

Reading and Writing

33 QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

1

Examining samples from coral reefs in the Pacific Ocean, a team of microbiologists was able to _____ as many as 3 million different species of bacteria. The team classified the bacteria by looking at differences in their DNA. These results suggest that there are more bacteria species than scientists previously thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) repair
- B) build
- C) command
- D) identify

2

Cognitive science research has found that people tend to be biased against art when they think it was generated by artificial intelligence (AI) software. One hypothesis for the preference for human-created art is that people _____ the effort behind a piece of art: the more work they believe went into a piece's creation, the more likely they are to appreciate it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) prevent
- B) neglect
- C) perform
- D) value

3

Some paleontologists thought that a sudden shift toward an arid climate on the Australian continent may have brought about the rapid extinction of several species of large kangaroos around 200,000 years ago. However, new evidence that the change in conditions occurred well before those species went extinct is forcing paleontologists to _____ that hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) recollect
- B) introduce
- C) revise
- D) interpret

4

Broods of periodical cicadas (inch-long winged insects) emerge for six weeks in late spring on a cycle of either 13 or 17 years. In 2024, the emergences of the Great Southern Brood (on a 13-year cycle) and the Northern Illinois Brood (on a 17-year cycle) coincided in the Midwest and Southeast United States, _____ that happens only once every 221 years. Sixteen states were covered with a trillion cicadas.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) a convergence
- B) a division
- C) a succession
- D) an expiration

5

Ancient Greek and Roman sculpture is sometimes characterized as idealizing human subjects, but in fact there are many Greco-Roman sculptures that depict people in decidedly _____ ways.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) implausible
- B) unflattering
- C) superficial
- D) imprecise

6

The following text is adapted from Eugene O'Neill's 1920 play *Beyond the Horizon*. Andrew and Robert Mayo are brothers who grew up on their family's farm.

ANDREW: Farming ain't your nature. There's all the difference shown in just the way us two feel about the farm. You—well, you like the home part of it, I expect; but as a place to work and grow things, you hate it. Ain't that right?

ROBERT: Yes, I suppose it is. For you it's different. You're a Mayo through and through. You're wedded to the soil. You're as much a product of it as an ear of corn is, or a tree. Father is the same. This farm is his life-work.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) It shows how two characters solved a mystery.
- B) It describes a place two characters visited on vacation.
- C) It emphasizes a difference between two characters.
- D) It illustrates that two characters share a goal.

7

The University of South Carolina library has a copy of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby* with notes in the margins made by poet and author Sylvia Plath. Plath marked favorite passages and wrote down some of her thoughts. Next to the novel’s description of one character’s feelings, Plath wrote the French phrase “L’Ennui” (which refers to weariness and boredom). Plath later wrote a poem titled “Ennui” that may have been inspired by that part of *The Great Gatsby*.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A) It explains why Plath decided to become a poet.
- B) It names a poem that Plath wrote long before she read *The Great Gatsby*.
- C) It indicates that Plath thought Fitzgerald’s writing was very exciting.
- D) It gives an example of one of Plath’s notes in the margins of *The Great Gatsby*.

8

Text 1

In the past, music albums were created to be played back on physical formats like records. A typical record holds only about twenty-five minutes of music on each of its shiny black sides. This forced artists and producers to think carefully about what music to include on an album and what to leave out. Today’s artists don’t have to worry as much about fitting their music on physical formats. For this reason, many of today’s artists are making albums that are much longer than albums from decades past.

Text 2

In today’s digital age, most music is created to be streamed from online services. These services remove the limitations of physical formats like records and CDs. This may be why many new albums are longer and have more songs than albums crafted for physical formats. Unfortunately, many of these longer albums suffer from a lack of focus.

Based on the texts, the author of Text 1 and the author of Text 2 would most likely agree with which statement about many new albums?

- A) Many new albums are longer than albums generally once were.
- B) Many new albums are quieter than albums generally once were.
- C) Many new albums include more artwork than albums generally once included.
- D) Many new albums sell more copies than albums generally once sold.

9

Guojun He and colleagues studied a food-delivery phone app that is popular in China. The researchers found that having “no cutlery” automatically selected influences whether customers request disposable plastic utensils with their food orders. Based on their results, the researchers concluded that this and other small changes to the app could reduce plastic waste in China by as much as 3.26 million metric tons per year.

According to the text, which choice best describes a conclusion He and colleagues drew from their study?

