

Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

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.

Ghost Mural

In 1932 the well-known Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros was commissioned to paint a mural on the second-story exterior wall of a historic building in downtown Los Angeles. Siqueiros was asked to celebrate tropical America in his work, **1** he accordingly titled it “América Tropical.” He painted the mural’s first two sections, featuring images of a tropical rainforest and a Maya pyramid, during the day. **2** Also, to avoid

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) which he accordingly titled
- C) accordingly he titled it
- D) it was titled accordingly

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) However,
- C) Although,
- D) Moreover,

scrutiny, Siqueiros painted the final section of the mural, the **3** centerpiece at night.

4 The reason for Siqueiros's secrecy became clear when the mural was **5** confided. The centerpiece of the work was dominated by images of native people being oppressed and **6** including an eagle symbolizing the United States. Siqueiros's political message did not please the wealthy citizens who had commissioned his work. They eventually ordered the mural to be literally whitewashed, or painted over with white paint.

However, by the 1970s, the white paint had begun to fade, and the bright colors of the mural were beginning to show through. At the same time, a social and civil rights movement for Mexican Americans was working to raise awareness of Mexican American cultural identity. Artists associated with **7** this began to rediscover and promote the work of the Mexican muralists, particularly Siqueiros. To them, "América Tropical" was an example of how art in public spaces could be used to celebrate Mexican American heritage while at the same time making a political statement. Inspired by Siqueiros and the other muralists, this new generation of artists strove to emulate the old mural masters.

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) centerpiece,
- C) centerpiece;
- D) centerpiece—

4

Which choice best connects the sentence with the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) All three sections of the mural were on display
- C) The community turned out in large numbers
- D) Siqueiros was informed of people's reactions

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) promulgated.
- C) imparted.
- D) unveiled.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) included
- C) includes
- D) had included

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it
- C) them
- D) this movement

8 The result was an explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s. It was the Chicano mural movement. Hundreds of large, colorful new murals depicting elements of Mexican American life and history appeared during this period, some in designated cultural locations but many more in abandoned lots, on unused buildings, or 9 painted on infrastructure such as highways and bridges. Many of these murals can still be seen today, although some have not been well maintained.

8

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) The result was an explosion, the Chicano mural movement, of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s.
- B) The result was the Chicano mural movement, an explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s.
- C) The explosion of mural painting that spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s was the resulting Chicano mural movement.
- D) An explosion of mural painting resulted and it spread throughout California and the southwestern United States in the 1970s; it was the Chicano mural movement.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they were painted on
- C) on
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

Fortunately, a new group of artists has discovered the murals, and efforts are underway to clean, restore, and repaint them. Once again, Siqueiros’s “América Tropical” is **10** leading the way. After a lengthy and complex restoration process, this powerful work is now a tourist attraction, complete with a visitor center and a rooftop viewing platform. **11** Advocates hope that Siqueiros’s mural will once more serve as an inspiration, this time inspiring viewers to save and restore an important cultural and artistic legacy.

10

Which choice most effectively sets up the information that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) being cleaned and restored.
- C) at risk of destruction.
- D) awaiting its moment of appreciation.

11

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

When it was painted in 1932, Siqueiros’s mural was considered offensive, but now it is acclaimed.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides historical context for the changes discussed in the passage.
- B) Yes, because it provides a useful reminder of how people once viewed Siqueiros’s work.
- C) No, because it unnecessarily repeats information from earlier in the passage.
- D) No, because it makes a claim about Siqueiros’s work that is not supported by the passage.

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.

You Are Where You Say

Research on regional variations in English-language use has not only yielded answers to such **23** life-altering questions as how people in different parts of the United States refer to carbonated beverages (“soda”? “pop”? “coke”?) **24** it also illustrates how technology can change the very nature of research. While traditional, human-intensive data collection **25** has all but disappeared in language studies, the explosion of social media has opened new avenues for investigation.

