

ACT ENGLISH DIAGNOSTIC TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

PASSAGE I

Summer Crabbing

While the winters of my childhood on the southern coast of New Jersey were somewhat cold and dreary, the summer was like someone in¹ paradise. I lived only two blocks from the ocean

and, despite the crowds that came² with the warm weather, the summer months on the beach and in

the water will always be³ a time of tremendous fun for me.

My grandparents lived near us on a lagoon and were typical of many more⁴ shore natives in that they owned a boat, which they docked right outside their back door. It was always a joyous day for my family when the boat was lowered into the water, signaling the beginning of summer. We all knew at that moment that we'd enjoy ahead of us⁵ twelve weeks of boat rides, fishing trips, and, my favorite pastime, crabbing.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. summer was
C. summers were like someone in
D. summers were
2. The writer would like to indicate that she understands why visitors crowded the New Jersey coast every summer. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer's goal?

F. NO CHANGE
G. the amazing crowds that arrived
H. the crowds that naturally came
J. the large crowds that swarmed the area
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. were always
C. are always
D. can always be
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. of many
H. mostly of
J. for most
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. in our future
C. the forthcoming
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

Crabbing is a difficult hobby, it required⁶
more skill⁶ than simple fishing. Catching crabs
requires physical skill, along with patience,
diligence, and timing. Even after years of crabbing
with my grandfather, I still made critical, and
sometimes humorous, mistakes. 7

One July afternoon when I was fourteen, we
set out on the boat to crab in the bay. We docked
close enough to the reeds to reach out and touch
them. I gently brushed⁸ them with my fingers as
my grandfather lowered the anchor. After putting
raw chicken legs onto the hooks at the end of the
crab lines, we threw them into the water, waiting,
for a bite⁹ from below.

An eternity passed before our first line went
taut, indicating that a crab had latched onto the
bait. 10 My grandfather quickly grabbed the line

and then slowly began pulling it up toward the
surface of the water.¹¹

6. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. it requires more skill
H. requiring more skill
J. more skillful
7. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
- A.** Kept, because it emphasizes that crabbing is a difficult pastime.
B. Kept, because it serves as a good transition to the remainder of the essay.
C. Deleted, because the difficulties of crabbing have already been discussed.
D. Deleted, because it is irrelevant to the essay's focus on non-commercial crabbing.
8. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. stooped to brush them with gentleness
H. leaned over to gently brush
J. gently leaned over to brush
9. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. water, waiting for a bite,
C. water, before waiting for a bite:
D. water and waited for a bite
10. Given that all are true, which of the following additions to the preceding sentence (replacing "bait") would be most appropriate?
- F.** bait of raw chicken legs that we had attached
G. hooked bait of raw chicken legs
H. bait on one of the hooks
J. raw chicken-leg bait we had attached an eternity ago
11. All of the following alternatives to the underlined portion are acceptable EXCEPT:
- A.** up.
B. up to the surface.
C. toward the surface.
D. up the surface.

I had grabbed my scalping net and was beside my grandfather, ready to scoop the crab out of the water as it surfaced from the depths of the bay. 12 It was not easy to hold steady as I

waited, leaning out of the boat and over the water with the top half of my body. Luckily, I knew¹³ how to brace myself by bending my knees and wedging

my feet under a seat in the boat. Eventually, I saw¹⁴ the crab and plunged my net into the water. I must have acted too enthusiastically, however, because I lost my foothold and tumbled over the side of the boat.

Back at my grandparents' house, my entire family enjoyed a hearty laugh as my grandfather and I reenacted what had happened on the boat in the bay. Although this is only one of many memories shared by me and my grandfather, its¹⁵ definitely one of our favorites.

12. The writer is considering deleting the following from the preceding sentence:

from the depths of the bay

If the writer were to delete the phrase, the essay would primarily lose:

- F. a reminder that the scene was set in the bay.
- G. information that is essential to understanding the sentence.
- H. a detail that is inconsistent with the tone of the essay.
- J. a reminder of the dangers of crabbing.