- A) Food-delivery apps that prevent customers from requesting cutlery are becoming more popular.
- B) Customers who understand how food-delivery apps work make more environmentally friendly choices.
- C) Small changes to how a food-delivery app works can greatly lower plastic waste.
- D) Production of plastic waste in China is likely to increase in the near future.

10

The soil on Mars can make missions to explore the planet challenging, as the sand and dust are known to clog filters and lock moving parts on robotic rovers and other exploration devices. Using simulants, which are materials designed to simulate different planetary surfaces, scientists are able to study the characteristics of Mars’s surface. Simulants like the Mars Mojave simulant—which was developed using lava deposits from California’s Mojave Desert—help scientists evaluate how well their devices will handle the surface when operated on Mars.

Based on the text, what is one reason why simulants are valuable for scientists?

- A) Simulants allow scientists to test the ability of research equipment to withstand some of the conditions it will encounter during a mission.
- B) Simulants can be mixed with soil from Earth to explore how research equipment will handle extreme terrains on Earth.
- C) Scientists use simulants to track how the chemical properties of planetary soils have changed over time.
- D) Scientists use simulants to compare the physical properties of Mars’s surface to those of Earth’s surface.

11

The following text is from Narciso Tondreau's 1898 poem "Yesterday and To-Day" (translated by Agnes Blake Poor in 1918). The poem is about an old statue of the Greek goddess Venus, which now lies on the ground in a state of disrepair.

How long ago, by summer breezes fanned,
Here stood the newborn Venus, fresh and fair;
All palpitating from the master's hand,
The last touch of his chisel lingering there.

"And surely this shall last!" he proudly thought;
"Fixed in immortal marble is my fame!"
Just here, where human hand has surely
wrought,
Some crumbling letters may have spelled his
name.

In the text, what does the speaker say that the artist believed about his sculpture?

- A) It would be carefully repaired when it inevitably begins to deteriorate.
- B) Its beauty would be recognized as surpassing that of other images of Venus.
- C) It would bring him enduring fame by withstanding time.
- D) It would be praised for its intricate details that he carefully chiseled.

12

Lin-Manuel Miranda's 2015 hip-hop musical *Hamilton* depicts historical political figure Alexander Hamilton as a self-made man who, through sheer determination, transcends his humble origins to become a key participant in the founding of the United States. This depiction of Hamilton establishes him as a compelling and well-defined protagonist but obscures other facets of the historical person's views, namely his elitism and mistrust of the democratic politics of some of his contemporaries. In effect, the musical's portrayal of Hamilton fails to convey the ideological complexity that a more nuanced portrayal might have suggested.

The text most strongly suggests that particular aspects of Hamilton's political beliefs may have been omitted from the musical in part to achieve which effect?

- A) To suggest why certain contributions by Hamilton to US history have been overlooked
- B) To challenge the prevailing historical consensus about Hamilton
- C) To encourage modern audiences to emulate Hamilton's politics
- D) To create an unambiguous thematic presentation of Hamilton's life

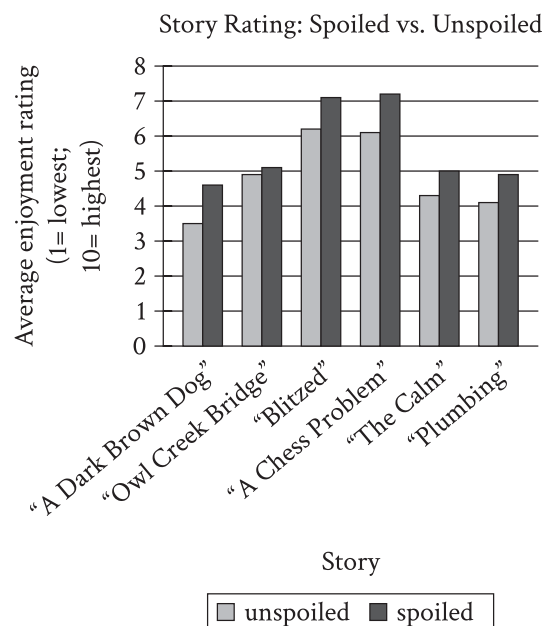
13

When a company has a new product, it has to decide when to tell people about it. Companies usually announce a new product before it is released and available for purchase. Those announcements can increase consumer excitement, which can mean that more people will buy the product. But the effect fades quickly, so companies need to be careful in timing the announcement and the release of a new product.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the underlined claim?

