

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

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. Alice, a child, is talking to her cat.

“Do you hear the snow against the window-panes, Kitty? How nice and soft it sounds! Just as if someone was kissing the window all over outside.”

As used in the text, what does the word “soft” most nearly mean?

- A) Gentle
- B) Sensitive
- C) Shapeless
- D) Bland

2

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 story “The Wife of His Youth.” Mr. Ryder is hosting a formal gathering where he will propose marriage to the woman he has been courting.

[A] younger and less cautious man would long since have spoken. But he had made up his mind, and had only to determine the time when he would ask her to be his wife. He decided to give a ball in her honor, and at some time during the evening of the ball to offer her his heart and hand.

As used in the text, what does the word “determine” most nearly mean?

- A) Choose
- B) Influence
- C) Demonstrate
- D) Measure

3

It would be a mistake to _____ the exhibit that artist and curator Joe Baker, who is a member of the Lenape (Delaware) people, has organized at the Brooklyn Public Library. The exhibit, which includes Lenape beadwork from the 1850s as well as modern works that use traditional patterns, is essential viewing.

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

- A) complicate
- B) amplify
- C) overlook
- D) assemble

4

Archaeologist Erika Karuzas works with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana to preserve culturally significant sites. In 2015 they decided that creating a new national trail connecting many of these sites would _____ their preservation efforts, because the US government provides some protections to national trails that aren't given to other areas.

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

- A) inspire
- B) ignore
- C) promote
- D) reduce

5

Researcher Lucy Salazar is using radiocarbon dating to study Machu Picchu, an ancient Incan fortress in the Andes Mountains. She and her colleagues have found that the site's age differs from the _____ estimate: it is approximately 20 years older than scholars thought when first encountering Machu Picchu in 1911.

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

- A) genuine
- B) intentional
- C) independent
- D) original

6

The following text is adapted from Jason Reynolds's 2016 novel *Ghost*. The narrator, who is in middle school, is at a bus stop.

I just go there [to the bus stop] to look at the people working out. See, the gym across the street has this big window—like the whole wall is a window—and they have those machines that make you feel like you walking up steps and so everybody just be facing the bus stop, looking all crazy like they're about to pass out. And trust me, there ain't nothing funnier than that. So I check that out for a little while like it's some kind of movie: *The About to Pass Out Show*, starring stair-stepper person one through ten.

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Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To give a reason why the narrator is excited to start middle school
- B) To describe an activity that the narrator finds amusing
- C) To explain a problem that the narrator has overcome
- D) To discuss a movie that the narrator saw in a theater

7

In 2020, rap artist and professor A.D. Carson published the first peer-reviewed rap album about his experiences with Black masculinity called “i used to love to dream.” Typically in peer review, experts evaluate scholarly articles prior to publication. For Carson’s album, dubbed a “mixtape/e/essay,” peer review involved both scholars and rap artists. In combining elements of a mixtape album with scholarly essays that connect Carson’s lyrics to historical and contemporary contexts for listeners both inside and outside academia, Carson’s album helped redefine how scholarship is created and shared.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums
- B) To capture one scholar’s opinion of a new rap album
- C) To explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative
- D) To describe how each step of the peer review process unfolds

8

Historians have argued that a crucial component of the Civil Rights Movement’s success in the 1960s was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Citizen Education Program (CEP), which invited promising activists from across the South to its one-week training sessions in Dorchester, Georgia. Led by experienced organizers such as Dorothy Cotton and Septima Clark, CEP attendees—more than 7,000 in all—participated in workshops on topics ranging from public speaking to legal doctrine before returning home and using their newly acquired knowledge to spearhead local civil rights initiatives.

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

- A) It underscores the extent of the CEP’s impact on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- B) It illustrates the CEP organizers’ efforts to educate participants on a wide variety of topics.
- C) It suggests that CEP attendees held a diverse array of opinions about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s political philosophy.
- D) It establishes that criticism of the CEP was limited to a few individuals in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

9

Text 1

Flamingos are known for their vibrant pink coloring, but they're actually born with gray feathers. Their pink color comes from eating brine shrimp, but brine shrimp aren't naturally pink either. Animals can't produce carotenoids, the pigments that provide the pink hue. The algae that brine shrimp feed on, however, can produce these pigments. Thus, the pinker the flamingo, the more shrimp it has eaten.

Text 2

Ecologist Juan Amat has found that flamingos apply a kind of makeup to make themselves appear pinker. A gland near their tail contains pigments that come from the food they eat. When the flamingos groom themselves using the pigments, their feathers become pinker. Flamingos may do this to improve their success during mating season, when they would benefit from looking pinker.

