

Section 2

Multiple-Choice Questions

TIME—25 MINUTES

IMPROVING SENTENCES

Directions: The underlined sentences and sentence parts below may contain errors in standard English, including awkward or ambiguous expression, poor word choice (diction), incorrect sentence structure, or faulty grammar, usage, and punctuation. Read each sentence carefully and identify which of the five alternate versions most effectively and correctly expresses the meaning of the underlined material. Indicate your choice by filling in the corresponding space on the answer sheet. Choice A always repeats the original. Choose A if none of the other choices improves the original sentence.

EXAMPLE

ANSWER

My old Aunt Maud loves
to cook, and eating also.

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

- (A) cook, and eating also
- (B) cook and to eat
- (C) cook, and to eat also
- (D) cook and eat besides
- (E) cook and, in addition, eat

1. Inside Margaret Jackson's home were an art studio with a pottery kiln, high-tech stainless steel appliances, and there was a swimming pool lined with Italian marble.
 - (A) there was a swimming pool lined with Italian marble
 - (B) a swimming pool lined with Italian marble
 - (C) lined with Italian marble was a swimming pool
 - (D) the swimming pool was lined with Italian marble
 - (E) a swimming pool with Italian marble was there
2. Mr. Rich was not the first math teacher to entertain and inspire his students, but he has been the first who turned math class into a party.
 - (A) has been the first who turned
 - (B) had been the first who turned
 - (C) was the first having turned
 - (D) was the first to turn
 - (E) having been the first to turn

3. Our interscholastic athletic schedules were made too recklessly, without sufficient planning behind it.
- (A) too recklessly, without sufficient planning behind it
 - (B) too reckless, without sufficient planning behind it
 - (C) too recklessly, without sufficient planning behind them
 - (D) too reckless, and there is not sufficient planning behind them
 - (E) too recklessly, and there is not sufficient planning behind it
4. Many senior citizens are reluctant to go online, it results from not knowing much about computers and being a bit scared of it.
- (A) online, it results from not knowing much about computers and being a bit scared of it
 - (B) online resulting from not knowing much about computers and being a bit scared of it
 - (C) online for the reason being that they don't know much about computers and are a bit scared of them
 - (D) online because of knowing little about computers and being scared of it
 - (E) online because they know little about computers and are a bit scared of them
5. The program of extracurricular activities were cut from the school budget in spite of them being regarded as one of the most important aspects of high school.
- (A) were cut from the school budget in spite of them being regarded
 - (B) was cut from the school budget in spite of them being regarded
 - (C) was cut from the school budget in spite of their regard as being
 - (D) were cut from the school budget in spite of regarding it
 - (E) was cut from the school budget in spite of it being regarded
6. Annie Oakley boasted that she could shoot better than any other cowboy at the rodeo; then she proved it.
- (A) Annie Oakley boasted that she could shoot better than any other cowboy at the rodeo; then she
 - (B) Annie Oakley boasted that she could shoot better than any cowboy at the rodeo; then she
 - (C) Annie Oakley boasted that she could shoot better than any cowboy at the rodeo, therefore she
 - (D) To boast that she could shoot better than any other cowboy at the rodeo, Annie Oakley
 - (E) Boasting that she could shoot better than any other cowboy at the rodeo, Annie Oakley
7. Residents of Chicago have just as much right to complain about the cold as Minneapolis, which endures sub-freezing temperatures most of the winter.
- (A) Residents of Chicago have just as much right to complain about the cold as Minneapolis, which
 - (B) Residents of Chicago have just as much right to complain about the cold as residents of Minneapolis, which
 - (C) Residents of Chicago have equally the right to complain about the cold as residents of Minneapolis, which
 - (D) Residents of Chicago, having the equal right to complain about the cold as Minneapolis, where the population
 - (E) Residents of Chicago, rightfully complaining about the cold as the population of Minneapolis, where it

