

Writing and Language Test

DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a “NO CHANGE” option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Librarians Help Navigate in the Digital Age

In recent years, public libraries in the United States have experienced **1** reducing in their operating funds due to cuts imposed at the federal, state, and local government levels. **2** However, library staffing has been cut by almost four percent since 2008, and the demand for librarians continues to decrease, even though half of public libraries report that they have an insufficient number of staff to meet their patrons’ needs. Employment in all job sectors in the United States is projected to grow by fourteen percent over the next

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) reductions
- C) deducting
- D) deducts

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Consequently,
- C) Nevertheless,
- D) Previously,

decade, yet the expected growth rate for librarians is predicted to be only seven percent, or half of the overall rate. This trend, combined with the increasing accessibility of information via the Internet, **3** has led some to claim that librarianship is in decline as a profession. As public libraries adapt to rapid technological advances in information distribution, librarians' roles are actually expanding.

The share of library materials that is in nonprint formats **4** is increasing steadily; in 2010, at least 18.5 million e-books were available **5** for them to circulate. As a result, librarians must now be proficient curators of electronic information, compiling, **6** catalog, and updating these collections. But perhaps even more importantly, librarians function as first responders for their communities' computer needs. Since

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have
- C) which have
- D) which has

4

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

—e-books, audio and video materials, and online journals—

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides specific examples of the materials discussed in the sentence.
- B) Yes, because it illustrates the reason for the increase mentioned later in the sentence.
- C) No, because it interrupts the flow of the sentence by supplying irrelevant information.
- D) No, because it weakens the focus of the passage by discussing a subject other than librarians.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to be circulated by them.
- C) for their circulating.
- D) for circulation.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) librarians cataloging,
- C) to catalog,
- D) cataloging,

one of the fastest growing library services is public access computer use, there is great demand for computer instruction. **7** In fact, librarians' training now includes courses on research and Internet search methods. Many of whom teach classes in Internet navigation, database and software use, and digital information literacy. While these classes are particularly helpful to young students developing basic research skills, **8** but adult patrons can also benefit from librarian assistance in that they can acquire job-relevant computer skills. **9** Free to all who utilize their services, public libraries and librarians are especially valuable, because they offer free resources that may be difficult to find elsewhere, such as help with online job

7

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) In fact, librarians' training now includes courses on research and Internet search methods; many librarians teach classes in Internet navigation, database and software use, and digital information literacy is taught by them.
- B) In fact, many librarians, whose training now includes courses on research and Internet search methods, teach classes in Internet navigation, database and software use, and digital information literacy.
- C) Training now includes courses on research and Internet search methods; many librarians, in fact, are teaching classes in Internet navigation, database and software use, and digital information literacy.
- D) Including courses on research and Internet search methods in their training is, in fact, why many librarians teach classes in Internet navigation, database and software use, and digital information literacy.

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and
- C) for
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

9

Which choice most effectively sets up the examples given at the end of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) During periods of economic recession,
- C) Although their value cannot be measured,
- D) When it comes to the free services libraries provide,

searches as well as résumé and job material development. An overwhelming number of public libraries also report that they provide help with electronic government resources related to income taxes, **10** law troubles, and retirement programs.

In sum, the Internet does not replace the need for librarians, and librarians are hardly obsolete. **11** Like books, librarians have been around for a long time, but the Internet is extremely useful for many types of research.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) legal issues,
- C) concerns related to law courts,
- D) matters for the law courts,

11

Which choice most clearly ends the passage with a restatement of the writer's primary claim?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Although their roles have diminished significantly, librarians will continue to be employed by public libraries for the foreseeable future.
- C) The growth of electronic information has led to a diversification of librarians' skills and services, positioning them as savvy resource specialists for patrons.
- D) However, given their extensive training and skills, librarians who have been displaced by budget cuts have many other possible avenues of employment.

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

The Hype of Healthier Organic Food

Some people buy organic food because they believe organically grown crops are more nutritious and safer for consumption than **12** the people who purchase their conventionally grown counterparts, which are usually produced with pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. In the name of health, **13** spending \$1.60 for every dollar they would have spent on food that is **14** grown in a manner that is considered conventional. Scientific evidence, **15** therefore, suggests that consumers do not reap significant benefits, in terms of either nutritional value or safety, from organic food.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the purchase of
- C) purchasing
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) these consumers spend
- C) having spent
- D) to spend

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) grown with conventional methods, using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
- C) conventionally and therefore not organically grown.
- D) conventionally grown.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) furthermore,
- C) however,
- D) subsequently,

Although advocates of organic food **16** preserve that organic produce is healthier than conventionally grown produce because it has more vitamins and minerals, this assertion is not supported by scientific research. **17** For instance, one review published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* provided analysis of the results of comparative studies conducted over a span of 50 years; researchers consistently found no evidence that organic crops are more nutritious than conventionally grown ones in terms of their vitamin and mineral content. **18** Similarly, Stanford University researchers who examined almost 250 studies comparing the nutritional content of different kinds of organic foods with that of their nonorganic counterparts found very little difference between the two.

