1. E. The correct sentence reads:“She delivered her speech with great verve, gesturing flamboyantly with her hands and smiling broadly from her opening remarks to her conclusion.”Since the speaker gestures flamboyantly with her hands and smiles broadly from her opening remarks to her conclusion, she is very animated and energized. Only choice E has this meaning.

2. E. The correct sentence reads:“They were capable and literate young women trained for the variety of arduous and demanding tasks of farm life.”The word demanding is your clue: arduous means “strenuous or difficult.”

3. D. The correct sentence reads:“Their reading was extensive for they shared books with one another, often smuggling copies into the factory, to their overseers’dismay.”Their reading could be extensive (wide-ranging) because they shared books. Their overseers would feel dismay (anxiety, fear) because time spent reading would not be time spent working. Overseers are not likely to experience pleasure or satisfaction over an employee’s time spent reading, so choices B and C cannot be correct.

4. C. The correct sentence reads:“Having once got hold, the determined wrestlers never let go, but struggled and wrestled and rolled on the chips incessantly.”If they never let go, they struggled without pause, which matches incessantly.

5. D. The correct sentence reads:“There were moments, indeed, when warm gushes of pity swept away her instinctive resentment of his condition, when she still found his old self in his eyes as they groped for each other through the dense medium of his weakness.”Pity erases her anger and bitterness—her resentment.

6. A. The correct sentence reads:“Although the insurance salesperson appeared to be a respectable business professional, she was really a miscreant.”The word although is a contrast clue. The second half of the sentence will be the opposite of the first half. Thus, even though the insurance salesperson appeared to be a respectable business professional (something good), she was really a miscreant (a criminal or an evil person, something bad).

7. A. The correct sentence reads:“If every one of us, in returning to our constituents, were to report the objections he or she has, and endeavor to gain partisans in support of these objections, we might thereby lose all the salutary effects and great advantages resulting naturally in our favor among foreign nations from any real or apparent unanimity.”Focus on the word support in the first clause. Every person is trying to gain support for something. People who support you are partisans. Now look at the second part of this sentence beginning with “we might thereby lose.”What we are losing is good effects. This is shown by the phrase “great advantages.”Salutary means “beneficial.”

8. C. The correct sentence reads:“Despite the flawless calligraphy, I was unable to read the letter since it was written in Hungarian.”The transition despite means “in spite of.”Thus, in spite of the flawless calligraphy (handwriting), the speaker could not read the letter since it was written in Hungarian. The word that means “could not”is unable.

9. C. The correct sentence reads:“Leeza was not consistent in her approach to the situation, at once conscientious and frivolous.”Since Leeza is not consistent, the two words must be antonyms (opposites). Of the word pairs given, only conscientious (scrupulous, paying attention to details) and frivolous (lighthearted, careless) are opposites.

10. E. The correct sentence reads:“Even though the legislation’s ostensible purpose was to curtail false advertising, its tangible outcome was to abridge free speech.”The subordinating conjunction even though tells you that the first clause will be the opposite of the second clause.You can infer from context that the first half will be positive and the second half negative. Therefore, even though the legislation’s ostensible (apparent) purpose was to curtail (stop) false advertising, the opposite took place—false advertising was not stopped.We see this in the conclusion:“its tangible outcome was to abridge (diminish) free speech.”

1. B. This is the most direct, concise choice.

2. A. This is correct as written, because two things are being compared.

3. D. Use the superlative degree, best, because more than two things are being compared.

4. B. She is the subject of the understood verb is. Therefore, the pronoun is in the nominative case. Read the sentence to yourself this way:“The principal knows of no other teacher who is as intelligent as she [is], and so has recommended her for a raise.”Choices D and E are wrong because they are plural and the subject (teacher) is singular.

5. C. Use the nominative case, since “Louise and I”is the subject of the sentence. They are doing the action. Read the sentence to yourself this way: “[We] have decided to take the SAT this spring, because we have studied all winter.”Then read it this way:“Louise and I have decided to take the SAT this spring, because we have studied all winter.”

6. B. The passive construction has been revised to be active. This makes the sentence less wordy.

7. E. Each clause should be parallel to “it rained.”Start with the clause “it rained.”Only “it hailed”and “it snowed”have the same form. The correct sentence reads:“First it rained, then it hailed, and finally it snowed.”

