1. B. The contrast word although tells you that the second half of the sentence will state an idea that is the opposite of the idea stated in the first half. The first half of the sentence states that the concert had been enjoyable; therefore, you should look for words that suggest the opposite of enjoyable. The phrase “overly protracted”tells you the concert was drawn out and thus too long. This would clearly decrease the listener’s enjoyment. Excessive encores are overdone and not necessary. This, too, is something the audience would not find enjoyable.

2. C. After you have read the sentence through for sense, ask yourself,“Through what (blank) does one cheat?”The word cheat is a clue that the sentence is

3. D. The team was victorious (it won).As a result, it was rewarded with cheers from its fans. If the fans cheered, the team must have done something good, so you can eliminate choices A and B. It makes no sense that a famous team would be unhappy with cheers, so choice C is wrong. Likewise, it makes no sense for an ecstatic team to be challenged with cheers, so choice E is wrong.

4. A. Summarizing the first part of the sentence,you know that the films of the creatures were shocking since they showed the “animals being maimed and tortured by traps.”Therefore,the summary must show something highly offensive.Only choice A shows this: The speaker feels purchasing a coat would be not only repulsive but also immoral (not moral).Choice B is wrong because mandatory is the opposite of the meaning required by the sentence.The same is true with glamorous in choice D.Subliminal in choice C has nothing to do with the sentence; neither does redundant (superfluous) in choice E.

5. B. The cause is stated in the first part of the sentence; the effect or result, in the second part. If you use your energy wisely, then you will never want for it. It may be easier to see the cause-and-effect relationship if you replace the pronoun with the noun:“then you will never want for energy [it].”

1. A. The correct sentence reads:“Louis XIV was the epitome of sartorial elegance because he wore a different outfit for practically every hour of the day.”Louis was the height (epitome) of fine dressing (sartorial elegance).

2. D. The correct sentence reads:“Joan was abrasive and curt with her clients; as a result, her supervisor put a letter in her file citing her rudeness and abrasiveness.”The clues are “abrasive and curt.”Since there is no contrast word, match all words in the second clause to the meaning of the words in the first clause.

3. D. The correct sentence reads:“The ship was in an untenable position, having lost its rudder; therefore, it was subject to the vagaries of the prevailing winds.”An untenable position is one that cannot be defended. Vagaries means “erratic actions.”

4. C. The correct sentence reads:“A good trial lawyer will argue only what is central to an issue, eliminating extraneous information or anything else that might jeopardize the client.”When someone is jeopardized, he or she is placed in a position of danger or trouble.

5. B. The correct sentence reads:“We waited patiently for the storm to slacken, but it stoutly refused to abate.”Stoutly is not used here to mean “heavy”or “overweight.”Rather, it means “stubbornly.”When something refuses to abate, it refuses to lessen.

6. B. The correct sentence reads:“Giving preference to his brother’s son for that office smacks of nepotism to me!”Nepotism means “patronage or favoritism shown on the basis of family relationships.”

7. D. The correct sentence reads:“Favoring one child over another will only intensify sibling rivalry.”Sibling refers to brothers and sisters.

8. A. The correct sentence reads:“The general countermanded his order; he had the traitor shot instead of hanged.”When an order is countermanded, it is reversed. Choice D is wrong because people are hanged; pictures are hung.

9. E. The correct sentence reads:“The effluent from the factory was redolent; consequently, the thick, black smoke was evil-smelling and noxious.” The clue word consequently shows results.As a result of the redolent (smelly) effluent (material flowing forth), the black smoke was thick and odorous.You might have been able to define effluent from its root fluent—to flow.

10. C. The correct sentence reads:“She was known for her altruism; in short, no one was more selfless than she.”Altruistic people are selfless; they give of themselves freely by doing good deeds for other people.