Based on the texts, how would the ecologist in Text 2 most likely respond to the author's conclusion in Text 1?

- A) By emphasizing that flamingos' tail feathers are pinker than their other feathers are
- B) By claiming that the coloring of flamingos' feathers doesn't change significantly enough for most observers to notice
- C) By pointing out that the amount of shrimp eaten isn't the only thing that influences flamingos' coloring
- D) By arguing that flamingos' diet doesn't include much shrimp except during mating season

10

The following text is from Beatrice Harraden's 1894 novel *Ships that Pass in the Night*.

In an old second-hand bookshop in London, an old man sat reading Gibbon's *History of Rome*. He did not put down his book when the postman brought him a letter. He just glanced indifferently at the letter, and impatiently at the postman. Zerviah Holme did not like to be interrupted when he was reading Gibbon; and as he was always reading Gibbon, an interruption was always regarded by him as an insult.

Based on the text, how did Zerviah Holme most likely feel when the letter was delivered?

- A) He felt relieved because he had been expecting an important letter.
- B) He felt excited because the letter was from a good friend.
- C) He felt sad because the postman did not stop to talk with him before leaving.
- D) He felt annoyed because he was interrupted while reading his favorite author.

11

During the World War II era, some Mexican American women adopted a striking new look called *pachuca* style. They wore altered men's jackets or zoot suits (wide-legged, long-coated suits) and dramatic makeup, and they combed their hair into high, rounded shapes. Some people criticized *pachuca* style, saying it was dangerous and women should dress traditionally. But historians see things differently. They see *pachuca* style as a form of rebellion against the era's rigid social expectations for women. They say that it showed a desire for self-expression and freedom on the part of women who adopted the style.

According to the text, how do historians view *pachuca* style?

- A) They think that *pachuca* style was such a popular trend that it continues to influence fashion in the United States to the present day.
- B) They think that *pachuca* style was a way for some Mexican American women to express themselves and resist strict social expectations.
- C) They think that *pachuca* style was celebrated because it enabled some Mexican American women to show their support for the United States during World War II.
- D) They think that *pachuca* style was similar to other fashion trends that different groups of women adopted in the same period.

12

Paleontologist Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones found in New Zealand that are more than 55 million years old. The researchers determined that the fossil bones belonged to two previously unknown species of prehistoric penguins. Moreover, they estimated that one of the two penguin species was more than three times the size of the emperor penguin, which is the largest penguin species that exists today.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the two previously unknown penguin species?

- A) They are frequently studied by paleontologists.
- B) They are no longer living species.
- C) They were smaller than penguin species that exist today.
- D) They spent little of their lives in water.

13

Using the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a team of astronomers mapped out the magnetic field of G47, one of the Milky Way's galactic bones (dense clouds of gas and dust that run through the middle of the arm of a spiral galaxy). Surprisingly, the map revealed a magnetic field with no clear pattern or direction. The researchers had expected the magnetic field to be similar to the more uniform fields seen in galactic bones in other arms of the Milky Way.

According to the text, what was surprising about the researchers' mapping of the magnetic field of galactic bone G47?

- A) It showed a weaker magnetic field than expected.
- B) It implied that previous mappings of the magnetic field were inaccurate.
- C) It produced magnetic field measurements similar to those for other galactic bones.
- D) It revealed a magnetic field that wasn't uniform.

14

Artificial leaves are a developing renewable energy technology that mimics the process of photosynthesis in plants. These devices are silicon-based solar cells coated in chemical catalysts that activate reactions that split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen gas. The technology, while generating lots of interest, is not yet commercially viable as a large-scale energy source. To meet this challenge, scientists from many fields are researching ways to store, transport, and distribute the energy the devices produce while other scientists are working to improve the cost and efficiency of the devices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Continued research and development in artificial-leaf technology is needed before the devices can be widely used as an energy source.
- B) The recent increase in the commercial use of artificial leaves as an energy source has encouraged many scientists to research ways to improve the technology.
- C) Artificial leaves split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen gas using catalysts more efficiently than plants do using the process of photosynthesis.
- D) Artificial leaves were developed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis in plants in order to store energy for long-term commercial use.

15

Number of Museum Visits (in Millions)
from 2016 to 2019

Museum	2016	2017	2018	2019
National Museum of the American Indian	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.96
National Museum of African American History and Culture	0.73	2.4	1.9	2.0

A student is researching the number of visits each year to two museums, the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Of the four years included in the table, the year when both museums had the highest number of visits was _____

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

- A) 2016.
- B) 2018.
- C) 2019.
- D) 2017.