13. A. NO CHANGE

- B. Luckily I knew,
- C. Luckily I knew
- D. I know, luckily,

14. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. spotted
- G. caught sight of
- H. snagged
- J. espied

15. A. NO CHANGE

- B. by my grandfather and I, its
- C. by me and my grandfather, it's
- D. by my grandfather and I, it's

PASSAGE II

Maria Mitchell: Woman of the Stars

Maria Mitchell was born on Nantucket Island in 1818. Her interest in astronomy began at an early age in connection with her father, who

16

was an amateur astronomer himself. By the age of ¹⁷ twelve, she was using a chronometer to track the ¹⁷ movements of the stars. Chronometers were used by ocean vessels in navigation. 18 Maria would often stay up all night checking her calculations.

In 1836, Maria ¹⁹ became the librarian of the first public library on Nantucket. Maria would spend the mornings studying the library's collection of mathematics and philosophy books. 20

16. F. NO CHANGE

- G. having something to do with her father,
- H. because of her father,
- J. OMIT the underlined portion.

17. A. NO CHANGE

- B. By twelve year's of age,
- C. Being twelve years old,
- D. By the time she turned twelve years old,

18. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence in its entirety. If the writer removed this sentence, the essay would primarily lose:

- F. information that is critical to understanding the paragraph.
- G. a detail that is informative, but not critical.
- H. a transition to the last sentence of the paragraph.
- J. a definition that is essential to understanding ocean navigation.

19. A. NO CHANGE

- B. In 1836 Maria
- C. In 1836 Maria,
- D. In 1836, Maria,

20. The writer is considering adding the following true statement to begin the preceding sentence:

The library was only open in the afternoons, so Given that it is true, should the writer make the proposed addition?

- F. Yes, because it explains why Maria was able to spend her mornings studying instead of working.
- G. Yes, because it suggests that Maria was a good role model for patrons of the library.
- H. No, because it creates confusion in an otherwise clear paragraph.
- J. No, because it is inconsistent with the style and tone of the essay.

[1] In 1847, while doing her nightly observations of the stars, Maria spotted a hazy object in the northern sky. [2] Could they be a comet? [3] She raced down the stairs to her father, who was entertaining guests, and he confirmed her suspicion. [4] Maria's father wrote to astronomers at Cambridge University in Boston who confirmed the observation, making Maria the first American to spot this new comet. 23

21. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Would it be
 C. Was it
 D. Why was it
22. The writer would like to indicate that Maria's father was quick to write to the astronomers. Which one of the following best accomplishes the writer's goal?
- F. NO CHANGE
 G. later wrote
 H. wrote excitedly
 J. promptly wrote
23. Upon reviewing this paragraph and realizing that some information has been left out, the writer composes the following sentence:

In fact, it was later established that Maria was the first person in the world to report a sighting of this particular comet.

This sentence would most logically be placed after which of the following sentences?

- A. 1
 B. 2
 C. 3
 D. 4

Maria's discovery led her to become a widely recognized astronomer. Her renown became

international when the King of Denmark awarded her with a gold medal for her discovery of the new comet. In 1848, she became the first woman to be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

24. F. NO CHANGE
 G. become a widely
 H. become; a widely
 J. become, a widely
25. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. awarded her
 B. bestowed upon her
 C. honored her with
 D. favored her with

Maria surely loved astronomy. When Vassar²⁶ College for Women opened in New York in 1865, she was asked to become its first professor of astronomy. Maria proved to be as skilled a teacher

as she was an astronomer. Her students learned a lot²⁷ in her classes at Vassar. However, Maria's childhood on Nantucket Island had instilled in Maria a sense of independence and she found it difficult²⁸ to work within the college's restrictive policies. For instance, she was once reprimanded by the school's president for spontaneously taking a group of students 200 miles north to view a lunar eclipse from a mountain range in Canada. 29 While her students were thrilled by the experience, their parents were unnerved by the college's lack of notification and oversight.

Despite some minor difficulties, Maria³⁰ Mitchell left behind a legacy of education and scientific discovery for women globally. She will always be affectionately referred to by many as "the woman of the stars."

26. Given that all of the choices are true, which one most effectively introduces the information that follows in this paragraph?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. Maria's fame created a new opportunity in education that would prove to be rewarding.
- H. Maria's skills as an astronomer outmatched those of her colleagues.
- J. Maria found a new home at Vassar College with her students.

