so the Sun in the sky has the same apparent size as the Moon.

Grammatical Construction; Logical predication

The point of this sentence is to explain why the Sun and Moon appear to be the same size in the sky. The sentence needs to make clear that although the Sun is 400 times bigger than the Moon, its superior size appears much reduced because it is 400 times more distant from Earth than the Moon is.

- A. The phrase *Because of* normally would introduce a condition and anticipate an independent clause, but this sentence fragment does not have an independent clause, because the conjunction *so* introduces the final clause. *Because of* and *so* are redundant.
- B. **Correct.** The relative clause, *which is 400 times larger than the Moon*, enables this sentence to attribute two critical conditions to *the Sun*. The conjunction *so* introduces the logical consequence of this combination of conditions.
- C. This sentence fragment provides no verb for *the Sun*, subject of the final clause.
- D. The possessive form *Moon's* introduces ambiguity. The *Sun has the same apparent size as the Moon's* what? It would have been clearer and more parallel to write *the Sun has the same apparent size in the sky as the Moon has*.
- E. The opening phrase describes *the Sun*, so *the Sun* should be the subject of a final independent clause; the conjunction *so* is grammatically incorrect.

The correct answer is B.

Prep2012-Pack1-SC-075 VSC005240 hard

Many industrial robots perform tasks that are ill-suited either to human hands and eyes or are so onerous or strenuous that people do not want to do them.

- A. are ill-suited either to human hands and eyes or are so onerous or strenuous
- B. are either ill-suited to human hands and eyes or they are so onerous or strenuous so
- C. ether ill-suited to human hands and eyes or are so onerous or strenuous
- D. either are ill-suited to human hands and eyes or so onerous or strenuous so
- E. either are ill-suited to human hands and eyes or are so onerous or strenuous

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

The sentence explains two alternative reasons industrial robots replace human labor: either the labor is unsuited to human physical capacities or the labor is disdained by people.

- A. The *either* . . . *or* construction requires parallel structures; this version of the sentence violates parallelism by following *either* with a prepositional phrase and following *or* with a verb phrase.
- B. This version also violates parallelism by following *either* with an adjectival phrase and following *or* with an independent clause. The conjunction *so* is unnecessary.
- C. This sentence does not provide a verb for the relative pronoun *that*.
- D. In this sentence *either* is followed by a verb phrase, while *or* is followed by an adjective phrase. The conjunction *so* is unnecessary.
- E. **Correct.** This sentence provides parallel grammatical constructions after *either* and *or*.

The correct answer is E.