- A) Consumers tend to prefer new products over older products.
- B) The kind of information a company provides about a new product helps determine how likely consumers are to buy the product.
- C) Consumers are more likely to buy a new product when they already use products from the company making the new product.
- D) Consumer surveys show low excitement for new products that were announced a long time before they were released.

14



Researchers investigated how enjoyment of a story is affected when it has been spoiled (when the reader has foreknowledge of an important plot development). As part of the study, participants rated their enjoyment of one story that was spoiled before they read it and one story that was unspoiled. For each story, participants who had been given a spoiler reported greater enjoyment than did those who hadn't received a spoiler. But the degree of this difference varied across the stories, as is best illustrated by the enjoyment ratings for _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

- A) "Blitzed" and "A Chess Problem."
- B) "The Calm" and "Plumbing."
- C) "Owl Creek Bridge" and "A Chess Problem."
- D) "Blitzed" and "Plumbing."

15

Observed Traits in a Population of Broadleaf Arrowhead,
by Flowering Date

Trait	Day 5	Day 10	Day 15	Day 20
Total number of open male and female flowers per growth unit	25	65	110	45
Estimated reproductive success rate of male flowers	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
Proportion of male flowers	0.45	0.50	0.48	0.13

The mating environment hypothesis predicts that populations of flowering plants compensate for reduced mating opportunities due to dichogamy (a plant's expression of male and female functions at separate times to prevent self-pollination) by adjusting the bias of floral sex allocation during the flowering period, increasing the probability of successful cross-plant pollination. Researchers tested the hypothesis by examining a population of broadleaf arrowhead, a plant for which bloom onset generally takes longer for male flowers than for female flowers, during the flowering season. They concluded that the mating environment hypothesis is not well supported by their observational data.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A) Sex allocations were largely evenly distributed on days 10 and 15 but were female biased on days 5 and 20.
- B) Despite the sharp reduction in the total number of open flowers per growth unit from day 15 to 20, there was no decline in the estimated reproductive success rate of male flowers in that interval.
- C) Although sex allocations became overwhelmingly female biased by day 20, male flowers' estimated reproductive success rate did not vary from day 5 to 20.
- D) Whereas the total number of open flowers per growth unit peaked on day 15, the proportion of male flowers experienced a peak earlier in the flowering season, on day 10.

16

Filtration is a widely used method for removing microplastics—plastics with a width less than 5 millimeters (mm)—from waterways. However, filtration systems are typically unable to capture very small microplastics. Menake Piyasena and Nelum Perera designed a device that applies sound waves to water as it flows through a metal tube. The sound waves cause microplastics in the water to gather in the middle and along the sides of the tube. The microplastics can then be separated out by channeling polluted and clean water through different outlets. Testing indicated that the system removes even tiny microplastics, including ones as small as 10 microns, or 0.01 mm, wide. This result suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) unlike sound waves, filters have the ability to remove large microplastics from polluted waterways.
- B) directing water through filtration tubes with multiple outlets reduces microplastic pollution.
- C) the sound wave treatment system may help solve a problem associated with filtration of microplastics.
- D) combining filtration with sound waves is likely the most efficient method for removing microplastics from water.

17

Lichens lack root systems, so they must absorb water directly from the air, dew, and even tree bark and retain it in their bodies. A team of scientists recently used computer simulations to evaluate the importance of water stored in tree bark (bark water) for lichens in the Mediterranean region. In the control simulation, lichens had access to all water sources; in the experimental simulation, lichens had access to all sources except bark water. Compared to the control, the experimental simulation predicted a decrease in the lichens' overall biomass production of 21%. The experimental simulation (but not the control simulation) also predicted a decrease in the survival of certain species of lichen during the summer due to evaporative water loss, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) although lichens can absorb water from multiple sources, most of the water they absorb is bark water.
- B) only some specialized lichen species are able to absorb bark water during long periods of high evaporation.
- C) bark water absorption reduces biomass production in lichens but makes them more resistant to seasonal changes in conditions.
- D) access to bark water may help offset the effects of seasonal water loss for some lichen species.