27. A. NO CHANGE

- B. alot in Maria's classes at Vassar
- C. alot from Maria
- D. allot from Maria at Vassar

28. F. NO CHANGE

- G. and she thought it was difficult
- H. but she found it difficult
- J. that made it difficult for her

29. The writer would like to stress the arduous nature of the trip north back in the late 1800s by adding the following phrase to the preceding sentence:

in a horse-drawn carriage

The most logical and effective place to add this phrase is:

- A. after the word *reprimanded*
- B. before the word *north*
- C. after the word *north*
- D. after the word *view*

30. Which of the following makes the best transition from the preceding paragraph?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. Because of some minor difficulties
- H. Since the difficulties were minor
- J. OMIT the underlined portion, along with the comma that follows.

PASSAGE III

A History of Detection

[1]

The word *radar* is an acronym for “radio detection and ranging.” Radars’ basic mechanics
³¹are identical to those of sonar, except that radar uses

radio waves rather than sound waves. A radar
³²

device emits radio waves that bounce for a remote
³³object and return to the source. The time it takes

the waves to return to their point of origin is then
³⁴used to calculate the distance, size, and speed of the object off of which they were reflected.

[2]

The concept of radar was developed by several scientists whom in many ways built upon
³⁵each other’s work without formally collaborating. It all began in 1886, when physicist Heinrich Hertz proved that both radio and light waves were forms of electromagnetic radiation. 36 In his attempt to identify the properties common to radio and light waves, Hertz had stumbled upon the fact that metals, as well as other materials, reflected radio waves. This discovery paved the way for radar technology.

31. A. NO CHANGE

B. Radar’s

C. Radars

D. Radars’s

32. F. NO CHANGE

G. just like

H. as much as

J. unlike

33. A. NO CHANGE

B. bounce to

C. bounce off of

D. bounce on

34. F. NO CHANGE

G. to their points of origins

H. to their source of origin

J. OMIT the underlined portion.

35. A. NO CHANGE

B. to whom

C. who

D. that

36. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

In fact, the frequency of radio waves was later named Hertz to honor the physicist.

Should the writer add this sentence here?

F. Yes, because it shows the extent of Hertz’s knowledge of radio waves.

G. Yes, because it is necessary to understand the essay as a whole.

H. No, because it provides information that is included elsewhere in the essay.

J. No, because, while the fact is interesting, it is not essential to understanding the paragraph.

[3]

In 1917, American inventor Nikola Tesla relied on Hertz's discovery to establish the principles of frequency and power level. Tesla then promptly built the first radar prototype. Although Tesla's primitive device was a major engineering breakthrough, forward "commercial" progress was forced to wait until after World War II, as many

scientists were conscripted by there governments. During World War II, the military advantages of radar became the focus of attention.

[4]

Civilian uses for radar were developed later in the 20th century, including air traffic control and Doppler systems that forecast weather in advance.

Radar is no longer simply a military tool to be used to enhance the daily lives of people around the world. Although many people do not realize it, radar makes things like driving safer and things like exiting a grocery store with your hands full easier.

[5]

Sir Robert Watson-Watts theorized that, while a military death ray was impractical. In addition, detecting approaching aircraft using radio waves was feasible. Watson-Watts developed the

37. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. eventually
- B. swiftly
- C. quickly
- D. rapidly

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. they're governments
H. their governments
J. their government's

39. A. NO CHANGE
B. forecasts weather in advance
C. forecast weather
D. forecast weather in advance for us

40. F. NO CHANGE
G. tool, it is used
H. tool; it was used
J. tool; it is a tool used

41. A. NO CHANGE
B. with a handful
C. with handfulls
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

42. F. NO CHANGE
G. impractical. Therefore,
H. impractical, however,
J. impractical,

first sophisticated radar system in 1935 because it⁴³
was more feasible. By 1939, each of the major
⁴³
military powers had independently developed a
radar system, but England's Chain Home Radar
System was the most advanced in the world. 44

43. A. NO CHANGE
B. because he thought it was an excellent idea
C. because it was doable
D. OMIT the underlined portion.
44. If the writer were to delete the last part of the preceding sentence (ending the sentence with a period after the phrase *a radar system*), the paragraph would primarily lose:
- F. a direct link to the preceding paragraph.
G. an indication of the importance of the contributions of Watson-Watts.
H. a digression about the greatness of England's radar capabilities.
J. a description of how advanced radar had become to the point.

