

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

Bioluminescent beetles called fireflies may seem to create flashes of light randomly, but each species of firefly actually has its own special series of repeated flashes and pauses. These unique _____ allow fireflies of the same species to find each other.

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

- A) quantities
- B) decorations
- C) patterns
- D) agreements

2

As an architect in Los Angeles in the 1950s, Helen Liu Fong became known for avoiding _____ designs in her buildings. Instead of using standard shapes and colors, she typically explored innovative forms and daring hues.

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

- A) creative
- B) bold
- C) traditional
- D) understandable

3

The printing of Virginia Woolf's novels featured a creative _____ between Woolf and her sister Vanessa Bell: a talented painter, Bell worked closely with Woolf to create original cover art for most of the novels.

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

- A) rebellion
- B) partnership
- C) discovery
- D) disagreement

4

A brief book review cannot fully convey the _____ of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *The Books of Jacob*, with its enormous cast of characters, its complicated, wandering plot, and its page numbers that count backward (beginning at 965 and ending at 1).

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

- A) accuracy
- B) inactivity
- C) complexity
- D) restraint

5

Sumerian civilization (which lasted from around 3300 to 2000 BCE) _____ many concepts that persist into present-day civilizations: for example, the first description of the seven-day week appears in the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

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

- A) transformed
- B) introduced
- C) inherited
- D) overlooked

6

The following text is adapted from Louisa May Alcott's 1869 novel *An Old-Fashioned Girl*. Polly, a teenager, is visiting her friend Fanny.

Fanny's friends did not interest Polly much; she was rather afraid of them [because] they seemed so much older and wiser than herself, even those younger in years. They talked about things of which she knew nothing and when Fanny tried to explain, she didn't find them interesting; indeed, some of them rather shocked and puzzled her.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To portray Polly's reaction to Fanny's friends
- B) To identify the topics Polly talks about with Fanny's friends
- C) To explain how Fanny met some of her friends
- D) To illustrate how Fanny's friends feel about Polly

7

In 1801, a Blackfoot chief named Ac Ko Mok Ki drew a finely detailed map of the Upper Missouri region. This work demonstrates a vast amount of topographic knowledge, as the map features specific names of mountains and rivers, as well as the first-known sketch of the drainage network of the Missouri River. The map is especially notable because Ac Ko Mok Ki also included details about the numerous tribes that lived in the area.

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

- A) It emphasizes Ac Ko Mok Ki's desire to represent other tribes on the map.
- B) It explains how Ac Ko Mok Ki developed an interest in mapmaking.
- C) It identifies some reasons why the map is impressive.
- D) It details how the map was used for hunting and trading purposes.

8

Yawn contagion occurs when one individual yawns in response to another's yawn. Studies of this behavior in primates have focused on populations in captivity, but biologist Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues have shown that it can occur in wild primate populations as well. In their study, which focused on a wild population of gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*) in Ethiopia, the researchers further reported that yawn contagion most commonly occurred in males and across different social groups instead of within a single social group.

Which choice best describes the function of the first sentence in the text as a whole?

- A) It defines a phenomenon that is discussed in the text.
- B) It introduces a problem that is examined in the text.
- C) It makes a claim that is challenged in the text.
- D) It presents a hypothesis that is evaluated in the text.

9

The following text is adapted from Paul Laurence Dunbar's 1902 novel *The Sport of the Gods*. Joe and some of his family members have recently moved to New York City.

[Joe] was wild with enthusiasm and with a desire to be a part of all that the metropolis meant. In the evening he saw the young fellows passing by dressed in their spruce clothes, and he wondered with a sort of envy where they could be going. Back home there had been no place much worth going to, except church and one or two people's houses.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) It illustrates a character's reaction to a new environment.
- B) It explains why a character has traveled to a city.
- C) It compares a character's thoughts about an event at two different times of day.
- D) It presents a character feeling regret over leaving home.

10

The painter María Izquierdo played an important role in the development of twentieth-century Mexican art, but her work has never been well-known in the United States except among art historians. One reason for Izquierdo's relative obscurity is the enormous popularity of some of her peers. In particular, the painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera have so captivated the interest of US audiences that Izquierdo and other Mexican artists from the period often get overlooked, despite the high quality of their work.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Izquierdo's work is not as well-known in the United States as it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw so much of the public's attention.
- B) During Izquierdo's lifetime, her paintings were displayed in galleries in the United States much more frequently than paintings by Kahlo and Rivera were.
- C) Izquierdo painted some of the same subjects that Kahlo and Rivera painted but used different techniques than they used.
- D) Few of Izquierdo's works are in galleries today because she produced only a small number of paintings.