8. When the baseball rulebook is followed too closely, they often spoil instead of enhancing the game.
- (A) When the baseball rulebook is followed too closely, they often spoil instead of enhancing the game
 - (B) When the baseball rulebook is followed too closely, it often spoils instead of enhancing the game
 - (C) The baseball rulebook, if too closely followed, often spoils the game, not enhancing it
 - (D) The baseball rulebook, if followed too closely, often spoils rather than enhances the game
 - (E) If you follow too closely the baseball rulebook, it often spoils rather than enhances the game
9. At the airport passengers must pass through metal detectors, but there are not frequent body searches of passengers.
- (A) detectors, but there are not frequent body searches of passengers
 - (B) detectors, and a bodily search of passengers is not frequent
 - (C) detectors but are rarely subject to body searches
 - (D) detectors, but the searching of their bodies is rare
 - (E) detectors, but the search of bodies is rare among them
10. As modern astronomy increasingly employs sophisticated space telescopes, high-speed computers, years-long probes into outer space, humankind's concept of the heavens has changed.
- (A) humankind's concept of the heavens has changed
 - (B) humankind's concept of the heavens have changed
 - (C) there has been changes in humankind's concepts of the heavens
 - (D) humankind have undergone a change in its concepts of the heavens
 - (E) humankind has had changes in their concept of the heavens
11. The Broadway tradition of "musical comedy" has changed over the years because of their stories and music exploring serious themes, especially the consequences of war, tyranny, and death.
- (A) of their stories and music exploring
 - (B) of their stories and music exploring their
 - (C) its stories and music explore
 - (D) its stories and music explores
 - (E) of how it explores through stories and music

IDENTIFYING SENTENCE ERRORS

Directions: The underlined and lettered parts of each sentence below may contain an error in grammar, usage, word choice (diction), or expression (idiom). Read each sentence carefully and identify which item, if any, contains an error. Indicate your choice by filling in the corresponding space on the answer sheet. No sentence contains more than one error. Some sentences may contain no error. In that case, the correct choice will always be E (No error).

EXAMPLE

Jill went speedily to the crest of the
 A B
 hill in a more faster time than her
 C D
 friend, Jack. No error.
 E

ANSWER

(A) (B) ● (D) (E)

12. Although he left Texas as a small boy, Jim
 A
 returned when he was sixteen and decides
 B C
 that he'd like to spend the rest of his life
 D
 there. No error.
 E
13. Despite the constant pressure of schoolwork
 A
 and sports, Terry has never been more happier
 B C
 than she is now, in her senior year. No error.
 D E
14. At the beginning of the play, there is two
 A B
 puzzling dilemmas that Medea must solve
 if she is going to survive her ordeal.
 C D
No error.
 E
15. The common sentiment that hard work
pays off doesn't necessarily apply to a frail
 A B C
 old man which has a heart condition and a
 D
 long driveway to shovel after a snowstorm.
No error.
 E
16. Readers can easily draw a distinction
 A
 between a so-called literary classic and
 an escapist piece of pulp fiction by
 considering how many ideas the books
 B
give them to think about. No error.
 C D E
17. Some symbols acquire a multitude of meanings,
 A B
 some widely shared, others personal, some
 C
 contradictory, conflicted, or ambivalent.
 D
No error.
 E

18. Although every road in the town is now
A
paved, there are actually some residents
B
who will prefer that the dirt roads be preserved.
C D
No error.
E
19. The company has begun manufacturing
A
dishwasher soaps in bright colors because
consumers respond to this more eagerly than
B C
to dull, ordinary colors. No error.
D E
20. The professor explained that the realistic
A
painter is having to represent reality, while
B C
the impressionistic or abstract painter reveals
a personal or emotional response to reality.
D
No error.
E
21. Many of the candidates, including the incumbent
senator herself, has opposed the legislation
A B
that weakens the ban on snowmobiles in
C D
Yellowstone and other national parks. No error.
E
22. An orientation program familiarizes new ninth
A
graders with the daily schedule, teaches them
B
the layout of the building, and they have the
C
chance to practice going from class to class.
D
No error.
E
23. An examination of the most reliable current
A
economic statistics do not justify raising the
B C
sales tax in the foreseeable future. No error.
D E
24. Saturday's game demonstrated once more again
A B
why Paulie, one of the league's finest players,
C
is being recruited by many colleges. No error.
D E
25. Since the early 1800s, the famous Hope
Diamond was the most notorious gem
A
in history, leaving behind a string of owners
B C
who have suffered one misfortune after
D
another. No error.
E
26. Because the setting profoundly influences
A
the thoughts, emotions, and actions of the
characters, a place can be as significant for a
B
story as any of the people in it. No error.
C D E
27. Both Jon Stewart and Conan O'Brien
A
have become extremely popular cable TV
B C
comedians, but O'Brien has the largest
D
number of fans. No error.
E

28. During this past year, a rapport has developed
 A
 between my Spanish teacher and I; in fact,
 B C
 I now call her by her first name, Louise.
 D
No error.
 E
29. For decades, scientists analyzed masses of
 A
 public-health statistics before they found a
 B C
 high correlation between heavy smoking and
 D
 the incidence of lung cancer. No error.
 E

IMPROVING PARAGRAPHS

Directions: The passage below is the draft of a student's essay. Some parts of the passage need improvement. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. The questions are about revisions that might improve all or part of the passage's organization, development, sentence structure, or choice of words. Choose the answer that best follows the requirements of standard written English.