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this essay, Paragraph 5 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
B. after Paragraph 1.
C. after Paragraph 2.
D. after Paragraph 3.

PASSAGE IV

The Soul of Karate

When the word "Karate" is spoken, it often conjures up, in the mind of the hearer, images of feet smashing wooden boards or glamorized hand-to-hand combat where men brawl. However,
⁴⁶
Karate, across its many derivations, is as much a philosophical discipline as it is a physical one.

46. F. NO CHANGE
G. of men brawling
H. in which men brawl
J. OMIT the underlined portion.

From their first lesson, students of Karate are exposed to an ancient culture as much as they are trained to meet the demands of a physical regime. For example, he is expected to learn the language and customs of the sensei, or master

teacher. 48 There are many social norms that must become second nature to Karate students,

such as bowing, nodding, and many other signs of

respect for their sensei.

[1] Balance, both physical and mental, are key to any martial arts system, including Karate.
[2] Students must learn how to control their bodies, while their souls learn the secrets of inner peace and wellbeing. [3] Students must practice remaining upright while bringing an opponent to the ground.

47. A. NO CHANGE
B. he/she is
C. they are
D. those are

48. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
- F. Kept, because the reader needs to understand the customs of Karate.
G. Kept, because it gives the reader a specific example of what Karate students experience.
H. Deleted, because it is not relevant to the preceding sentence.
J. Deleted, because it is unnecessarily wordy.

49. A. NO CHANGE
B. such as; bowing
C. such as: bowing
D. bowing

50. The writer would like to convey the high degree of respect that students of Karate are taught to show their teachers. Which of the following best expresses the writer's intent?
- F. NO CHANGE
G. estimation
H. reverence
J. appreciation

51. A. NO CHANGE
B. Balance, both physical and mental, is
C. Both balances of physical and metal were
D. Both, physical and mental, balance is

[4] Students⁵² must also learn good judgment, knowing when and where it is appropriate to bring

an opponent to the ground. 53 [5] They

nevertheless⁵⁴ learn about proper nutrition and hydration. [6] During physical training, the sensei is constantly providing philosophical instruction. Such instruction includes meditation, so students⁵⁵ can⁵⁵ develop self-control and the ability to focus their concentration. [7] This ultimately helps Karate students achieve the mental discipline

necessary to govern their bodies. 56

All sensei teach⁵⁷ that the purist form of self-defense is the avoidance of conflict in the first place. Once engaged in a physical altercation, however, a

52. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. Student's
H. A student's
J. A student

53. The writer wants to make it clear that, in certain situations, a person should not take an opponent to the ground using Karate or any other means. To accomplish this goal, the writer wants to add the phrase *if at all* (with proper punctuation) to the preceding sentence. The most logical and effective place to add this phrase is:
- A.** after the word *judgment*.
B. after the word *knowing*.
C. after the word *bring*.
D. after the word *ground*.

54. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. also
H. thereby
J. therefore

55. Which of the alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A.** meditation intended to help students
B. meditation for helping the Karate students
C. meditation to help students
D. meditation, and students help to

56. The writer wants to shorten the preceding paragraph by deleting one sentence in its entirety. Which sentence should be deleted because it is largely off-topic?
- F.** Sentence 1.
G. Sentence 3.
H. Sentence 5.
J. Sentence 7.

57. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. teaches
C. do teach
D. has to teach

student of Karate must act in self-defense only. Every movement he or she makes must be swiftly⁵⁸ an attempt to end the conflict with minimal injury inflicted. The physical aspects of Karate simply cannot be separated from the philosophical aspects

without doing serious damage, to both.⁵⁹

60

58. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:

- F. where it is now.
- G. after the word *must*.
- H. before the word *attempt*.
- J. before the word *end*.

59. A. NO CHANGE

- B. damage to both
- C. damage too both
- D. damage, too both

60. If the writer were to delete this final paragraph from the essay, which of the following would be lost?

- F. A comment on the relationship between Karate's discipline and its philosophy.
- G. A plea to students of Karate to not abandon their philosophical roots.
- H. An explanation of the origins of Karate's philosophical grounding.
- J. Information regarding the defensive philosophy of Karate.

