

# 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

Brazilian artist Camila Rosa started her career with a female street art collective called Coletivo Chá. Rosa says that her artistic style has been \_\_\_\_\_ by her time in the group and her interest in things like punk rock and political movements. Those inspirations can be seen in her artworks' references to identity and social justice.

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

- A) copied
- B) believed
- C) influenced
- D) debated

2

Some animals can wiggle their ears to find prey. Many people think that most humans can't wiggle their ears, maybe because we don't need to do it for survival. But in a 2020 study, Daniel Strauss and team found that study participants made small ear movements without realizing it while listening to podcasts. This finding could suggest that humans might have some \_\_\_\_\_ to wiggle their ears.

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

- A) kindness
- B) capacity
- C) weakness
- D) job

3

Greek mythology has influenced artists for centuries and has \_\_\_\_\_ such works as Richard Hunt's 1958 sculpture *Hero Construction* and Pierre Alechinsky's 1967 painting *The Complex of the Sphinx*. Hunt and Alechinsky both drew on Greek mythology to spark their creativity.

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

- A) evaluated
- B) reenacted
- C) satisfied
- D) inspired

4

To assist with the development of new water-repellent materials for aviation and other applications, a team including both engineers and entomologists conducted a study of the water-repellent properties of cicada wings. The team explained that the \_\_\_\_\_ experts in these two disciplines resulted in a more comprehensive approach than independent efforts by experts in either discipline could have achieved.

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

- A) skepticism toward
- B) distrust among
- C) collaboration between
- D) exaggeration of

5

The Egyptian plover—a bird native to Africa—has a type of symbiotic relationship with the Nile crocodile. While a crocodile rests on land with its mouth open for extended periods of time, the plover eats the food that is stuck in the crocodile's teeth. This \_\_\_\_\_ relationship provides a nutritious meal for the bird and removes potentially dangerous bacteria from the crocodile's mouth.

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

- A) interchangeable
- B) reciprocal
- C) inefficient
- D) unequal

6

The following text is from Robert Lowell's 1964 poem "For the Union Dead." The South Boston Aquarium closed permanently in 1954.

The old South Boston Aquarium stands  
in a Sahara of snow now. Its broken windows are  
boarded.

The bronze weathervane cod has lost half its  
scales.

The airy tanks are dry.

©2003 by Robert Lowell

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To argue that a building should be rehabilitated
- B) To explain why a once-popular building was abandoned
- C) To describe details of the deteriorated state of a building
- D) To contrast the effects of different kinds of weather on a building

7

Scientists discovered a 390-million-year-old fossilized forest of *Calamophyton* trees in modern-day England. The scientists believe the emergence of these *Calamophyton* forests changed the land significantly. For example, the tree roots would have greatly reduced soil erosion, and the accumulated twigs the trees shed likely created new habitats for animal life.

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

- A) It illustrates how *Calamophyton* forests likely changed conditions on the land.
- B) It indicates how fast the *Calamophyton* forest spread.
- C) It suggests that there are likely fossilized *Calamophyton* forests from before 390 million years ago.
- D) It provides two competing views of when the *Calamophyton* forest likely emerged.

8

The first souvenir postcards in the United States were sold at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. People bought them to mail to family and friends or to keep as collectibles. Extremely popular, these postcards sparked a craze for souvenir postcards that lasted into the early 1900s: tourists bought postcards showing pictures of scenery and attractions from across the US, and billions of souvenir postcards were sent through the mail.

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

- A) It illustrates the popularity of souvenir postcards during a particular historical period.
- B) It compares what early souvenir postcards in the US looked like with what postcards from other countries looked like.
- C) It explains why tourism became more widespread in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- D) It describes the various kinds of souvenirs that were available at the Chicago World's Fair.

9

The Marsalis family is often referred to as “the first family of jazz.” Four of the children of celebrated pianist Ellis Marsalis Jr. went on to become performers who are also critically acclaimed: drummer Jason, trombonist Delfeayo, saxophonist Branford, and trumpeter Wynton. Wynton notably went on to become the first jazz composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music (for his oratorio *Blood on the Fields*).

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A) To compare the artistic achievements of several musicians
- B) To emphasize why musicians should work together
- C) To show why a particular musician won a major award
- D) To explain why a family of musicians received a nickname

10

The following text is from Rebecca Balcárcel's 2019 novel *The Other Half of Happy*.

I live in a tilted house. A bowling ball on our living room floor would roll past the couch, past the dining table, all the way to the kitchen sink. And if the sink wasn't there and the wall wasn't there and the bathroom behind *that* wasn't there, the ball would roll all the way to my room at the end of the house. That's what it's like being twelve. Everything rolling toward you.

©2019 by Rebecca Balcárcel

Based on the text, which choice best describes the narrator's house?

- A) It is slanted.
- B) It has only one room.
- C) It is colorful.
- D) It was built forty years ago.

11

Musician and astronomer Darsan Swaroop Bellie researches gravitational waves. These invisible waves move very quickly through space. They cannot be viewed through a telescope, but they do make sounds that can be detected with special equipment. In his musical composition *Dance of the Black Holes*, Bellie demonstrates what gravitational waves might sound like as two black holes merge in space. With this composition and others, Bellie hopes to make aspects of science more accessible.

According to the text, what is the subject of Bellie's research?