11

Moons of Dwarf Planets

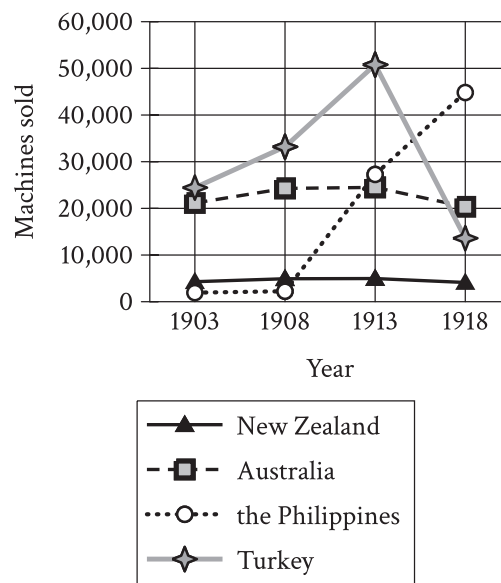
Dwarf planet name	Number of moons	Name of moons
Haumea	2	Hi'iaka, Namaka
Ceres	0	N/A
Makemake	1	MK 2
Eris	1	Dysnomia
Pluto	5	Charon, Nix, Kerberos, Styx, Hydra

Like Earth, some dwarf planets in the solar system have exactly one moon. Two examples of such dwarf planets are _____

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

- A) Eris and Makemake.
- B) Haumea and Eris.
- C) Pluto and Haumea.
- D) Makemake and Ceres.

12

Singer Sewing Machine Sales
in Four Countries, 1903–1918

By the early 1900s, the Singer Corporation, a US sewing machine manufacturer founded in 1851, began to see rapidly increasing sales abroad, particularly in Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. These markets were responsible for the bulk of Singer's overseas sales, but demand for the company's machines in other countries also grew significantly in the early twentieth century. For instance, sales of their sewing machines in _____

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

- A) the Philippines increased dramatically from 1908 to 1918.
- B) New Zealand were largely consistent from 1903 to 1918.
- C) Australia increased steadily from 1903 to 1918.
- D) Turkey declined substantially from 1913 to 1918.

13

Results of Footprint Analysis for Two Sets of
Theropod Tracks

Tracks	Estimated footprint length (centimeters)	Average stride length (meters)	Estimated mean speed (meters per second)
La Torre 6A	32.8	5.23	6.5–10.3
La Torre 6B	28.9	5.57	8.8–12.4

The table shows data from paleontologist Angélica Torices and colleagues' 2021 study of two sets of dinosaur tracks preserved in a fossilized lake bed in Spain. The tracks, referred to as La Torre 6A and La Torre 6B, were left by two individual theropods (dinosaurs that walked on two legs). The team's findings suggest that of the two theropods, the one that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a higher maximum mean speed, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim?

- A) a longer footprint, and a longer average stride.
- B) a longer footprint, and a shorter average stride.
- C) a shorter footprint, and a longer average stride.
- D) a shorter footprint, and a shorter average stride.

14

In 1967 the US Congress created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which in turn created National Public Radio (NPR). NPR began producing and distributing high-quality news and cultural programming to affiliate stations across the United States in 1971. In a research paper, a student claims that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR were inspired by the British Broadcasting System (BBC), which had been established in the 1920s.

Which quotation from a work by a historian would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

- A) "Although the BBC had begun as a private corporation, politicians successfully argued to make it a public company because they believed a public broadcaster could help build national unity in the aftermath of World War I."
- B) "For many decades, the BBC had no competition since it held Britain's only broadcasting license, whereas in the United States, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting launched NPR in a broadcasting market already filled with competitors."
- C) "Congress's embrace of publicly funded broadcasting reflected a common belief among US politicians that the role of government was not only to ensure people's safety and liberty but also to enrich people's lives in other ways."
- D) "The goal of the BBC was to support British democracy by promoting an informed citizenry, and US legislators believed that ensuring access to high-quality programming could do the same for democracy in the United States."