PASSAGE V

The First Modern Olympic Games

[1]

The first Olympic Games of modern times were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. The International Congress of Paris which revived⁶¹ the ancient games⁶¹ had initially targeted Paris as the host city for the modern event. The Congress eventually⁶² decided, however, that Athens—the birthplace of the ancient games—should host.

61. A. NO CHANGE

- B. Paris: which revived the ancient games,
- C. Paris, which revived the ancient games,
- D. Paris, that revived the ancient games,

62. Given that all of the choices are true, which one most effectively complements the preceding sentence?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. unanimously
- H. enthusiastically
- J. fortuitously

[2]

In preparing to host the games, Greece encountered difficulties, both financial and those of
logistics. For example, the largest and most

important stadium needed lots of tender love and
care, yet local organizers had neither the money nor
the organizational skills to complete the project

successfully. Luckily, private donations, along with
the sale of commemorative stamps and lottery

tickets, resulted in a surplus of funds.

66

[3]

As you might imagine, the entire nation was
brimming with pride and energy as more than 300

63. A. NO CHANGE

B. and logistical

C. as well as logistical

D. and logistics

64. Which of the following answer choices is most consistent with the tone and style of the passage?

F. NO CHANGE

G. needed a serious facelift

H. was all messed up

J. required extensive renovations

65. After reviewing this paragraph, the writer is considering deleting the word *successfully*. Should the writer make the deletion?

A. Yes, because it is understood that completion means successful completion.

B. Yes, because the word adds irrelevant detail.

C. No, because the word is critical to understanding the paragraph as a whole.

D. No, because the word is consistent with the casual tone of the essay.

66. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

With financial difficulties behind them, local organizers were able to hire outside consultants to help with logistics.

Should the writer add this sentence here?

F. Yes, because it sheds light on the job market at the time.

G. Yes, because it explains how the logistical difficulties were resolved.

H. No, because it provides information that is included elsewhere in the essay.

J. No, because, while the fact is interesting, it is not essential to understanding the paragraph.

67. A. NO CHANGE

B. As you, might, imagine

C. As you will imagine

D. OMIT the underlined portion and begin the sentence with the word *the* capitalized.

athletes and coaches from 14 countries entered the stadium. Most of the athletes were Greek. 68
In fact, it was later reported that many of the visiting athletes were profoundly moved and

inspired by the enthusiasm of their hosts.
69

[4]

The games included wrestling, track & field, gymnastics, swimming, as well as the event of
70
tennis. The winner of each event received an olive branch, a certificate, and a gold medal. Each second or third place athlete received a laurel wreath with either a silver or a bronze medal.
71

[5]

The 1896 Games closed with a race from
72
Marathon to Athens. The intent of this final event

was to commemorate the first marathon, ran during
73
ancient times. The first modern Olympic Games

68. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, the paragraph would primarily lose?
- F. A transition to the next paragraph.
 - G. An appropriate summary statement.
 - H. Detail that is not essential to the paragraph.
 - J. Information that is critical to understanding the paragraph as a whole.

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. there hosts
C. their hosts'
D. they're hosts

70. F. NO CHANGE
G. as well as tennis
H. and the event of tennis
J. and tennis

71. A. NO CHANGE
B. but
C. after
D. and

72. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- F. commenced
 - G. concluded
 - H. ended
 - J. finished

73. A. NO CHANGE
B. runned
C. which was run
D. that had been ran

were considered a smashing success and, although much has changed with regard to events, timing, and format, they have continued to this day.

74

- 74.** The writer would like the reader to know that modern Olympic Games have continued to be highly successful and is, therefore, considering adding a word or phrase after the word *continued*. Which of the following best accomplishes the writer's goal?
- F.** uninterrupted
 - G.** fearlessly
 - H.** with aplomb
 - J.** traditionally

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 75.** Upon reviewing the essay and realizing that some information has been left out, the writer composes the following sentence:

The day of the opening ceremony coincided with the anniversary of Greek independence.

This sentence would most logically be placed at the beginning of which of the following paragraphs?

- A.** 2
- B.** 3
- C.** 4
- D.** 5

END OF TEST