[1] Perhaps the epitome of traditional methodology is the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, colloquially known as *DARE*. [2] Its fifth and final alphabetical volume—ending with “zydeco”—released in 2012, the dictionary represents decades of arduous work. [3] Over a six-year period from 1965 to 1970, university graduate students conducted interviews in more than a thousand communities across the nation. [4] Their goal was to determine what names people used for such everyday objects and concepts as a submarine sandwich

23

The writer wants to convey an attitude of genuine interest and to avoid the appearance of mockery. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) galvanizing
- C) intriguing
- D) weird

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and also illustrates
- C) but also illustrates
- D) illustrating

25

Which choice most effectively sets up the contrast in the sentence and is consistent with the information in the rest of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) still has an important place
- C) remains the only option
- D) yields questionable results

(a “hero” in New York City but a “dagwood” in many parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and Colorado) and a heavy rainstorm (variously a “gully washer,” “pour-down,” or “stump mover”). [5] The work that dictionary founder Frederic G. Cassidy had expected to be finished by 1976 was not, in fact, completed in his lifetime. [6] The wait did not dampen enthusiasm among **26** scholars. Scholars consider the work a signal achievement in linguistics. **27**

Not all research into regional English varieties **28** requires such time, effort, and resources, however. Today’s researchers have found that the veritable army of trained volunteers traveling the country conducting face-to-face interviews can sometimes be **29** replaced by another army the vast array of individuals volunteering details about their lives—and, inadvertently, their language—through social media. Brice Russ of Ohio State University, for example, has employed software to sort through postings on one social media **30** cite in search of particular words and phrases of interest as well as the location from which users are posting. From these data,

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) scholars, and these scholars
- C) scholars, but scholars
- D) scholars, who

27

To improve the cohesion and flow of this paragraph, the writer wants to add the following sentence.

Data gathering proved to be the quick part of the project.

The sentence would most logically be placed after

- A) sentence 2.
- B) sentence 3.
- C) sentence 4.
- D) sentence 5.

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) are requiring
- C) have required
- D) require

29

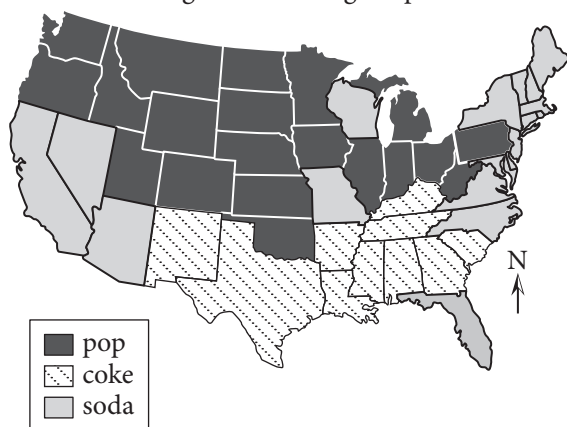
- A) NO CHANGE
- B) replaced—by another army,
- C) replaced by another army;
- D) replaced by another army:

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) site in search of
- C) sight in search for
- D) cite in search for

he was able, among other things, to confirm regional variations in people's terms for soft drinks. As the map shows, "soda" is commonly heard in the middle and western portions of the United States; "pop" is frequently used in many southern states; and "coke" is predominant in the northeastern and southwest regions but used elsewhere as well. **31** As interesting as Russ's findings are, though, **32** they're true value lies in their reminder that the Internet is not merely a sophisticated tool for collecting data but is also **33** itself a rich source of data.

Soft Drink Descriptions by State
Highest Percentage Reported



Adapted from Jennifer M. Smith, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, with data from www.popvssoda.com

31

The writer wants the information in the passage to correspond as closely as possible with the information in the map. Given that goal and assuming that the rest of the previous sentence would remain unchanged, in which sequence should the three terms for soft drinks be discussed?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) "pop," "soda," "coke"
- C) "pop," "coke," "soda"
- D) "soda," "coke," "pop"

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) their true value lies in their
- C) there true value lies in they're
- D) their true value lies in there

33

Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence and paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) where we can learn what terms people use to refer to soft drinks.
- C) a useful way to stay connected to friends, family, and colleagues.
- D) helpful to researchers.

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.