15

“Odalie” is an 1899 short story by Alice Dunbar-Nelson. In the story, a young woman named Odalie attends the annual Mardi Gras carnival in New Orleans, where she lives with her guardian Tante Louise. Dunbar-Nelson portrays Odalie as eager to escape the monotony of her everyday life: _____

Which quotation from “Odalie” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) “Mardi Gras was a tiresome day, after all, she sighed, and Tante Louise agreed with her for once.”
- B) “In the old French house on Royal Street, with its quaint windows and Spanish courtyard green and cool, and made musical by the plashing of the fountain and the trill of caged birds, lived Odalie in convent-like seclusion.”
- C) “When one is shut up in a great French house with a grim sleepy tante and no companions of one’s own age, life becomes a dull thing, and one is ready for any new sensation.”
- D) “It was Mardi Gras day at last, and early through her window Odalie could hear the jingle of folly bells on the [participants’] costumes, the tinkle of music, and the echoing strains of songs.”

16

Five of the Responses to Survey about Actions to Conserve Energy

Action	Action category	Percentage of respondents selecting action (%)
Use efficient cars/hybrids	efficiency	2.8
Change thermostat setting	curtailment	6.3
Use bike or public transportation instead of car	curtailment	12.9
Use efficient light bulbs	efficiency	3.6
Turn off lights	curtailment	19.6

In a survey of public perceptions of energy use, researcher Shahzeen Attari and her team asked respondents to name the most effective action ordinary people can take to conserve energy. The team categorized each action as either an efficiency or a curtailment and found that respondents tended to name curtailments more often than they did efficiencies. For example, 19.6% of respondents stated that the most effective way to conserve energy is to turn off the lights, while only _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A) 6.3% of respondents said it was most effective to use efficient cars or hybrids.
- B) 2.8% of respondents said it was most effective to change the thermostat setting.
- C) 12.9% of respondents said it was most effective to use a bike or public transportation.
- D) 3.6% of respondents said it was most effective to use efficient light bulbs.

17

An archaeological team led by Piotr Bieliński and Sultan al-Bakri found remnants of a 4,000-year-old Bronze Age board game at a site in Oman. Little is left of the game except a stone board, which is carved with a grid and has places to hold game pieces. Some scholars claim that the game was largely played by traders.

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

- A) Other examples of the game dating to the same period have been found in the remains of several homes in the region, including in one home that may have belonged to a trader.
- B) Similar games have been found in other sites dating to the same period that were connected to the site in Oman via trade routes.
- C) The other known examples of the game dating to the same period have been found along routes that seem to have been used primarily by traders at the time.
- D) Remnants of other goods have been found at the site in Oman that probably also reached the location through trade.

18

Swahili Speakers in Three African Countries

Country	Approximate number of speakers (in millions)	Estimated % of population
Democratic Republic of the Congo	22	25
Kenya	55	100
Tanzania	61	100

Swahili is estimated to be the first language of up to 15 million people worldwide. It's also an officially recognized language in Tanzania, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which means these countries use Swahili in government documents and proceedings. But even in countries where almost everyone speaks Swahili, for many it isn't their first language but is instead their second, third, or even fourth language.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the underlined claim?

- A) Tanzania has approximately 61 million Swahili speakers, which is much more than the estimated total number of people worldwide for whom Swahili is their first language.
- B) Tanzania is estimated to have at most 15 million Swahili speakers, while the country's total population is approximately 61 million people.
- C) Approximately 100 percent of the people who speak Swahili as their first language live in Kenya, which has a total population of approximately 55 million people.
- D) Approximately 100 percent of Kenya's population speaks Swahili, while only about 25 percent of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's population speaks Swahili.

19

Obsidian is a kind of volcanic glass formed when lava cools so quickly that the atoms inside it cannot arrange themselves in a crystalline structure. You _____ more about obsidian's structure, which is classified as amorphous, in a later chapter.

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

- A) had learned
- B) had been learning
- C) will learn
- D) have learned

20

With its towering, six-spired exterior of granitelike quartz monzonite, the Salt Lake Temple is one of the most instantly recognizable structures in the state of Utah. However, many people do not know that _____ built over the course of forty years, with construction beginning in 1853 and ending in 1893.

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

- A) it was
- B) one was
- C) they were
- D) both were

21

Human-made (synthetic) fibers used in clothes and many other consumer products are more durable than most natural plant _____ the manufacture of synthetic fibers requires toxic chemical solvents that can pollute air and water.