16

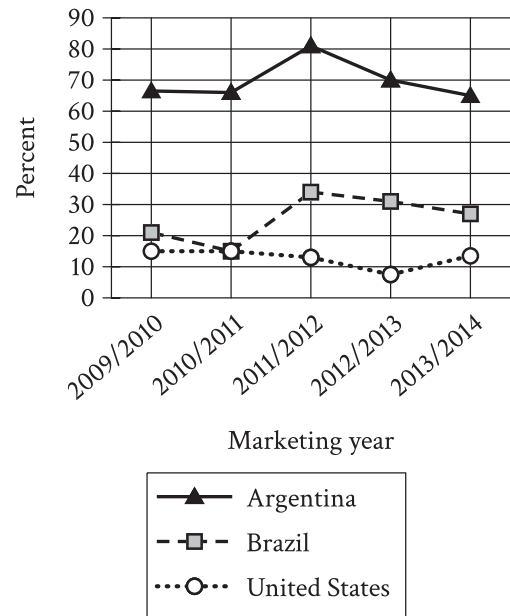
Researchers Narelle Haworth and Amy Schramm studied bicycling behavior in Queensland, Australia. Haworth and Schramm asked adult bike riders questions about their level of experience, reasons for riding a bike, and route preferences. The researchers claim that experienced riders who mainly bike to work tend to prefer routes that reduce their travel time.

Which survey response from a bike rider in Queensland would best support the underlined claim?

- A) "I have a bike, but I don't ride it very often. When the weather is nice, I sometimes use my bike to go into town to do some shopping."
- B) "I just got a new bike, and I'm looking forward to going on rides with my friends soon."
- C) "I bike to my job every day. There's a nice bike path that goes through a park, but I use the bike lane on the main road because it's faster."
- D) "I usually bike to work, but I'm taking the bus now because my bike has a broken part that needs to be fixed."

17

Percentage of Maize Exported
by Three Countries for Marketing
Years 2009/2010–2013/2014



Argentina, Brazil, and the United States are among the world's leading producers of maize (corn), and each country exports a certain percentage of maize each marketing year, which runs from March to February in Argentina and Brazil and from September to August in the United States. A student is researching those percentages and finds that for the marketing year 2012/2013, the percentage of maize exported by _____

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

- A) Brazil increased from the previous marketing year but remained lower than the percentage exported by the United States.
- B) Brazil exceeded the percentage exported by Argentina for the first time.
- C) Argentina decreased from the previous marketing year but remained the highest among the three countries.
- D) the United States reached its highest point during the five marketing years.

18

Marine archaeologists have found much of the wooden hull of a sixteenth-century ship in a flooded quarry in southeast England. When it is exposed to air and water, wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment that shields it from oxygen. Therefore, the discovered ship was likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) covered by a protective sediment layer in the quarry.
- B) one of several other ships buried in the same quarry.
- C) a confirmation of previous theories about the type of wood that was used in sixteenth-century ships.
- D) first constructed much earlier than previously thought.

19

In 2009, researchers determined that pottery fragments from a cave in China were close to 18,000 years old. These are some of the oldest _____ of pottery ever found.

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

- A) pieces:
- B) pieces,
- C) pieces
- D) pieces—

20

Azulejos, mosaics made of glazed ceramic tiles, can be found throughout Portugal. These mosaics beautify places such as _____ stations, and public squares.

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

- A) libraries train
- B) libraries: train
- C) libraries—train
- D) libraries, train

21

Located in the northern United States, the Great Lakes Basin contains roughly 35,000 islands. Lake Superior has Grand Island, for example. Lake Michigan has Belle Isle. Lake Huron, though, is home _____ the largest island of them all: Manitoulin Island.

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

- A) to;
- B) to—
- C) to
- D) to,

22

The First Folio, published in 1623, is the first collection of William Shakespeare's plays. The collection _____ 18 plays that might otherwise have been lost, such as *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth*.

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

- A) to be including
- B) including
- C) to include
- D) includes

23

Multiple newspapers _____ the Spanish-speaking population of Washington, DC, including *El Tiempo Latino* and *Washington Hispanic*.

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

- A) serve
- B) having served
- C) to serve
- D) serving

24

In the Inca Empire (1438–1533), ayllus _____ family clans that ranged in size from small groups to thousands of people.

