**Answer key:**

1. (B). Who made a deposit? You can’t tell. They is the only pronoun that creates a clear reference and agreement.

2. (C). Use the 2/3 split. The pronoun refers to the average Girl Scout, so it should be she. Eliminate (A) and (B). One difference among the others is has vs. had. vs. was. The verb tense needs to be consistent with joins, so use has and choose (C).

3. (C). They Netherlands is an it (as is the United States) not a they. Eliminate (A) and (B). (D) terminates the Netherlands, always a bad idea. (E) is passive, so choose the active (C).

4. (E). Step 1: The 2/3 split shown in italics (which doesn’t happen on the real test) is they vs. the codes. You want the codes because they is ambiguous; it could refer to brokers or codes. Step 2: Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). Step 3: The difference between (D) and (E) is able to be. Codes aren’t able (only people are), so choose (E).

5. (D). (A) has a misplaced modifier because it suggests that the troopers were tame and intelligent. (B), (C), and (E) change the words around a little , but they still repeat this error.(D) fixes the misplaced modifier by turning the phrase into a clause. The pronoun it is okay because the only noun it could match is the loose gorilla.

6. (D). Subject is The number, which is singular (a number is plural). Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). (D) is shorter and simpler than (E).

7. (A). The idiom is see/saw…as and only (A) gets it right.

8. (C). Support for the argument are the identifying words. C: Increase egg consumption with health ads. P: None worth mentioning. A: Health is an issue for potential egg-eaters. (A) and (B) aren’t bad, but they require you to infer a connection between eggs, health, and consumers’ concerns rather than stating it outright. (C) clearly shows consumers are concerned with eggs’ health effects. (D) weakens the argument. (E) is out of scope.

9. (A) ID the question: Assumption is an obvious key word. Work the argument: C: If people maintain the new priorities (changes in diet), the length and quality of their lives will increase. P: People are making changes to their diets (a subsidiary conclusion) because they’d rather be fit than eat foods that are filling and taste good. Gap: better diet——longer life and changes to diet——filling, good-tasting foods. POE: (B) is irrelevant. If anything, this weakens by suggesting that changes in diet aren’t enough. (C) is irrelevant. This goes along with the general idea, but it’s not strictly necessary. In (D), the time of discovery is irrelevant. In (E), the goals of most citizens are irrelevant. You’re only interested in the people who are acting on their goals. (A) fills in the assumption needed to make the subsidiary conclusion true. If eating filling, goodtasting foods is inconsistent with staying in shape and looking fit, people who want to stay in shape and be fit are willing to give them up. They will maintain good habits and live longer, better lives.

10. (A) ID the question: Assume is an obvious key word. Work the argument: C: Sales of umbrellas at subway exits while it’s raining will be greater than normal sales. P: People will be forced to buy umbrellas if they don’t want to get wet. A: They don’t have umbrellas with them. They are unwilling to get wet. POE: In (B), profitability of normally priced umbrellas is irrelevant. In (C), sales of normally priced umbrellas are irrelevant. (D) doesn’t deal with the issue. (E) looks good, but it’s not right. Potential customers might have umbrellas, but the issue is whether they have an umbrella with them. (A) makes the link. If it’s raining and you don’t have an umbrella, you feel the pressure to make a purchase. On some assumption questions, you may have a lot of difficulty spotting the necessary assumption due to the way the answers are worded. This is particularly true with answer choices containing negative words such as not and never. One way to check whether an answer choice is a necessary assumption is to negate, or reverse, that answer. If the negation would weaken the argument, that answer is a necessary assumption.

11. (C ) ID the question: The keys words are casts the most doubt. Work the argument: C: The company will install the faster platform on its computer system. P: The company can’t process its records fast enough anymore. Gap: New platform——fixing current problems. A: (1) Speed won’t compromise accuracy; (2) the computer can run the program. (C) attacks assumption #2. (B) strengthens the argument; (A) is irrelevant (what if the platform the company has in mind can do the job?). (D) only addresses the company’s expansion, and (E) is irrelevant.

12. (D) ID the question: The key words are most seriously weakened. Work the argument: C: The idea that government regulation hinders profits is invalid. P: From 1975–1985, when government regulation was very active, the average net worth of American families rose. Gap: Business profits——families’ net worth. A: The profitability of businesses caused the average net worth of American families to rise. (D) provides an alternate reason why families were richer. (A) Is 80% better or worse than normal? Irrelevant. (B) Isn’t strong enough because it doesn’t list bankruptcies as a percentage of the whole. (C) Is out of the scope. If (E) were true, how would average net worth of families rise?