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**

Section 2: Writing and Language Test

QUESTION 1

Choice B is the best answer because the relative clause appropriately modifies the noun “work” in the preceding independent clause.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each creates a comma splice.

QUESTION 2

Choice B is the best answer because it creates the appropriate contrasting transition from the fact that the first two panels were painted during the day to the fact that the third panel was painted at night.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each creates an inappropriate transition from the previous sentence. Choice A and choice D imply addition rather than contrast. Choice C results in an incomplete sentence.

QUESTION 3

Choice B is the best answer because it creates an appropriate appositive to the subject “mural,” and is correctly set off by commas on both sides.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each is incorrectly punctuated. Choice A lacks a comma after “centerpiece,” choice C unnecessarily introduces an independent clause, and choice D contains an em dash that has no parallel earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 4

Choice A is the best answer because it explicitly introduces the explanation for the behavior (painting at night) described in the previous paragraph.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none alludes to the artist’s painting at night, which is described at the end of the previous paragraph and explained in this paragraph.

QUESTION 5

Choice D is the best answer because it refers to an action that can be performed on a physical object such as a mural.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each refers to an action that is performed on information rather than on a physical object.

QUESTION 6

Choice B is the best answer because it creates a past tense construction consistent with the verb “was dominated.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none is consistent with the verb tense established earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 7

Choice D is the best answer because it is the most precise choice, specifying the noun that the demonstrative pronoun “this” refers to.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each provides a vague, nonspecific pronoun that does not concretely define a referent.

QUESTION 8

Choice B is the best answer because it correctly places and punctuates the appositive phrase that describes the “Chicano mural movement.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains awkward syntax that obscures the relationship between the key noun phrases “an explosion of mural painting” and “the Chicano mural movement.”

QUESTION 9

Choice C is the best answer because it creates parallel construction within the list of locations (“*in* abandoned lots, *on* unused buildings, or *on* infrastructure”).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none follows the construction established within the list of locations.

QUESTION 10

Choice A is the best answer because it alludes to the uniquely high level of investment, described in the next sentence, that the new group of artists is making in restoring and publicizing “América Tropical.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each fails to express the connection between the general restoration efforts mentioned in the previous sentence and the specific role of “América Tropical” in these efforts, which is described in the next sentence.

QUESTION 11

Choice C is the best answer because details of the initial reaction to Siqueiros’s mural and its subsequent rediscovery are given previously in the passage and are not needed to set up the forward-looking sentence that follows.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each provides an inaccurate interpretation of the sentence that the writer is considering adding.

QUESTION 12

Choice D is the best answer because without the underlined portion, the sentence contains an appropriate parallel contrast between the phrases “organically grown crops” and “conventionally grown counterparts,” each of which describes crops.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each creates an illogical comparison: crops to “people,” crops to “purchase,” and crops to “purchasing.”

QUESTION 13

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the subject “consumers,” creating a complete sentence and providing a referent for the pronoun “they” that appears later in the sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each lacks the subject that the sentence requires and none provide a referent for “they.”

QUESTION 14

Choice D is the best answer because it efficiently creates a contrast with “organically grown.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they are unnecessarily wordy and repeat information given in previous sentences.

QUESTION 15

Choice C is the best answer because it sets up the contrast between the added expense of organic food and the evidence that suggests a lack of benefits from eating organic food.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to acknowledge the contrast between the last sentence in the paragraph and the previous sentences.

QUESTION 16

Choice C is the best answer because “maintain” is commonly used to describe advocating a position in an argument.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none is appropriate in the context of describing an opinion advocated by a group of people.

QUESTION 17

Choice A is the best answer because the transitional phrase “For instance” sets up an example supporting the point, made in the previous sentence, that organic food may not contain more vitamins and minerals than conventionally grown food.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none indicates that the sentence is providing an example supporting the point made in the previous sentence.

QUESTION 18

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately identifies the reason that the writer should not add the proposed sentence: the paragraph is about evidence of nutritional content, not the availability of organic food.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each provides an inaccurate interpretation of the proposed sentence’s relationship to the passage.

