1. A. The correct sentence reads:“After an unsuccessful day spent seeking work, I returned to the cellar of the old building which our poverty compelled us to inhabit.”None of the other words has the meaning required by the sentence: to “occupy”or “live in.”

2. E. The correct sentence reads:“The robust boxer withstood the most punishing blows imaginable; the audience thought he would fall, but he did not even stumble.”The robust boxer is so strong and healthy that he does not stumble even under the strongest punches.

3. B. The correct sentence reads:“Even though the acrobat knew he might injure himself performing the unfamiliar stunt, with a show of bravado, he tried it anyway.” Bravado means “pretense.”The acrobat is putting on a brave front, pretending that he can do the stunt.

4. A. The correct sentence reads:“The electorate was so apathetic that the voter turnout was the lowest in the decade.”When you feel apathetic about a person or a situation, you do not care about it. If voters are apathetic or indifferent to candidates or issues, they are not likely to get out and cast their votes.As a result, voter turnout will be low.

5. C. The correct sentence reads:“The mourners set up a chorus of lamentations, their mournful cries echoing throughout the cathedral.”A lamentation is an expression of sorrow, so it would be mournful, or sad.

6. D. The correct sentence reads:“The candidate had a blameless record and an exemplary home life: in short, there was nothing embarrassing in her past.”Exemplary means “flawless, unblemished.”

7. A. The correct sentence reads:“After the new highway was built, traffic no longer passed through the old farmland with its dilapidated buildings and rusted tractors, the entire scene like a gaping sore.”Dilapidated means “run down.”The sentence clue “rusted tractors”reveals that the farmland is in very bad repair. Choices C and E both mean “attractive”rather than “shabby,”but “shabby”is the meaning required by the sentence.

8. E. The correct sentence reads:“The guilty robber tried to allay their suspicions with many sincere accounts of his innocence, but the police were not deceived and arrested him anyway.”To allay means “reduce”or “lessen.”Even though the robber tried to reassure the police that he was innocent, the police were not fooled (deceived).

9. B. The correct sentence reads:“The young girl, demure and shy, was nonetheless welcomed in the community and made to feel comfortable.”You can eliminate choices A, C, and D based on the first blank. Gregarious means “outgoing”; loquacious and garrulous mean “talkative.”None of the other words makes sense with shy. Disenfranchised (choice E) means “deprived of the right to vote.”Only choice B offers words that make sense in both blanks. Even though the girl was modest and shy, people made her feel welcome.

10. D. The correct sentence reads:“The prominent local businessman was so concerned about maintaining his blameless reputation that he steered clear of any potentially controversial topics, no matter how innocuous they really were.”Someone who is prominent is well-known, perhaps even famous. Innocuous means “harmless.”Thus, the well-known businessperson steers clear of even the most innocent topics to avoid any controversy.You can eliminate choices C and E because someone who is conniving (scheming) or mendacious (untruthful) would not necessarily be concerned about maintaining a good reputation.

1. D. The completed sentence reads:“Our regiment occupied a position that was vital; a blunder now meant sure destruction.”Since a mistake (blunder) would be disastrous, the position had to be important or vital.

2. A. The completed sentence reads:“The foolproof poison was as colorless as water, almost tasteless,quite imperceptible in coffee,milk,or any other beverage; further it was untraceable during an autopsy.”What makes the poison foolproof is that it is imperceptible—it cannot be perceived or noticed in a drink and it cannot be traced in an autopsy.Remember that the prefixes im-, un-, and in- usually mean “not.”

3. D. The completed sentence reads:“She had had one great disappointment in life, but we were never quite sure what it was, since it was alluded to only in whispers and far-off looks, and so we all felt that it was important that she never be let down again.”Since no one is sure what the disappointment is, it is never stated outright. Instead, it is alluded to or hinted at in a soft voice, another word for whispers.

4. E. The completed sentence reads:“Not wishing to marry, the girl discouraged the proposals of each young man by stipulating that each suitor should present her with his bank statements.”When you stipulate something, you set conditions. In this case, the girl demands that each young man show her his bank statement. A suitor is an admirer, someone who is trying to woo and win a lover.

5. B. The completed sentence reads:“Concentrating on the weeds, the elderly lady seemed very intent and remote, as through she were in another world.”When used as an adjective, the word remote means “isolated or set apart.”

6. D. The completed sentence reads:“In spite of our misgivings, Rita continued down the street and approached the odd-looking stranger, asking for directions to the restaurant.”The clue words are the phrase “in spite of,”because it signals a shift in thought. Even though Rita’s friends had misgivings or doubts, she nonetheless approached the stranger by walking up to him or her and asking for directions.

7. B. The completed sentence reads:“Although the town councilman had a well-deserved reputation for reserve,at the information session that night he was so voluble that everyone received a great deal of information about the proposed tax increase.”The town councilman is reserved or quiet and close-mouthed.As a result,no one would expect him to speak much.That’s why everyone is surprised that the councilman is so voluble—that he talks so much.You can infer that voluble means “talkative”from the context clue that everyone felt they had “received a great deal of information about the proposed tax increase.”You can receive a lot of information only if someone communicates.In this instance,it’s easiest to communicate through words.