18

A painted Chinese mural from 118 CE shows a person pushing a one-wheeled cart. Historians _____ that this is the earliest known depiction of a wheelbarrow.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) to have believed
- B) to believe
- C) believing
- D) believe

19

The first modern public zoo opened at the height of the French Revolution in 1793. Located in downtown Paris, the zoo was called the Menagerie du Jardin des Plantes. It was filled with living animals that had been confiscated _____ the private collections of French aristocrats.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) from,
- B) from:
- C) from
- D) from;

20

In the 1920s and 1930s, the singer Frank “Machito” Grillo performed with Cuba’s most popular dance orchestras. However, the fusion of Latin music and American jazz that Machito innovated while performing in New York City is what has _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) his enduring fame earned him?
- B) earned him his enduring fame.
- C) his enduring fame earned him.
- D) earned him his enduring fame?

21

Mountain goats were made to climb. In addition to having hard hooves that can dig into nearly any groove or _____ mountain goats have slender bodies ideal for scaling nearly ninety-degree cliffs.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) crack
- B) crack or
- C) crack,
- D) crack, or

22

A voluntary workforce established to make improvements to public lands, parks, and forests across the US, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—though widely popular—was not without its critics. For Aldo Leopold, the CCC was implicated in what _____ “Idle CCC camps,” he wrote, “presented a widespread temptation to build new and often needless roads.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) did he view as unnecessary development.
- B) did he view as unnecessary development?
- C) he viewed as unnecessary development.
- D) he viewed as unnecessary development?

23

Creek Council Tree (1967) and *Cimarron Iron Bridge* (1972) are two oil landscape paintings by renowned Pawnee Nation artist Brummett Echohawk. In 2023, _____ displayed alongside other works by Echohawk at the student-curated exhibition *Brummett Echohawk: An Artist’s Journey* at the Oklahoma State University Museum of Art.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) they were
- B) this was
- C) it was
- D) some were

24

Creating personas—brief profiles of imaginary characters that represent key segments of a customer base—can help user experience (UX) designers think like and empathize with those using their products. Fictional yet realistic, _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) these personas include specific details (demographics, browsing habits, etc.) that UX designers draw from actual users.
- B) UX designers include specific details (demographics, browsing habits, etc.) drawn from actual users in these personas.
- C) actual users are the source of the specific details (demographics, browsing habits, etc.) that UX designers include in these personas.
- D) specific details that UX designers draw from actual users (demographics, browsing habits, etc.) are included in these personas.

25

The 2020 documentary *Without a Whisper—Konnon:Kwe* was directed by Katsitsionni Fox. It explores how Indigenous Haudenosaunee culture shaped the woman suffrage movement in the early nineteenth _____ how the personal and political authority Haudenosaunee women had in their communities influenced the first suffragists in the US.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) century revealing
- B) century, revealing
- C) century. Revealing
- D) century; revealing

26

In 1941, activists sought to persuade President Franklin Roosevelt to ban racial segregation in the military. _____ civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph planned a large anti-segregation march on Washington for July 1. Responding to the pressure, the president agreed to the ban, and the march was called off.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In some cases,
- B) To that end,
- C) Apart from that,
- D) By comparison,

27

Echinoderms are benthic organisms, which means that they live in the benthic zone at or near the bottom of lakes. _____ echinoderms are classified as macrobenthic organisms, “macro” referring to their relatively large size in comparison to meiobenthic and microbenthic organisms.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) As a result,
- B) In other words,
- C) To be exact,
- D) By contrast,

28

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Chroma keying is a visual effects technique that layers different images or videos.
- It is used to produce a desired background in video footage.
- First, two videos are filmed: one with a desired background and another with a subject in front of a blue or green background.
- Then, video editing software is used to merge the videos, replacing the blue or green background with the desired background.
- Blue and green backgrounds are preferred because they contrast strongly with most subjects, which helps the software distinguish the subject from the background.

The student wants to describe the process of chroma keying. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) One reason blue and green backgrounds are preferred for chroma keying is because they contrast strongly with most subjects, which helps the software distinguish the subject from the background.
- B) Chroma keying involves filming two videos, then using video editing software to replace the blue or green background of one video with the desired background of the other.
- C) Chroma keying is a visual effects technique often used to replace the background in a video.
- D) By using the technique known as chroma keying, one can replace the background in a video.