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) carry on
- C) maintain
- D) sustain

17

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

18

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that organic agricultural products are now available in approximately 20,000 markets specializing in natural foods.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it adds a relevant research finding from a government agency.
- B) Yes, because it supports the passage's argument that organic food is less nutritious than conventionally grown food.
- C) No, because it is not relevant to the paragraph's discussion of scientific evidence.
- D) No, because it introduces a term that has not been defined in the passage.

Evidence also undermines the claim that organic food is safer to eat. While researchers have found lower levels of pesticide residue in organic produce than in nonorganic produce, the pesticide residue detected in conventional produce falls within acceptable safety limits. According to such organizations as the US Environmental Protection Agency, the minute amounts of residue falling within such limits **19** have no negative impact on human health. **20**

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is having
- C) has had
- D) has

20

At this point, the writer wants to further reinforce the paragraph's claim about the safety of nonorganic food. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

- A) To be labeled organic, a product must meet certain standards determined and monitored by the US Department of Agriculture.
- B) Organic food, however, is regulated to eliminate artificial ingredients that include certain types of preservatives, sweeteners, colorings, and flavors.
- C) Moreover, consumers who are concerned about ingesting pesticide residue can eliminate much of it by simply washing or peeling produce before eating it.
- D) In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about one-fifth of the pesticides used worldwide are applied to crops in the United States.

Based on scientific evidence, organic food offers neither significant nutritional nor safety benefits for consumers. Proponents of organic food, of course, are quick to add that **21** their are numerous other reasons to buy organic **22** food, such as, a desire to protect the environment from potentially damaging pesticides or a preference for the taste of organically grown foods. Research regarding these issues is less conclusive than the findings regarding nutritional content and pesticide residue safety limits. What is clear, though, is this: if a consumer's goal is to buy the healthiest and safest food to eat, the increased cost of organic food is a waste of money.

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) there are
- C) there is
- D) their is

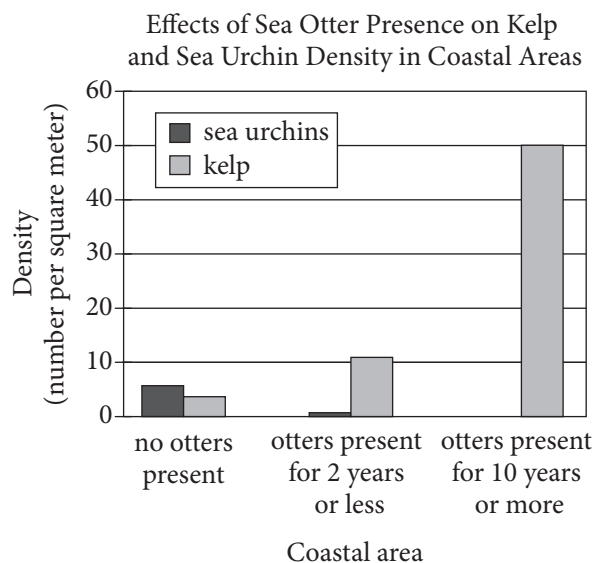
22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) food such as:
- C) food such as,
- D) food, such as

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

Environmentalist Otters

It has long been known that the sea otters **23** living along the West Coast of North America help keep kelp forests in their habitat healthy and vital. They do this by feeding on sea urchins and other herbivorous invertebrates that graze voraciously on kelp. With sea otters to keep the population of sea urchins in check, kelp forests can flourish. In fact, **24** two years or less of sea otters can completely eliminate sea urchins in a coastal area (see chart).



Adapted from David O. Duggins, "Kelp Beds and Sea Otters: An Experimental Approach." ©1980 by the Ecological Society of America.

Without sea otters present, **25** nevertheless, kelp forests run the danger of becoming barren stretches of coastal wasteland known as urchin barrens.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) living along the West Coast of North America, they help
- C) that live along the West Coast of North America and help to
- D) that live along the West Coast of North America, where they help

24

Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) even two years or less of sea otter presence can reduce the sea urchin threat
- C) kelp density increases proportionally as sea urchin density increases
- D) even after sea otters were present for ten years or more, kelp density was still lower than sea urchin density

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) however,
- C) hence,
- D) likewise,

[1] What was less well-known, until recently at least, was how this relationship among sea otters, sea urchins, and kelp forests might help fight global warming. [2] The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased 40 percent **26**. [3] A recent study by two professors at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Chris Wilmers and James Estes, **27** suggests, that kelp forests protected by sea otters can absorb as much as twelve times the amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as those where sea urchins are allowed to **28** devour the kelp. [4] Like **29** their terrestrial plant cousins, kelp removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, turning it into sugar fuel through photosynthesis, and releases oxygen back into the air.

