

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

The Hype of Healthier Organic Food

Some people buy organic food because they believe organically grown crops are more nutritious and safer for consumption than **12** the people who purchase their conventionally grown counterparts, which are usually produced with pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. In the name of health, **13** spending \$1.60 for every dollar they would have spent on food that is **14** grown in a manner that is considered conventional. Scientific evidence, **15** therefore, suggests that consumers do not reap significant benefits, in terms of either nutritional value or safety, from organic food.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the purchase of
- C) purchasing
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) these consumers spend
- C) having spent
- D) to spend

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) grown with conventional methods, using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
- C) conventionally and therefore not organically grown.
- D) conventionally grown.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) furthermore,
- C) however,
- D) subsequently,

Although advocates of organic food **16** preserve that organic produce is healthier than conventionally grown produce because it has more vitamins and minerals, this assertion is not supported by scientific research. **17** For instance, one review published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* provided analysis of the results of comparative studies conducted over a span of 50 years; researchers consistently found no evidence that organic crops are more nutritious than conventionally grown ones in terms of their vitamin and mineral content. **18** Similarly, Stanford University researchers who examined almost 250 studies comparing the nutritional content of different kinds of organic foods with that of their nonorganic counterparts found very little difference between the two.

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) carry on
- C) maintain
- D) sustain

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) However,
- C) In addition,
- D) Likewise,

18

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that organic agricultural products are now available in approximately 20,000 markets specializing in natural foods.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it adds a relevant research finding from a government agency.
- B) Yes, because it supports the passage's argument that organic food is less nutritious than conventionally grown food.
- C) No, because it is not relevant to the paragraph's discussion of scientific evidence.
- D) No, because it introduces a term that has not been defined in the passage.

Evidence also undermines the claim that organic food is safer to eat. While researchers have found lower levels of pesticide residue in organic produce than in nonorganic produce, the pesticide residue detected in conventional produce falls within acceptable safety limits. According to such organizations as the US Environmental Protection Agency, the minute amounts of residue falling within such limits **19** have no negative impact on human health. **20**

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is having
- C) has had
- D) has

20

At this point, the writer wants to further reinforce the paragraph's claim about the safety of nonorganic food. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

- A) To be labeled organic, a product must meet certain standards determined and monitored by the US Department of Agriculture.
- B) Organic food, however, is regulated to eliminate artificial ingredients that include certain types of preservatives, sweeteners, colorings, and flavors.
- C) Moreover, consumers who are concerned about ingesting pesticide residue can eliminate much of it by simply washing or peeling produce before eating it.
- D) In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about one-fifth of the pesticides used worldwide are applied to crops in the United States.

Based on scientific evidence, organic food offers neither significant nutritional nor safety benefits for consumers. Proponents of organic food, of course, are quick to add that **21** their are numerous other reasons to buy organic **22** food, such as, a desire to protect the environment from potentially damaging pesticides or a preference for the taste of organically grown foods. Research regarding these issues is less conclusive than the findings regarding nutritional content and pesticide residue safety limits. What is clear, though, is this: if a consumer's goal is to buy the healthiest and safest food to eat, the increased cost of organic food is a waste of money.

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) there are
- C) there is
- D) their is

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) food such as:
- C) food such as,
- D) food, such as