Questions 30–35 refer to the following passage.

[1] *No student of American history can avoid having learned about a great technological feat, the building of the transcontinental railroad in the middle of the nineteenth century.* [2] *Though the Pacific Ocean could be reached by traveling overland in wagons or by sea via South America, many dreamed of a time when the East would join the West, linked by a transcontinental railroad.* [3] *In 1869, the dream became a reality.* [4] *It was a great physical achievement.* [5] *In accomplishing this great feat of engineering, the workers were exploited, and many of them died.*

[6] *Chinese immigrants were the backbone of the workforce.* [7] *They performed unskilled labor and also the highly specialized and dangerous jobs as well.* [8] *The workers were exploited ruthlessly.* [9] *Methods were unsafe and cost lives.* [10] *Baskets holding a single person were lowered down the side of a mountain, and the worker inside would place dynamite into the mountain's crevasse, light it, and try to make it back up.* [11] *If they were not pulled fast enough, or the rope broke, they fell to their deaths.* [12] *An estimated 1200 Chinese perished just so.*

[13] *With the help of the U.S. government, which contributed millions of dollars' worth of public land and funds for construction, the project was run by a group of four well-to-do but corrupt businessmen from California.* [14] *They used fraud to build their own personal fortunes, and their greed ran rampant.*

30. Which of the following is the best way to deal with sentence 1 (reproduced below)?

No student of American history can avoid having learned about a great technological feat, the building of the transcontinental railroad in the middle of the nineteenth century.

- (A) Make no changes.
 (B) Switch its position in the essay with that of sentence 2.
 (C) Change “having learned” to “learning.”
 (D) Relocate “in the middle of the nineteenth century” between “history” and “can.”
 (E) Delete the comma and insert “which was.”

31. In context, which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined words in order to combine sentences 4 and 5?
- It was a great physical achievement. In accomplishing this great feat of engineering, the workers were exploited and many of them died.*
- (A) It was a great physical achievement, in accomplishing this great feat of engineering
- (B) The fact is that
- (C) But students don't learn that this great physical feat of engineering came at a large price because
- (D) As a result, historians say that this great achievement meant that
- (E) Although building the railroad was a great physical achievement,
32. Which of the following ideas is the best to add to sentence 9 in order to link it to sentence 8?
- (A) Consequently,
- (B) Because laborers were pushed to complete the work as quickly as possible,
- (C) On the other hand,
- (D) With regard to taking advantage of the Chinese laborers,
- (E) A good example of exploitation is that
33. Which of the following best describes the relationship between sentences 9 and 10?
- (A) Sentence 10 provides material that illustrates the statement made in sentence 9.
- (B) Sentence 10 proves the validity of the point made in sentence 9.
- (C) Sentence 10 introduces sources of information that confirms the truth of sentence 9.
- (D) Sentence 10 offers an alternative point of view about the point made in sentence 9.
- (E) Sentence 10 restates opinions expressed in sentence 9.
34. Which of the following would be the best sentence to insert before sentence 13 to introduce the last paragraph?
- (A) Building the railroad was such an expensive undertaking that no private individual of that era could afford to finance the whole thing.
- (B) Paying for the construction of the railroad left the federal government with a mountain of debt.
- (C) One set of construction crews started building from the east to the west, while another began in the west and built eastward.
- (D) The building of the railroad was indeed an American milestone.
- (E) The Pacific Railroad Act, a document rushed through Congress, was grossly over-generous in its benefits to the builders.
35. What material is the most appropriate to add immediately after sentence 14?
- (A) How the four business tycoons happened to meet and form a partnership
- (B) The facts that convinced the four men to build the railroad
- (C) Reasons why shoddy construction methods were used
- (D) Details about unethical business practices during the construction of the railroad
- (E) An account of how the eastbound and westbound tracks met in Utah in 1869

End of Section 2.

Do not return to Section 1. Do not proceed to Section 3 until the allotted time for Section 2 has passed.