

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

### The Consolations of Philosophy

Long viewed by many as the stereotypical useless major, philosophy is now being seen by many students and prospective employers as in fact a very useful and practical major, offering students a host of transferable skills with relevance to the modern workplace. **34** In broad terms, philosophy is the study of meaning and the values underlying thought and behavior. But **35** more pragmatically, the discipline encourages students to analyze complex material, question conventional beliefs, and express thoughts in a concise manner.

Because philosophy **36** teaching students not what to think but how to think, the age-old discipline offers consistently useful tools for academic and professional achievement. **37** A 1994 survey concluded that only 18 percent of American colleges required at least one philosophy course. **38** Therefore, between 1992 and 1996, more than 400 independent philosophy departments were eliminated from institutions.

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For example,
- C) In contrast,
- D) Nevertheless,

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) speaking in a more pragmatic way,
- C) speaking in a way more pragmatically,
- D) in a more pragmatic-speaking way,

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) teaches
- C) to teach
- D) and teaching

37

Which choice most effectively sets up the information that follows?

- A) Consequently, philosophy students have been receiving an increasing number of job offers.
- B) Therefore, because of the evidence, colleges increased their offerings in philosophy.
- C) Notwithstanding the attractiveness of this course of study, students have resisted majoring in philosophy.
- D) However, despite its many utilitarian benefits, colleges have not always supported the study of philosophy.

38

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

More recently, colleges have recognized the practicality and increasing popularity of studying philosophy and have markedly increased the number of philosophy programs offered. By 2008 there were 817 programs, up from 765 a decade before. In addition, the number of four-year graduates in philosophy has grown 46 percent in a decade. Also, studies have found that those students who major in philosophy often do better than students from other majors in both verbal reasoning and analytical **39** writing. These results can be measured by standardized test scores. On the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), for example, students intending to study philosophy in graduate school **40** has scored higher than students in all but four other majors.

These days, many **41** student's majoring in philosophy have no intention of becoming philosophers; instead they plan to apply those skills to other disciplines. Law and business specifically benefit from the complicated theoretical issues raised in the study of philosophy, but philosophy can be just as useful in engineering or any field requiring complex analytic skills.

**42** That these skills are transferable across professions

39

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) writing as
- B) writing, and these results can be
- C) writing, which can also be
- D) writing when the results are

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have scored
- C) scores
- D) scoring

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) students majoring
- C) students major
- D) student's majors

42

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

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato, for example, wrote many of his works in the form of dialogues.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it reinforces the passage's main point about the employability of philosophy majors.
- B) Yes, because it acknowledges a common counterargument to the passage's central claim.
- C) No, because it blurs the paragraph's focus by introducing a new idea that goes unexplained.
- D) No, because it undermines the passage's claim about the employability of philosophy majors.

43 which makes them especially beneficial to twenty-first-century students. Because today's students can expect to hold multiple jobs—some of which may not even exist yet—during 44 our lifetime, studying philosophy allows them to be flexible and adaptable. High demand, advanced exam scores, and varied professional skills all argue for maintaining and enhancing philosophy courses and majors within academic institutions.

43

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

44

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) one's
- C) his or her
- D) their

**STOP**

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