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

- A) fibers,
- B) fibers but
- C) fibers
- D) fibers, but

22

The fine, powdery substance that covers the Moon's surface is called regolith. Because regolith is both readily available and high in oxygen _____ scientists have wondered whether it could be used as a potential source of oxygen for future lunar settlements.

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

- A) content and
- B) content,
- C) content
- D) content, and

23

Each year in the fall, when the weather starts to cool in the northern hemisphere, millions of North American monarch butterflies journey south. Searching for food and warmer habitats, they _____ thousands of miles—from as far north as Canada all the way down to Mexico—on this annual migration.

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

- A) flew
- B) were flying
- C) had flown
- D) fly

24

Objects ranging from the Kikkoman soy sauce bottle to the Yamaha VMAX motorcycle to the Komachi bullet train _____ designed by twentieth-century industrial designer Kenji Ekuan.

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

- A) was
- B) is
- C) has been
- D) were

25

“Praise Song for the Day,” Elizabeth Alexander’s 2009 inaugural poem, asserts that “We cross dirt roads and highways...to see what’s on the other side.” Alexander’s use of “we” _____ Americans’ collective efforts and shared desire to seek new opportunity.

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

- A) evokes
- B) are evoking
- C) have evoked
- D) evoke

26

Author Madeline L’Engle, _____ to create a suspenseful tone that draws the reader in, begins her novel *A Wrinkle in Time* with descriptions of “wraithlike shadows” and “the frenzied lashing of the wind.”

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

- A) looked
- B) looks
- C) is looking
- D) looking

27

In 1955, Indian Bengali filmmaker Satyajit Ray released his first movie, *Pather* _____ quiet black-and-white drama about a family in rural India, Ray’s film was quite different from the loud, colorful action-romance movies that were popular at the time.

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

- A) *Panchali* a
- B) *Panchali*, which was a
- C) *Panchali*, a
- D) *Panchali*. A

28

A recent study tracked the number of bee species present in twenty-seven New York apple orchards over a ten-year period. _____ found that when wild growth near an orchard was cleared, the number of different bee species visiting the orchard decreased.

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

- A) Entomologist Heather Grab:
- B) Entomologist, Heather Grab,
- C) Entomologist Heather Grab
- D) Entomologist Heather Grab,

29

Tyrian purple was a highly prized dye among the Phoenicians (an ancient civilization located in present-day Lebanon). The Phoenicians were famous for using this natural dye to color their clothes a distinctive purple. _____ the name “Phoenicia” itself, some historians claim, may have originally meant “land of purple.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In fact,
- B) Regardless,
- C) Lastly,
- D) On the contrary,

30

In Gothic architecture, flying buttresses are large arches that help support a building’s exterior walls. Before the Gothic era, cathedrals’ heavy ceilings had to be supported by thick, short walls, but the invention of flying buttresses eliminated this need. _____ Gothic cathedrals could be built with thinner, higher walls.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Similarly,
- B) For instance,
- C) Nevertheless,
- D) As a result,

31

In 1873, Spanish scientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal observed that brain fibers have distinct boundaries with clear end points, a finding that went against earlier assumptions about the brain. _____ scientists had assumed that the brain was a continuous web of fused fibers, not a vast network of distinct, individual cells.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) However,
- B) Previously,
- C) As a result,
- D) Likewise,

32

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

- The Sasanian Empire lasted about 400 years (AD 224 to AD 651).
- The Sasanians controlled an area spanning 1.4 million square miles.
- This area included present-day Iran and Iraq.
- The empire's capital was the ancient city of Ctesiphon.
- Ctesiphon was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

The student wants to specify the location of Ctesiphon. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The Sasanian Empire began in AD 224 and ended in AD 651.
- B) The capital of the Sasanian Empire, which spanned 1.4 million square miles, was Ctesiphon.
- C) The Sasanians controlled an area of 1.4 million square miles, including present-day Iran and Iraq.
- D) Ctesiphon, the capital of the Sasanian Empire, was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

33

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

- In the art world, the term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location.
- Such biennials are held in New York, Berlin, and Venice.
- In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the unconventional MexiCali Biennial.
- The MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on both sides of the US-Mexico border.
- The MexiCali Biennial has taken place on an uneven schedule, with exhibitions in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the MexiCali Biennial, which has taken place in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.
- B) Unlike traditional biennials, the MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.
- C) The term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location, not to exhibitions hosted at a variety of times and venues.
- D) Biennial exhibitions have been held in New York, Berlin, and Venice but also on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

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