QUESTION 19

Choice A is the best answer because the plural verb “have” is consistent with the plural subject “amounts.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is a singular verb, which is inconsistent with the plural subject “amounts.”

QUESTION 20

Choice C is the best answer because the example it supplies, that pesticides can be minimized by washing or peeling produce, supports the claim that nonorganic food is safe.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none supports the paragraph’s claim about the safety of nonorganic food.

QUESTION 21

Choice B is the best answer because the plural noun phrase “numerous other reasons” must be preceded by a plural verb and a pronoun that does not indicate possession: “there are.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains the singular verb “is,” the possessive pronoun “their,” or both.

QUESTION 22

Choice D is the best answer because a nonrestrictive clause must be preceded by a comma; in addition, “such as” is never followed by a comma. In this case, the list of reasons supporting the claim that there are benefits to buying organic food is nonrestrictive; the list tells the reader something about organic food but does not restrict or place limits on organic food.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each places erroneous punctuation after the phrase “such as.” Choices B and C also lack the necessary comma preceding “such as.”

QUESTION 23

Choice C is the best answer because “intriguing” conveys a realistic level of interest for the entertaining but ultimately inconsequential question of regional differences in words for carbonated beverages.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each mocks the topic of regional words for carbonated beverages.

QUESTION 24

Choice C is the best answer because “but also” is the appropriate transition to complete the correlative pair “not only . . . but also,” which begins earlier in the sentence.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to complete the phrase “not only . . . but also.”

QUESTION 25

Choice B is the best answer because it is consistent with the fact that there remains a “veritable army of trained volunteers traveling the country” and because it uses “still” to contrast this method with the “new avenues.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none is consistent with the information contained later in the passage.

QUESTION 26

Choice D is the best answer because it uses the relative pronoun “who” to avoid needless repetition of the word “scholars.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each unnecessarily repeats the word “scholars.”

QUESTION 27

Choice C is the best answer because the new sentence provides a logical transition from sentences 3 and 4, which describe the data collection, to sentence 5, which explains that completing the dictionary took far longer than expected.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to create a logical transition between the preceding and subsequent sentences.

QUESTION 28

Choice A is the best answer because the singular verb “requires” agrees with the singular subject “research.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not create subject-verb agreement.

QUESTION 29

Choice D is the best answer because a colon is the correct punctuation to introduce the elaborating phrase that follows the word “army.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none provides the appropriate punctuation.

QUESTION 30

Choice B is the best answer because it contains both the correct word to refer to an Internet location — “site” — and the correct preposition to complete the collocation “in search of.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains a word that does not refer to an Internet location, and choices C and D contain the wrong preposition.

QUESTION 31

Choice C is the best answer because it correctly associates each beverage term with the region described in the sentence according to the information contained in the map.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each contradicts the information contained in the map.

QUESTION 32

Choice B is the best answer because it contains the two plural possessive pronouns needed to refer to the subject “findings” — “their” and “their.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains a word frequently confused with “their.”

QUESTION 33

Choice A is the best answer because it provides a summary and evaluation of gathering data from the Internet, which is the focus of the paragraph.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is either irrelevant to the main point of the paragraph or unnecessarily repeats information.

QUESTION 34

Choice C is the best answer because it uses the present tense, which is consistent with the verbs that appear later in the sentence.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they create awkward shifts in tense.

QUESTION 35

Choice C is the best answer because the em dashes correctly bracket the examples of the types of elements.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each uses either inconsistent or incorrect punctuation to set off the types of elements.

QUESTION 36

Choice B is the best answer because a period is an appropriate way to separate the two independent clauses that meet at the underlined text.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each either creates a comma splice or lacks necessary punctuation.

QUESTION 37

Choice D is the best answer because the proposed sentence to be added is a paraphrase of the sentence before it, containing the same ideas.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none fully acknowledges the relationship between the proposed sentence to be added and the other sentences in the paragraph.

QUESTION 38

Choice A is the best answer because it highlights the importance of the game designer's communication with others, which is the paragraph's main point.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none describes communication originating with the game designer, which is the main focus of the paragraph.