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

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

25

The city of Amsterdam partnered with consultants to develop Public Eye—an ethical AI-powered crowd-monitoring _____ video streamed from cameras in heavily touristed areas, the AI algorithm determines crowd sizes without, in the interest of protecting individuals' privacy, retaining the footage.

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

- A) system—analyzing
- B) system, analyzing
- C) system. Analyzing
- D) system analyzing

26

Ballet dancer Misty Copeland has accomplished a lot. She has appeared on Broadway, toured with Prince, and even served on the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. _____ according to Copeland, nothing in her career matches the honor of being the first African American woman named principal dancer at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Thus,
- B) However,
- C) For example,
- D) Second of all,

27

Preston Singletary is a Tlingit glass artist who often collaborates with other artists. _____ he has worked with Tewa pottery artist Jody Naranjo several times. Together, Singletary and Naranjo have created pottery-inspired glass pieces such as *Sunset Stampede* and *Kiva Steps*.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In conclusion,
- B) For example,
- C) However,
- D) In comparison,

28

The 435 state districts in the US House of Representatives are designed to be roughly equal in population. These districts average around 760,000 people in size. However, only about 730,000 people live in the state of Alaska. _____ Alaska has just one House district, encompassing the entire state.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) As a result,
- B) Instead,
- C) Finally,
- D) For instance,

29

A 2022 study by researchers Hala Altamimi and Qiaozhen Liu investigated the relationship between nonprofit arts organizations’ spending and performance. _____ the researchers examined the correlation between how much 22,328 US arts nonprofits spent on overhead—operational costs such as equipment and fundraising—and how many people attended their events (a measure of overall success).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Thus,
- B) In addition,
- C) By comparison,
- D) Specifically,

30

Ugandan American professor Peter Nazareth believed that Elvis Presley’s music is best understood not as a homogeneous collection but as an anthology (because Elvis showcased the contributions of a wide range of gospel, blues, and rock artists). _____

Nazareth entitled his college course on Elvis and his music, which focused on Elvis’s many musical influences, “Elvis as Anthology.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) To that end,
- B) In sum,
- C) That is,
- D) In addition,

31

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

- In 1897, twenty Black US Army infantrymen rode bicycles from Montana to Missouri.
- The 1,900-mile journey took forty-one days.
- The goal was to test the idea of forming a military bicycle corps.
- In 2022, Erick Cedeño, a Black long-distance cyclist, reenacted the journey.
- Cedeño wanted to honor the infantrymen on the journey’s 125th anniversary.

The student wants to emphasize how far the infantrymen traveled. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The US infantrymen rode their bicycles from Montana to Missouri—traveling a total of 1,900 miles.
- B) The 125th anniversary of the infantrymen’s journey was in 2022.
- C) The goal of the 1897 journey was to test the idea of forming a military bicycle corps.
- D) Over a century later, Erick Cedeño honored the infantrymen by reenacting their 1897 journey.

32

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

- Crown shyness is a phenomenon in which the tops (crowns) of neighboring trees grow close together but don't overlap.
- To explain how this happens, Australian forester M.R. Jacobs proposes the mutual abrasion theory.
- According to Jacobs's theory, when trees brush against one another, branches break off.
- Malaysian scholar Francis S.P. Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory.
- According to Ng's theory, when tree branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches, they stop growing.

The student wants to compare the causes of crown shyness proposed in the two theories. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) While Jacobs proposes that crown shyness is caused by neighboring tree branches brushing against one another, Ng posits that it occurs when branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches.
- B) Both Jacobs and Ng have proposed theories to explain what causes crown shyness.
- C) Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory, whereas Jacobs proposes an alternative theory.
- D) Jacobs's mutual abrasion theory proposes that when neighboring trees brush against one another, branches break off, resulting in a phenomenon in which the tops of trees grow close together but don't overlap.

33

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

- Thailand's annual Songkran Water Festival is held each April.
- It marks Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year.
- People splash and spray each other for fun at the festival's community-wide water fights.
- In Bangkok, thousands gather along Silom Road for the city's largest water fight.
- In Chiang Mai, thousands gather at a historical monument called the Tha Phae Gate for the city's largest water fight.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity in how people in Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The largest water fight in Bangkok takes place along a city street, whereas the largest water fight in Chiang Mai takes place at a historical monument.
- B) In both Bangkok and Chiang Mai, thousands gather to celebrate Songkran with water fights.
- C) People in both Bangkok and Chiang Mai celebrate Songkran, but they don't do so in exactly the same way.
- D) Each April, people in Thailand celebrate Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year.

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.**