8. D. The completed sentence reads:“Someone who loves freedom has an antipathy toward oppression and dictatorship.”Antipathy means “hostility,”so someone who loves to be free would naturally be against that which restricts freedom: oppression and dictatorship.

9. A. The completed sentence reads:“The expertise with which the flight attendant soothed the passengers’muttered concerns and calmed their outright panic at the sudden acceleration showed her compassion and skill.”The flight attendant does her job well; she has expertise, training and skill. Her compassion (tenderness) is an important part of her expertise. Only choices A, B, and E offer words that make sense in the first blank.When you look at the second blank, only choice A makes sense. When you encounter long sentence completion items such as this one, break them into smaller parts. Use the punctuation, especially commas and semicolons, as your guide for logical divisions.

10. E. The completed sentence reads:“The paucity of job opportunities in the current job market disheartens prospective employees from trying to find a well-paying, secure job.”The lack (paucity) of jobs disheartens (discourages) applicants.

10. C. There are two complete sentences here. The first sentence is:“A temporary worker may be hired for a week, a month, or a few months.”The second sentence is:“There is no guarantee of continued employment.”When they are incorrectly joined, they become a run-on sentence. Remember that you can correct a run-on sentence in one of three ways: • Separate the run-on sentence into two sentences with a period. • Add a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). • Add a semicolon. Only choice C correctly joins the two sentences. Choice D requires a comma between the sentence and the coordinating conjunction. Choice E makes no sense with the conjunction for. The correct sentence reads:“A temporary worker may be hired for a week, a month, or a few months; there is no guarantee of continued employment.”

11. C. As written, this is a type of run-on sentence called a “comma splice.”Removing the comma (choice B) does not correct the run-on sentence. The revision shown in choice C is best because it eliminates the wordiness and expresses the idea most clearly. The revised sentence reads:“A new language can come into being as a pidgin, a makeshift jargon containing words of various languages and little in the way of grammar.”

12. E. The error is in the case of pronouns. Luis is doing the action (giving a year’s subscription), so Luis is the subject. My sister and the speaker are receiving the action, so they are in the objective case:“my sister and me.”The correct sentence reads:“Because I am interested in nutrition, I am glad that Luis gave my sister and me a year’s subscription to a health and fitness magazine.”You may wish to read the sentence with the plural pronoun to help you “hear”the correct version: “Because I am interested in nutrition, I am glad that Luis gave us a year’s subscription to a health and fitness magazine.”Choices B and C are incorrect because the speaker is always named last (“my sister and I,“not”I and my sister”).

13. B. The phrase is in the passive voice and would be better in the active voice. In general, unless the speaker is not known or you wish to avoid assigning blame (“A mistake was made”) use the active voice rather than the passive voice. In the active voice, the subject is the doer of the action (“I hit the ball”). In the passive voice, in contrast, the action is done to the subject (“The ball was hit by me”). The active voice is considered more vigorous, clear, and succinct. Only choice B is in the active voice.

14. B. The mistake is in parallel structure, matching sentence parts. The phrase “Our ancestors had to plant and were cultivating their own foods”should read:“Our ancestors had to plant and to cultivate their own foods.”This creates parallel infinitive phrases (“to plant”and “to cultivate”). The corrected sentence reads: “Our ancestors had to plant and to cultivate their own foods, but since we can just drive to the local supermarket or restaurant and pick what we want, we often eat too much.”

15. D. The correct phrase is “since”or “because,”never “being that.”The corrected sentence reads:“Since the iceberg ruptured 5 of the

16 watertight compartments, the ship sunk into the icy waters of the North Atlantic.” 16. D. “Rushing up the stairs of the museum, the tomb of the Egyptian king was seen” is a dangling construction because it has nothing to modify. Correct a dangling construction by providing a noun or pronoun to which the dangling construction can be attached, as in choice D.

17. B. As written, this is a run-on sentence, two sentences incorrectly joined.Adding the subordinating conjunction because correctly subordinates the second clause (“there was nothing to fatten it on”) to the first clause (“It meant that the pig or cow that would usually have been sold to pay the rent had to be slaughtered”). Add a comma before a coordinating or subordinating conjunction. The correct sentence reads:“It meant that the pig or cow that would usually have been sold to pay the rent had to be slaughtered, because there was nothing to fatten it on.”

18. C. This part of the sentence is a misplaced modifier. Obviously, the iceberg did not pass through the porthole. The phrase “through the porthole”modifies “caught sight of”and should be placed nearer to it, rather than next to passing. The correct sentence reads:“Looking through the porthole, the captain caught sight of the iceberg passing by, but by then it was too late to alter the course.”

19. A. This sentence is correct as written.