QUESTION 39

Choice C is the best answer because the importance of communication is established in the previous sentences. The transition "consequently" best captures the fact that the designer must be skilled in this area.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each contains a transition that either repeats information or creates an illogical relationship between this sentence and the previous sentences.

QUESTION 40

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the singular nouns "writer" and "speaker" to agree with the singular pronoun "anyone."

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none creates pronoun-referent agreement.

QUESTION 41

Choice D is the best answer because it expresses in the clearest, simplest way the idea that many game designers start out as programmers.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each is unnecessarily wordy and obscures meaning.

QUESTION 42

Choice D is the best answer because it logically and appropriately modifies the phrase "collaboration skills."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none appropriately describes the value of collaboration skills.

QUESTION 43

Choice A is the best answer because it provides a logical subject for the modifying phrase "demanding and deadline driven."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each creates a dangling modifier.

QUESTION 44

Choice B is the best answer because sentence 5 expresses the main point upon which the paragraph elaborates.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none places sentence 5 in the appropriate position to set up the details contained in the paragraph.

Section 3: Math Test – No Calculator

QUESTION 1

Choice A is correct. The expression $|x - 1| - 1$ will equal 0 if $|x - 1| = 1$. This is true for $x = 2$ and for $x = 0$. For example, substituting $x = 2$ into the expression $|x - 1| - 1$ and simplifying the result yields $|2 - 1| - 1 = |1| - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0$. Therefore, there is a value of x for which $|x - 1| - 1$ is equal to 0.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect. By definition, the absolute value of any expression is a nonnegative number. For example, in answer choice B, substituting any value for x into the expression $|x + 1|$ will yield a nonnegative number. Because the sum of a nonnegative number and a positive number is positive, $|x + 1| + 1$ will be a positive number for any value of x . Therefore, $|x + 1| + 1 \neq 0$ for any value of x . Similarly, the expressions given in answer choices C and D are not equivalent to zero for any value of x .

QUESTION 2

Choice A is correct. Since $f(x) = \frac{3}{2}x + b$ and $f(6) = 7$, substituting 6 for x in $f(x) = \frac{3}{2}x + b$ gives $f(6) = \frac{3}{2}(6) + b = 7$. Then, solving the equation $\frac{3}{2}(6) + b = 7$ for b gives $\frac{18}{2} + b = 7$, or $9 + b = 7$. Thus,

$b = 7 - 9 = -2$. Substituting -2 for the constant b gives

$f(x) = \frac{3}{2}x - 2$; therefore, one can evaluate $f(-2)$ by substituting -2

for x : $\frac{3}{2}(-2) - 2 = -\frac{6}{2} - 2 = -3 - 2 = -5$.

Choice B is incorrect as it is the value of b , not of $f(-2)$. Choice C is incorrect as it is the value of $f(2)$, not of $f(-2)$. Choice D is incorrect as it is the value of $f(6)$, not of $f(-2)$.

QUESTION 3

Choice A is correct. The first equation can be rewritten as $x = 6y$. Substituting $6y$ for x in the second equation gives $4(y + 1) = 6y$. The left-hand side can be rewritten as $4y + 4$, giving $4y + 4 = 6y$. Subtracting $4y$ from both sides of the equation gives $4 = 2y$, or $y = 2$.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect and may be the result of a computational or conceptual error when solving the system of equations.

Instructions: Compare and contrast rhetorical effects of two *New Yorker* articles.

“Jefferson, Adams, and the SAT’s New Adversity Factor” from *The New Yorker*

By [Nicholas Lemann](#)

May 23, 2019

Most discussions of admissions to elite colleges are built around the idea that, somewhere around the next bend and soon to make itself apparent, is the right way to do it.

“There is a natural aristocracy among men,” Thomas Jefferson wrote to John Adams from Monticello, in 1813, in one of the best-known passages from their vast post-Presidential correspondence. “There is also an artificial aristocracy founded on wealth and birth, without either virtues or talents; for with these it would belong to the first class. The natural aristocracy I consider as the most precious gift of nature for the instruction, the trusts, and the government of society.” Jefferson went on to grouse about his failure, decades earlier, to persuade Virginia’s state legislature to create a public-education system. Had he succeeded, he wrote, “Worth and genius would thus have been sought out from every condition of life, and completely prepared by education for defeating the competition of wealth and birth for public trusts.”