8. B. The past tense verb added parallels moved and hung. The corrected sentence reads:“We moved our sleeping bags closer to the fire, hung blankets over the windows, and added more logs to the blaze.”

9. C. Here, the main clause has been rewritten so the subject is modified by the phrase that was dangling. The corrected sentence reads:“Confirming our conversation, I have arranged for the shipment to be ordered on Monday.”

10. D. As written, the sentence states that the pamphlet is enclosed with the family. The writer means to say that the person should look over the pamphlet with his or her family. Only choice D states the writer’s meaning accurately. The corrected sentence reads:“Please take the time to look over the enclosed pamphlet with your family.”

6. B. This question tests your understanding of subject-verb agreement. The plural subject foods takes a plural verb. Here, use are, the plural form of the verb to be:“Nourishing, low-calorie foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and seafood are rarely served in homes where people do not have enough money.”Ignore the intervening prepositional phrase: “such as fresh fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and seafood.”

7. E. As written, the sentence is incorrect because there is no reason to include the pronoun he. Always start by looking for the easiest and least convoluted way of revising the sentence. The easiest way is deleting the pronoun he. The other choices create wordy, awkward, and incorrect sentences. The correct sentence reads:“Dr. Seuss, one of the world’s most famous children’s book authors, has written books for adults and advertising copy as well.”

8. E. As written, this is a run-on sentence, two incorrectly joined sentences. Merely adding a comma (choice B) creates a comma splice. Choice C simply rephrases the sentence but does not correct the run-on sentence. Choice D is illogical, because the subordinating conjunction when does not make sense in context. The correct sentence reads:“The story opens in the Dutch West Indies, but most of the action takes place on a tiny, isolated cay (an island composed mainly of coral and sand) in the Caribbean.”

9. C. Do not use a pronoun to refer to a noun’s possessive form (the form that shows ownership). In addition, you cannot use a noun’s possessive form as the antecedent to a pronoun, unless the pronoun is also in the possessive case. Thus, since the pronoun him is not possessive, it cannot be used to refer to the possessive noun explorer’s. Choice C puts both the noun and the pronoun in the possessive case (explorer’s, his)

10. B. Never add both -er and more (or less) or both -est and most (or least) to a modifier. Thus, the corrected sentence should read:“After the major argument at the wedding, reconciliation was the furthest thing from their minds.”

1. E. The correct sentence reads:“It was at this moment, as I stood there with the rifle in my hand, that I first grasped the hollowness, the futility of the imperialistic dominion of the East.”Something that is hollow is “futile.”Futile means “useless.”

2. C. The correct sentence reads:“Her unexpected demise, at first mistakenly diagnosed as due to a raging fever, was later ascribed to poison.”At first, people mistakenly thought the woman died from a fever. For a fever to kill someone, it must be very strong or raging. The second half of the sentence shows a contrast: The later diagnosis attributes her death to poison. Ascribed means the same as “assigned or due to.”

3. E. The correct sentence reads:“She looked bloated, like a body long submerged in motionless water, and of that pallid hue.”She would have to be in the water— submerged—to become bloated. Submerged is an easy word to figure out because the prefix sub means “under.”Something held for a long time underwater would be pallid or pale.

4. B. The correct sentence reads:“The pawnbroker’s widow was a garrulous old woman who loved to gossip and hear herself talk.”Someone who “loved to gossip and hear herself talk”is garrulous, or talkative. Choice D does not fit the context. Someone who loved to talk can be kind or mean, so we cannot conclude that she was vicious.

5. D. The correct sentence reads:“The caretaker did not know she was due in London today (her call there had been planned as a surprise), so his negligence in the manner of leaving this letter, leaving it to wait in the dusk and dust, annoyed her.”Since the caretaker has left the letter “to wait in the dusk and dust,”he is sloppy or not fulfilling his duties properly. People who act in this manner are negligent or careless. Negligence is the proper form of the word to fit the context.