29

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the 1800s, some actors also managed theaters.
- They were known as actor-managers.
- William Charles Macready managed the Covent Garden Theatre (London) from 1837 to 1839.
- He starred in a production of *Henry V* there in 1838.
- Laura Keene managed Laura Keene's Theatre (New York) from 1856 to 1863.
- She starred in a production of *The Seven Sisters* there in 1860.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between Macready and Keene. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Both Macready and Keene were managers of the Covent Garden Theatre in London, where they also starred in various plays.
- B) In the 1800s, some actors (such as Keene) also managed theaters; they were thus considered actor-managers.
- C) Macready managed a London theater, whereas Keene managed one in New York.
- D) As actor-managers, both Macready and Keene managed theaters where they also performed.

30

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Australian ecologist Alison Lullfitz studied the distribution of *Platysace deflexa* (youlk), a small shrub with edible tubers.
- Lullfitz found that youlk plants gathered at sites across southwest Australia had very similar DNA despite differences in soil conditions.
- Lullfitz hypothesized that humans had transported the plant throughout the region.
- Lullfitz consulted Shandell Cummings and Lynette Knapp, members of the area's Noongar Aboriginal group.
- Cummings and Knapp confirmed that their ancestors carried youlk when traveling across the region.

The student wants to explain Cummings and Knapp's contribution to Lullfitz's study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Lullfitz consulted Cummings and Knapp, members of the Noongar Aboriginal group, who assisted with her study of *Platysace deflexa*, a small shrub with edible tubers.
- B) Cummings and Knapp confirmed that DNA sequences from the *Platysace deflexa* plants Lullfitz had gathered were in fact very similar.
- C) By indicating that their ancestors transported *Platysace deflexa*, Cummings and Knapp provided information that supported Lullfitz's hypothesis.
- D) Lullfitz found that Cummings and Knapp had information relevant to her study of *Platysace deflexa*'s distribution.

31

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- 1905: US astronomer Percival Lowell begins searching beyond Neptune for a mysterious planet he calls "Planet X."
- 1916: Lowell dies but leaves money to upgrade his observatory.
- 1929: A new telescope is built at the observatory.
- February 1930: Observatory assistant Clyde Tombaugh records the first photographic evidence of Planet X.
- March 1930: Astronomers rename Planet X, calling it Pluto to honor Lowell (the first two letters are Lowell's initials, PL).

The student wants to specify Percival Lowell's contributions to the discovery of Pluto. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) In 1930, Lowell became the first person to record photographic evidence of Pluto, known at the time as Planet X.
- B) Lowell began the search for Pluto in 1905 and later left money to upgrade the observatory where it was discovered in 1930.
- C) After a new telescope was built at Lowell's observatory in 1929, Clyde Tombaugh recorded the first photographic evidence of Planet X, later renamed Pluto.
- D) Astronomers renamed Planet X in 1930 to honor Lowell for his contributions to the discovery of Pluto.

32

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Linguistic typologists classify and compare languages according to their structural features.
- One such structure is word order, or the way subjects (S), verbs (V), and objects (O) are typically arranged in a sentence.
- English employs an SVO word order (e.g., Cows eat grass).
- Bengali employs an SOV word order (e.g., Cows grass eat).
- Filipino employs a VSO word order (e.g., Eat cows grass).
- 87% of the world's languages are classified as either SVO or SOV.

The student wants to make a generalization about how word order is employed across languages. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The way in which subjects, verbs, and objects are typically arranged in a sentence is also called word order.
- B) Word order is one of the structural features by which linguistic typologists classify and compare the world's languages.
- C) Linguistic typologists analyze and compare how word order is employed across languages.
- D) The majority of languages place the subject of a sentence before the verb and object.

33

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Carbon can exist in several distinct structural forms called allotropes.
- Graphite is a carbon allotrope.
- Graphite is composed of stacked graphene sheets.
- Each graphene sheet is composed of carbon atoms arranged in a flat honeycomb pattern.
- Carbon nanotubes are carbon allotropes.
- They are composed of one or more graphene sheets wrapped into a cylindrical shape.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between carbon nanotubes and graphite. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Unlike carbon nanotubes, which are composed of sheets of carbon atoms arranged in a flat honeycomb pattern, graphite is a cylindrical carbon allotrope.
- B) Composed of sheets wrapped into a cylindrical shape, carbon nanotubes contrast with graphite, a carbon allotrope composed of graphene sheets.
- C) Graphite and carbon nanotubes are allotropes composed of stacked or wrapped graphene sheets, but carbon can exist in several distinct structural forms.
- D) The graphene sheets in graphite are stacked, whereas in carbon nanotubes, they form a cylinder.

STOP

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