Jefferson was hardly the first person to dream of bettering the world by creating a public-spirited and deserving elite, selected and trained through the education system; that idea goes back at least to Plato’s Republic, and has reappeared again and again, everywhere from political manifestos to science fiction. In the United States, in the early twentieth century, the advent of I.Q. tests made the dream seem newly attainable to its enthusiasts. The SAT, that ubiquitous and obsessed-over standard college-admissions test, was introduced in the nineteen-twenties as an adaptation of the Army Alpha, the first mass-administered I.Q. test, which was given to recruits in the First World War as a way of assigning them to tasks and as a general demonstration of the wonders of intelligence testing. In the thirties, James Bryant Conant, the newly installed president of Harvard, began promoting the use of the SAT as a way to create, finally, Jefferson’s idea of a natural aristocracy. (He regularly quoted from Jefferson’s famous letter to Adams.) By 1950, Conant had succeeded in establishing the test as the standard connecting device between high school and college for millions of young Americans.

Much less well known than Jefferson’s letter is Adams’s reply. He was having none of Jefferson’s distinction between natural and artificial aristocracy, because, he argued, the former always degrades over time into the latter. “Both artificial Aristocracy, and Monarchy, and civil, military, political and hierarchical Despotism, have all grown out of the natural Aristocracy of ‘Virtues and Talents,’ ” he wrote. “Your distinction between the aristoi and pseudo aristoi, will not help the matter. I would trust one as Soon as the other with unlimited Power.” Adams looks awfully prophetic today. So does Michael Young, the mid-twentieth-century British sociologist who introduced the term “meritocracy” into the language—meaning it to be understood as a misguided idea, because it would supercede more traditional social-justice causes, such as labor organizing. In his strange, irresistible dystopian fantasy, “The Rise of the Meritocracy,” from 1958, Young’s clueless narrator goes on for chapter after chapter about the wonders of the new I.Q.-based elite, and then a footnote informs us that he has been killed by a populist mob.

In retrospect, there were always two big problems with the idea of an American natural aristocracy. First, educational achievement is highly associated with family background—so if you’re aiming to negate the effects of family background, making big, life-determining decisions about teen-agers who are still living at home with their parents is not a good way to do it. Second, at least in this country, the natural aristocracy has not been as selfless as its many promoters over the years believed it would be. Admission to the most elite colleges is widely perceived as a ticket to success, not to membership in an ascetic cadre of Platonic public servants. That’s why fortunate parents, whose children are already advantaged in the system, so often enact Adams’s prediction and energetically try to turn the natural aristocracy, such as it is, into an artificial one founded on wealth and birth, by doing as much as they possibly can to insure that they pass their own status on to their children.

The College Board and the Educational Testing Service, the purveyor of the SAT, has announced that it will begin using an “Environmental Context Dashboard,” which will give colleges a second score to use alongside the SAT: an “adversity score” that aims to quantify a student’s level of socioeconomic disadvantage by considering a number of neighborhood and high-school factors. In the past, the College Board has resisted at least two attempts to correct for the SAT’s class-replicating aspect. One was called the Measure of Academic Achievement and the other the Strivers Index. It’s a sign of progress that the College Board is willing to acknowledge officially what everybody has known for years. But the new score won’t affect a student’s actual SAT score, and it won’t explicitly take race and ethnicity into account.