6. A. The correct sentence reads:“That is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but cursorily, and some few to be read wholly and with diligence and attention.”The clue word but shows that the books in the second phrase cannot be read the same way as the books in the first phrase. Since the books mentioned first are read “only in parts,”the second books must be read differently. The word cursorily means that these books are read “superficially.”Books read cursorily are skimmed. The last books must be read in a way different from the first two types of books described. Since the first books are read in parts and the second books are skimmed, the third type of books must be read in depth. The word diligence describes this, as it means “with patience and close attention.”

7. C. The correct sentence reads:“Through one of the broken panes I heard rain impinge upon the earth again and again, the fine incessant needles of water playing in the already sodden flower beds.”The phrase “again and again”is a synonym for incessant, which means “continual.”If the water has been coming down in a steady stream, the flower beds must be waterlogged. The closest synonym for waterlogged is sodden.

8. A. The correct sentence reads:“The timid student recoiled at the idea that he had to give a speech in class.”A timid (shy) person would recoil (draw back, retreat) from the idea of speaking in public.

9. C. The correct sentence reads:“Now and then we would see her standing motionless in one of the downstairs windows like the carven torso of an idol in a niche, looking or not looking at us, we could never tell which.”An idol is a figure that is worshipped. Idols and similar statues are often placed in niches, corner or nooks. Do not confuse idol (an icon) with idle (lazy). Choices D and E are incorrect because people are not likely to make and display statues of ruffians (hoodlums) and reprobates (scoundrels).

10. E. The correct sentence reads:“A thin acrid pall as of the tomb seemed to lie everywhere upon this room decked and furnished as for a wedding, with a silver hairbrush so tarnished that the monogrammed initials were obscured.”The air in a tomb would be acrid or bitter from being confined for so long.

11. C. Since unique is already in superlative degree, it cannot be further modified.

12. B. As written, this is a run-on sentence. Choice B corrects the error by creating a subordinate clause with the subordinating conjunction when. Choice C is still a run-on sentence. Choice D does not make logical sense, because the conjunction yet does not fit into this context. Choice E is technically correct, since you can use a semicolon to join two independent clauses. However, the conjunction in choice B is better because it serves to link ideas logically. The correct sentence reads: “Derek Bickerton, a noted linguist, described some of the best examples of the innate formation of a grammar system when he noted that indentured workers on plantations in the South Pacific needed to communicate with each other in order to carry out practical tasks.”

13. B. The past tense became is required to show that the action has already taken place. Choices C (coaching) and D (were coaching) introduce new errors.

14. E. Choice E is the best answer because it eliminates unnecessary words. Choices C and D create sentence fragments. The correct sentence reads:“According to the new personnel policy instituted this year, all employees must select a health plan.”

15. A. This is a question on using the correct form of the verb in the past tense, as required by the sentence. Rose is the correct past tense of to rise. The correct sentence reads:“Each morning when the guards checked my shoulder bag and clanked shut the iron door behind me, the old convict in me rose up full of hatred and rage for the guards, the walls, the terrible indecency of the place.”

16. D. As written, this sentence is not complete. The first group of words—“A tornado can pick up a house and drop it hundreds of feet away”—must be subordinated to the main clause—“these are extremely dangerous storms.”Since is the most logical subordinating conjunction in context. The corrected sentence reads: “Since a tornado can pick up a house and drop it hundreds of feet away, these are extremely dangerous storms.”

17. D. As written, this is a fragment, since it is missing a subject. Choice B creates a comma splice. Choice C adds the subject, but, without the coordinating conjunction (so), it is a run-on sentence. Choice D correctly adds the subject (they) and the correct form of the verb. Choice E has the wrong form of the verb. The correct sentence reads:“The masters of the time were wary of their laborers being able to communicate with each other, so they formed mixed groups of laborers who spoke different languages.”

18. E. This is a question on parallel structure. The phrase “shook many hands”parallels “went to political rallies”and “spoke at meetings.”The correct sentence reads: “The candidate went to political rallies, spoke at meetings, and shook many hands.”

19. E. The question tests subject-verb agreement. The word employees is plural, so it requires the plural verb are. The correct sentence reads:“The conference will provide training to ensure that our employees are kept abreast of the latest technology advancements and are able to function in the information age.”

20. A. This sentence is correct as written. Use a comma after an introductory subordinate clause, as shown.