13. (D) Identify the question: The key word is strengthen. Work the argument: C: A recession is caused only by a national loss of confidence. P: If people think the economy is sluggish, they won’t invest. (D) strengthens the link between investor confidence and economic growth by stating that greater investment strengthens the economy. (A) and (B) weaken the conclusion by offering other causes for a recession. (C) is backward; we don’t care what recessions cause; we care what causes a recession. In (E), economic stability is never mentioned.

14. (D) Read the question carefully. It asks you to support the analyst’s position, not the CEO’s. The analysts argue that the CEO is wrong to say that increase in passengers on partner airlines is evidence that the program is working to increase revenues. P: The joint frequent flier program allows miles earned on partner airlines to be combined for reward tickets on any airline. There’s been an increase in the number of passengers on the partner airlines. You need to show that the frequent flier plan is NOT increasing revenues for Sky Air. POE: (A) is irrelevant. (B) is irrelevant. (C) goes along the CEO’s position, not that of the analysts. (E) supports the CEO’s position. Only (D) supports the analysts’ position.

15. (B) Another common subject-verb agreement issue arises when a sentence has a compound subject. The split is agree/agrees. With neither...nor, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it, so father is the subject. Eliminate choices with plural verbs. (A), (C), and (D) are out. Choice (E) contains awkward, unidiomatic wording (English professors the both of them). (B) is the answer.

16. (D) The number/a number is an ETS favorite. A number is plural; eliminate (A) and (B). The next split is attribute...as/attribute...to. The idiom is attribute to, so (C) and (E) are out. (D) is the answer.

17. ( B) The tense shifts in the answer choices. Two events happened in the past, and one happened earlier than the other did (Smith championed the charity, and then he changed his mind). The past perfect tense is best to convey this meaning. (A), (C), (D), and (E) don’t use the correct tense. Choose (B).

18. (E) This example has modifier problems because only moves around in the answer choices and because of the select/selected split. Only should emphasize a select few scientists. However, it’s probably easier to work the subject-verb error first. Start with the leave/leaves or occur/occurs split. The subject, swarm, is singular. Eliminate (A) and (C) because occurs is plural. Eliminate (B) because portions does not agree with leaves. The choice between (D) and (E) comes down to meaning. Selected means a group chosen by someone, while select means a special group. (E) is better at conveying the meaning of a small group of scientists who have been lucky enough to witness the swarm.

19. (C ) The errors are tense (announce/announces/had announced) and quantity words (amount/number). Programs are countable and should be modified by number. Eliminate (A), (B), and (D). Since the action occurs every February, it’s ongoing, and present tense is best. Eliminate (E).

20(C ) There’s a comparative vs. superlative split (more/most). The sentence compares more than two things (Numerous decisions), so choose most. Eliminate (A), (B), and (E). (D) is unidiomatic and unnecessarily wordy, so (C) is the best answer.

21( E) This one is tricky because withholding is a red herring. The three verbs are cut, changed, and redesigned. (A) and (B) have pronoun trouble because company is singular; therefore, the proper pronoun is it. (C) and (D) aren’t parallel. (E) is the answer.

22. ( E) Ideally, you want the list to have three adjectives. However, there’s no form of aspiring that fits in the sentence. You’re left looking for the answer that sucks the least. You can keep the two adjectives and refer to aspire separately. (A), (B), and (D) are not parallel, and the two and’s in (C) are redundant. For parallel construction in lists, use the “apples to apples, oranges to oranges” mnemonic.

23. (B) The either/or option of deciding or refusing needs parallel construction. (A), (C), and (E) are not parallel. (E) uses the gerund form the refusing, which is not parallel to the verb deciding. (D) does not make the options clear. (B) keeps by deciding and by refusing parallel.

24. (E) This example serves as a lead-in to idiom errors. Not only...but also demands parallel construction. (B) and (C) don’t have the correct idiom. (A) and (D) are not parallel. (E) keeps restricts and allows parallel.

25. (D) The idiom is consider…(nothing), so eliminate everything but (D). The changing prepositions at the beginning of each answer are the giveaway.

