

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.

NASA: A Space Program with Down-to-Earth Benefits

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is a US government agency whose budget is frequently **1** many times contested. Many people think of NASA's programs as trivial. In truth, the agency has a widespread positive **2** effect on society by serving as a catalyst for innovation and scientific understanding,

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) oftentimes
- C) repeatedly
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) affect on
- C) effect to
- D) affects on

3 to create jobs, and showing humanity its place within the universe.

In 1958, the program's first year, very few people believed that it was even possible for a manned spacecraft to leave the atmosphere and orbit Earth. But by initiating and collaborating on projects such as the Apollo Moon missions, the space shuttle program, the Hubble Space

4 Telescope, and unmanned planetary exploration, NASA has continually challenged its scientists and engineers to do things that were previously thought impossible. All along, these NASA projects have

5 greatly increased international cooperation. A short list of inventions 6 elaborated by NASA includes communications satellites, invisible braces, and cordless tools. All these inventions 7 spawns new industries, and with those industries, jobs. NASA also sponsors the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, which are specifically designed to support technological development in the private sector.

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) creating jobs,
- C) for job creation,
- D) the creation of jobs,

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Telescope; and
- C) Telescope and;
- D) Telescope and,

5

Which choice most effectively sets up the list of examples that follows in the next sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) garnered national publicity for the agency.
- C) generated a steady stream of new technology.
- D) made a lot of money for the agency.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) evolved
- C) developed
- D) progressed

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) spawned
- C) has spawned
- D) spawning

[1] A report by the Space Foundation estimated that NASA contributed \$180 billion to the economy in 2005.

[2] More than 60 percent of the contribution **8** coming from commercial goods and services created by companies using space-related technology. [3] This translates as excellent returns from an agency that received approximately 17.7 billion in tax dollars in 2014.

[4] This investment by taxpayers enhances not only the national economy but also the United States' competitiveness in the international market.

[5] Moreover, the benefits of NASA funding extend beyond the purely economic, as astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson indicated in his testimony before the US Senate: "For . . . a penny on a dollar—we can transform the country from a sullen, dispirited nation, weary of economic struggle, to one where it has reclaimed its twentieth-century birthright to dream of tomorrow." **9**

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) which came
- C) to come
- D) came

9

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 1 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.

Tyson's expansive vision for the agency hints at another mission of NASA's, illuminated in this observation by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell: "You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it."

10 With world population topping seven billion, humanity is in need of some perspective. **11** Therefore, we should continue to support NASA not only for practical reasons but also because it is a necessary vehicle for increasing our awareness of how we can fulfill our responsibilities to the planet and each other.

10

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

In addition, NASA has facilities in Washington, DC, Florida, Texas, California, and other states.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it serves as a counterargument to the quotation from astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.
- B) Yes, because it reinforces the passage's point about the importance of NASA's work.
- C) No, because it undermines the passage's claim about the economic benefits of NASA's work.
- D) No, because it blurs the paragraph's focus by introducing information that does not support the paragraph's claim about the importance of NASA's work.

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Instead,
- C) For example,
- D) However,