26

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

since the start of the Industrial Revolution, resulting in a rise in global temperatures

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it establishes the relationship between the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and global warming.
- B) Yes, because it explains the key role sea otters, sea urchins, and kelp forests play in combating global warming.
- C) No, because it contradicts the claim made in the previous paragraph that sea otters help keep kelp forests healthy.
- D) No, because it mentions the Industrial Revolution, blurring the focus of the paragraph.

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) suggests—that
- C) suggests, “that
- D) suggests that

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) dispatch
- C) overindulge on
- D) dispose of

29

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they’re
- C) its
- D) it’s

[5] Scientists knew this but did not recognize **30** how large a role they played in helping kelp forests to significantly decrease the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. [6] Far from making no difference to the ecosystem, the presence of otters was found to increase the carbon storage of kelp forests by 4.4 to 8.7 megatons annually, offsetting the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by three million to six million passenger cars each year. **31**

Wilmers and Estes caution, however, that **32** having more otters will not automatically solve the problem of higher levels of carbon dioxide in the air. But they suggest that the presence of otters provides a good model of how carbon can be sequestered, **33** or removed; from the atmosphere through the management of animal populations. If ecologists can better understand what kinds of impacts animals might have on the environment, Wilmers contends, “there might be opportunities for win-win conservation scenarios, whereby animal species are protected or enhanced, and carbon gets sequestered.”

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) how large a role that it played
- C) how large a role sea otters played
- D) that they played such a large role

31

Where is the most logical place in this paragraph to add the following sentence?

What Wilmers and Estes discovered in their study, therefore, surprised them.

- A) After sentence 1
- B) After sentence 3
- C) After sentence 4
- D) After sentence 5

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) increasing the otter population
- C) the otters multiplying
- D) having more otters than other locations

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) or removed from,
- C) or, removed from,
- D) or removed, from

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

Creating Worlds: A Career in Game Design

If you love video games and have thought about how the games you play might be changed or improved, or if you've imagined creating a video game of your own, you might want to consider a career as a video game designer. There **34** were a number of steps you can take to determine whether game design is the right field for you and, if it is, to prepare yourself for such a career.

Before making the choice, you should have some sense of what a video game designer does. Every video game, whether for a console, computer, or mobile device, starts with a concept that originates in the mind of a designer. The designer envisions the game's fundamental **35** elements: the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique, and is thus a primary creative force behind a video game.

Conceptualizing a game is only the beginning of a video game designer's **36** job, however, no matter how good a concept is, it will never be translated into a video game unless it is communicated effectively to all the other members of the video game development team. **37** A designer must generate extensive documentation and

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) has been
- C) are
- D) was

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) elements: the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique—
- C) elements—the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique—
- D) elements; the settings, characters, and plots that make each game unique;

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) job, however. No
- C) job—however, no
- D) job however no

37

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

Successful communication is essential if a designer's idea is to become a reality.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it supports the conclusion drawn in the following sentence.
- B) Yes, because it illustrates a general principle discussed in the paragraph.
- C) No, because it distracts from the focus of the paragraph by introducing irrelevant material.
- D) No, because it merely reformulates the thought expressed in the preceding sentence.

38 explain his or her ideas clearly in order to ensure that the programmers, artists, and others on the team all share the same vision. **39** Likewise, anyone considering a career as a video game designer must be **40** skilled writers and speakers. In addition, because video game development is a collaborative effort and because the development of any one game may take months or even years, a designer must be an effective team player as well as detail oriented.

[1] A basic understanding of computer programming is essential. [2] In fact, many designers **41** initially begin their pursuits as programmers. [3] Consider taking some general computer science courses as well as courses in artificial intelligence and graphics in order to increase your understanding of the technical challenges involved in developing a video game. [4] Courses in psychology and human behavior may help you develop **42** emphatic collaboration skills, while courses in the humanities, such as in literature and film, should give you the background necessary to develop effective narrative structures. [5] A

38

Which choice results in a sentence that best supports the point developed in this paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) possess a vivid imagination
- C) assess his or her motivations carefully
- D) learn to accept constructive criticism

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Nevertheless,
- C) Consequently,
- D) However,

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a skilled writer and speaker.
- C) skilled both as writers and speakers.
- D) both skilled writers and speakers.

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) start to begin their work
- C) initiate their progression
- D) begin their careers

42

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) paramount
- C) eminent
- D) important

designer also needs careful educational preparation.

[6] Finally, because a designer should understand the business aspects of the video game industry, such as budgeting and marketing, you may want to consider taking some business courses. [7] Although demanding and deadline driven, **43** video game design can be a lucrative and rewarding field for people who love gaming and have prepared themselves with the necessary skills and knowledge. **44**

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the choice of video game design
- C) you should choose video game design because it
- D) choosing to design video games

44

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be

- A) placed where it is now.
- B) placed before sentence 1.
- C) placed after sentence 3.
- D) DELETED from the paragraph.