26. (D) THE Results aren’t all bad because they will require stricter conversation laws. Use POE to eliminate the other answers. (A) The author never encourages ozone depletion. Also, should is extreme. (B) Level of government is never mentioned. Also, should is extreme. (C) Synthetics aren’t mentioned and should is extreme. (E) The relative positive/ negative balance is not mentioned and far outweighed is extreme.

27. (D) Conclusion: The American division should sell the thick- soled shoes. Premise: The thick- soled shoes are selling like crazy in Sweden. Assumption: Americans and Swedes have comparable tastes in shoes.

28.(C ) The second sentence connects the propensity to recycle to age. So,( c)is true. (A) We don’t know anything about the potential amount of recycling . (B) Waste disposal is too general; we only know about recycling. (D) We don’t know about overall population, only the age distribution within the population . (E) We don’t know about these people in the past.

29. (C) State colleges can lower their tuition costs because the federal and state funds cover some of the colleges’ costs. The two must therefore be related. (A) fits with the real world, but the argument never mentions it. (B) never mentioned. (D) never mentioned , and always is extreme.( E) might seem to make sense , but we don’t know private colleges raise their funds. If they were to lower tuition, they could make up for it firing teachers or making other cutbacks.

30.(C ) The author’s impression of a reward is different from the more widely held belief. In the author’s estimation, a job well done is the reward. Extrinsic to the task means that the work isn’t enough. You need to get a prize.

31. (E) C: Employee salaries must be reduced. P: We want to increase profits. If we reduce salaries, profits will increase. In its general form the argument says, “If A, then B. Want B, so do A.” (A), (B), and (C) don’t match. (D) might look attractive because it mentions salaries. However, don’t be drawn to answer choices that use words or topics similar to those in the question. In fact, they’re usually wrong. (E) matches. C: The number of commercials should be increased. P: The number of television watchers should be reduced. If there were more commercials, the number of television watchers would decline.

32.(D)Each is a singular pronoun, so each…. were doesn’t agree;(A) dies. (C) has the same problem, because every is also singular.( B) and (E) create sentence fragments without a main subject/ verb arrangement.

33.(C) Get rid of (A) right away, because the ones is awkward. The idiom is ability to, not ability of. Use the 2/3 split and get rid of (A) and (E) .When you refer to people, it’s proper to use who, not that; eliminate (B) and (D). (D) also has a split infinitive (which we’ll also talk about later.

34. (A) The idiom is not so much\_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_\_, and (A) is parallel; not so much by…as by.

**Answer for RC 1**

1 (B). Make a map of the passage. There are no contradictions that are being talked about, so A is out. The passage is not testing any model hence C is out. D is a trap answer it talks about “traditional ideology” while the passage is about “corporate ideology” and traditional views. Option E is out as no conflicting explanation for a phenomenon has been discussed in the passage.

2 (B). Option (E) is out as too extreme. The author’s attitude is not critical or negative hence options (A) and (D) are out. (C) is a trap answer as it uses language from the passage – dilemma .

3 (A). Option (B) is out as the author is not asserting himself. Option C is not correct as there are no evaluations being made. (D) is a trap answer as it talks about historical overview . A student would be attracted to this answer as the first paragraph talks about traditional view, gives dates and events etc. ( E ) is again not the correct option as no new theory is being described.

**Answers for RC 2**

1. (A). Look for the cause of increased profits for trash haulers. This is discussed in lines 16-22. (A) paraphrases the idea that the companies haul the trash (services) and sell the recycled paper (products). (B) is a trap because preferred customers is a recognizable phrase from a different part of the passage. (C), (D), and (E) are all out of scope.

2. (E). Look for the price of waste paper. It’s discussed in lines 14-16. In step 3, students will answer that prices have increased a lot. (A) and (B) come close to that, but they make predictions rather than describing the past. (C) and (D) are out of scope. (E) is true (price per ton), even though it may seem trivial.

3.(C). (A) says the opposite of the passage: they cooperate more than they compete. (B), (D), and (E) are all out of scope. (C) isn’t great, but it’s probably true (you gotta love may) and consistent with the author’s description.

4. (E). With EXCEPT questions, find each of the wrong answers in the passage before you cross them off. The remaining, correct answer may either contradict the passage or just be out of scope. (A) is supported by lines 14-16. (B) is supported by lines 20-23. (C) is supported by lines 22-23. (D) is supported by lines 15-16. (E) contradicts the idea of cooperation between trash haulers and recyclers.