Most discussions of admissions to elite colleges are built around the never-quite-directly-expressed idea that, somewhere around the next bend and soon to make itself apparent, is the right way to do it—one that can be straightforwardly applied and that will be universally recognized as fair. Dream on! It’s relatively easy to say (but hard for private universities to put into effect, because they are so dependent on gifts) that athletes and children of donors and alumni shouldn’t get a preference. But what about race? People definitely don’t agree about whether that should factor into admissions. And what about economic disadvantage—should it be only somewhat important, or important enough reliably to trump pure academic measures? What if affluent parents, and their well-paid enablers, find ways to game the Environmental Context Dashboard, as they did long ago with the SAT itself? (Imagine small, island-like affluent schools and neighborhoods that can hide inside larger and less fortunate places that generate high adversity scores.) Elite admissions is a zero-sum game. Many more people aspire to places in a small handful of colleges than can go to them. Every time a new kind of applicant wins, another kind of applicant loses. It’s impossible to achieve a clean, widely agreed-upon separation between teen-aged natural and artificial aristocrats.

Another idea lurking beneath the surface of the admissions debate is that, if only we can get elite admissions right, that will mean we’ve got America right—that the ideal cohort of elite college students will go on to build the ideal society. That was, in effect, Jefferson’s expectation, and also Conant’s. Again, dream on! John Adams had it right: not only is the perfect selection system a chimera; even if it were not, the perfect empowered elite would be a chimera, too. Just as a long series of fixes can never truly sever the SAT’s link to privilege, engineering a natural aristocracy isn’t all that alluring an idea to begin with. A country where power, money, and prestige are more evenly and less systematically distributed—where, in particular, it matters far more *whether* you went to college than *where* you went to college—would be a much fairer place. It would be a shame if the quixotic quest for the perfect adjustment to the SATs and elite admissions draws our attention away from what ought to be our real preoccupation if we want to build a better society.

Nicholas Lemann is a staff writer at The New Yorker and a professor at Columbia’s Graduate School of Journalism. His new book, “Transaction Man: The Rise of the Deal and the Decline of the American Dream,” comes out in September.

“The New and Improved SAT” from The New Yorker

By Nathan Burstein

April 16, 2014

“One big change is in the vocabulary questions, which will no longer include obscure words. Instead, the focus will be on what the College Board calls ‘high utility’ words that appear in many contexts, in many disciplines—often with shifting meanings—and they will be tested in context.”

—The Times, April 16, 2014

Directions: Match the italicized slanty word or phrase with its meaning.

1. Mike, like, likes Emily, but not like that. The best meaning of “like” is:

(a) you know

(b) um

(c) similar to

(d) derives pleasure from

(e) lolz 2. Mrs. Fisher explained that the Latin weird expression *carpe diem* means “seize the day.” “Seize the day” means:

(a) F.T.W.

(b) it is what it is

(c) twerking

(d) yolo

1. John threw a party when his parents went away, and it was a catastrophe. “Catastrophe” means:

(a) epic fail

(b) #latergram

(c) T.T.Y.L.

(d) sup

1. Kelsey was having an identity crisis issue ish. "Identity" means:

- (a) Self-conception based on social, political, religious, physical, and other distinctive personal characteristics
 - (b) Twitter handle
 - (c) Tumblr account
 - (d) personal brand
5. Doug's grandpa is a big Internet troll. "Troll" means:

- (a) a magical dwarf who lives in nature
- (b) a provocateur person who goes online and writes offensive things just to rile people up
- (c) a kind of doll that I played with in kindergarten
- (d) Donald Trump

Select Pick the word or phrase that DOESN'T fit.

1. ____ always using Snapchat.

- (a) Your
- (b) You're
- (c) Ur

d) Yore 7. The 2004 movie "Mean Girls" is ____.

- (a) classic
- (b) old-school
- (c) a satire of high-school behavior adapted from a best-selling work of nonfiction, written by Tina Fey and starring Lindsay Lohan
- (d) old 8. Dave knew he'd be there, so he told his teacher, "See ya then, ____."

- (a) bro
- (b) brah
- (c) Mr. Edwards

(d) dude 9. When he got to college, Jason discovered that his research skills were severely deficient very bad. "Research" means:

- (a) Google stuff
- (b) Wikipedia stuff
- (c) search for information, both online and at the library
- (d) Facebook-stalk 10. The rafting trip was really ____.

- (a) cool
- (b) kewl
- (c) exhilarating
- (d) awesome

Essay: Please compose write an essay of at least four tweets in length about a subject topic thing of your choosing. Don't forget to use punctuation and stuff.

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