

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.

A Necessary Resource for Science

In the winter of 1968, scientists David Schindler and Gregg Brunskill poured nitrates and phosphates into Lake **1** 227, this is one of the 58 freshwater bodies that compose Canada’s remotely located Experimental Lakes Area. Schindler and Brunskill were contaminating the water not out of malice but in the name of research. While deliberately adding chemical compounds to a lake may seem **2** destructive and irresponsible, this method of experimenting is sometimes the most effective way to influence policy and save the environment from even more damaging pollution.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 227. Which is one
- C) 227. One
- D) 227, one

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) destructive, and irresponsible this method
- C) destructive and, irresponsible, this method
- D) destructive and irresponsible this method,

Schindler and Brunskill were investigating possible causes for the large blooms of blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, that had been affecting bodies of water such as Lake Erie. **3** In addition to being unsightly and odorous, these algal blooms cause oxygen depletion. Oxygen depletion kills fish and other wildlife in the lakes. Just weeks after the scientists added the nitrates and phosphates, the water in Lake 227 turned bright **4** green. It was thick with: the same type of algal blooms that had plagued Lake Erie.

3

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) In addition to being unsightly and odorous, these algal blooms cause oxygen depletion: the result being that it kills fish and other wildlife in the lakes.
- B) In addition to being unsightly and odorous, these algal blooms cause oxygen depletion; the algal blooms cause oxygen depletion that kills fish and other wildlife in the lakes.
- C) In addition to being unsightly and odorous, these algal blooms cause oxygen depletion, and oxygen depletion caused by the algal blooms kills fish and other wildlife in the lakes.
- D) In addition to being unsightly and odorous, these algal blooms cause oxygen depletion, which kills fish and other wildlife in the lakes.

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) green: it was thick with
- C) green. It was thick with—
- D) green, it was thick with

5 One mission of the Experimental Lakes Area is to conduct research that helps people better understand threats to the environment. The scientists divided the lake in half by placing a nylon barrier through the narrowest part of its figure-eight shape. In one half of Lake 226, they added phosphates, nitrates, and a source of carbon; in the other, they added just nitrates 6 and a source of carbon was added. Schindler and Brunskill hypothesized that phosphates were responsible for the growth of cyanobacteria. The experiment confirmed their suspicions when the half of the lake containing the phosphates 7 was teeming with blue-green algae.

5

Which choice provides the best transition from the previous paragraph to this one?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) The Experimental Lakes Area is located in a sparsely inhabited region that experiences few effects of human and industrial activity.
- C) To isolate the cause of the algae, Schindler and Brunskill performed another experiment, this time using Lake 226.
- D) The process by which water becomes enriched by dissolved nutrients, such as phosphates, is called eutrophication.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and a source of carbon.
- C) plus also a source of carbon.
- D) but also adding a source of carbon.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) were teeming
- C) are teeming
- D) teems

Schindler and Brunskill's findings were **8** shown off by the journal *Science*. The research demonstrated a clear correlation between introducing phosphates and the growth of blue-green algae. **9** For example, legislators in Canada passed laws banning phosphates in laundry detergents, which had been entering the water supply. **10**

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) put in the spotlight of
- C) published in
- D) put into

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Similarly,
- C) However,
- D) Subsequently,

10

At this point, the writer wants to add a second policy outcome of the research described. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) Lake 226 continued to develop blooms of blue-green algae for eight consecutive years after the experiment took place.
- B) In the United States, many individual states have also adopted legislation to eliminate, or at least reduce, phosphorous content in laundry detergents.
- C) In 1974, Schindler initiated a study of the effects of acid rain, using Lake 223 to examine how sulfuric acid altered aquatic ecosystems.
- D) Aerial photos of the lakes taken before and during algal blooms helped convey the effects of phosphates in water to the public.

Experiments like these can help people understand the unintended consequences of using certain household products. **11** Of course, regulating the use of certain chemical compounds can be a controversial issue.

Selectively establishing remote study locations, such as the Experimental Lakes Area, can provide scientists with opportunities to safely conduct controlled research. This research can generate evidence solid enough to persuade policy makers to take action in favor of protecting the larger environment.

11

Which choice most effectively anticipates and addresses a relevant counterargument to the argument in favor of the types of experiments described in the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Many companies now offer phosphate-free alternatives for household cleaning products.
- C) Obviously, scientists should not be allowed to randomly perform experiments on just any body of water.
- D) Phosphates are sometimes used in agricultural fertilizers, in addition to being used in cleaning products.