- A) Music history
- B) Ocean currents
- C) Gravitational waves
- D) Space travel

12

Zebras' stripes serve to keep away flies. This hypothesis has been supported by the results of several experiments. Recently, for example, researcher Kaia J. Tombak and a team released flies into an enclosure containing uniform (nonstriped) and striped animal pelts. As expected, the flies mostly avoided landing on the striped pelts.

What does the text suggest about the flies in Tombak and her team's experiment?

- A) They proved difficult for Tombak and her team to observe.
- B) They behaved in ways that surprised Tombak and her team.
- C) They landed on all the animal pelts in the enclosure about the same number of times.
- D) They preferred landing on the uniform animal pelts in the enclosure.

13

Habitat navigation is a skill that helps animals reach food or safety. To test how navigation works in fish, Shachar Givon and colleagues taught goldfish to drive a vehicle—a motorized fish tank with wheels—on land. The vehicle was programmed to move in the same direction that the fish swam in within the tank. In the experiment, the fish were tasked with driving their tank to a pink board. They received a treat when they succeeded, and they often did. Because the fish could move their tank to the board, Givon concludes that their navigational skills aren't specific to an aquatic environment.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Researchers can train animals to complete many different tasks when they offer the animals treats.
- B) Fish can navigate only within their natural aquatic environment in order to find food and safety.
- C) Research shows that although they live in the water, fish can navigate on land with a little mechanical help.
- D) An animal's navigational skills directly depend on that animal's particular environment.

14

Commedia dell'arte was a type of theater that emerged in Italy in the 1500s. It became popular throughout Western Europe. In commedia dell'arte, actors didn't have a script. Instead, they created their dialogue and actions onstage in the moment. Actors in these plays also usually wore stylized masks. In a research paper, a student argues that doing so affected how the actors portrayed their characters.

Which quotation from a historian would most directly support the student's argument?

- A) "After almost vanishing in the 1800s, commedia dell'arte once again became popular in Italy and Great Britain for a brief period in the 1960s and 1970s."
- B) "The use of masks in commedia dell'arte can be traced directly to the theater of ancient Rome."
- C) "Masks are also worn in the traditional theater of China, India, and Maya communities in Mexico and Central America."
- D) "Since their faces were hidden by masks, actors in commedia dell'arte used hand gestures and other movements of their bodies to display emotions."

15

Based on findings from fossil sites, paleobotanists had developed the so-called partition hypothesis, which holds that there were two distinctly different kinds of biomes during the Devonian period (circa 360 to 420 million years ago). One was a tropical deltaic forest biome home to plants such as the fernlike *Eospermatopteris*, and the other was an arid floodplain forest biome home to plants such as the coniferlike *Archaeopteris*. Recently, however, evolutionary ecologist Khudadad Khudadad examined the remnants of a Devonian forest in what is now Cairo, New York, and concluded that evidence from the Cairo site is inconsistent with the partition hypothesis.

Which finding about the Cairo site, if true, would most directly support Khudadad's conclusion?

- A) The site appears to have been a tropical deltaic forest early in the Devonian period but transitioned to an arid floodplain forest after the end of the Devonian period.
- B) Although the site appears to have been a tropical deltaic forest during the Devonian period, fossil evidence suggests that *Eospermatopteris* was present at that time.
- C) The site appears to have been an arid floodplain forest during the Devonian period and contains fossil evidence of contemporaneous *Eospermatopteris* and *Archaeopteris*.
- D) Fossil evidence from the site suggests that several forest plant species other than *Eospermatopteris* and *Archaeopteris* lived there during the Devonian period.

16

Archaeologists have traditionally thought that many cities in ancient Mesopotamia, including Uruk and Ur, lay on the extremely dry banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Jennifer Pournelle and her team found evidence that the land these ancient cities sat on consisted of marshy wetlands. This finding suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the land many ancient Mesopotamian cities sat on wasn't as dry as previously believed.
- B) people in Ur engaged in trade with people from many parts of ancient Mesopotamia.
- C) far fewer fish species are found in rivers today than in ancient times.
- D) Uruk was founded at an earlier time than Ur was.

17

Early humans living near the Shinfa-Metema 1 site in present-day Ethiopia faced challenging conditions. The area regularly experienced severe aridity, and the Toba supervolcano eruption nearly 74,000 years ago created an even harsher environment. Some believe these conditions forced humans to relocate, but paleontologist John Kappelman and his team analyzed chipped stones and fossilized animal remains from the site that showed humans were living there after the eruption. Also, the climate at this time caused shallower rivers, which Kappelman hypothesizes would have made catching fish easier. The fossil record indeed shows a decline in the ratio of terrestrial mammals to fish in humans' diets in this period, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) rather than relocating, the humans living at the Shinfa-Metema 1 site likely increased in number.
- B) the extreme dryness at this time forced early humans living near the Shinfa-Metema 1 site to move to different locations.
- C) terrestrial mammals fed at rivers around the Shinfa-Metema 1 site more frequently following the Toba eruption than they had before the eruption.
- D) early humans living around the Shinfa-Metema 1 site adapted to environmental challenges by changing the way they acquired food.

18

Nicholas Baumard and colleagues have outlined a method for analyzing popular cultural artifacts (literature, paintings, sculptures, etc.) for their psychological content (sadness, joy, love, etc.) in the hope of revealing psychological trends in a population over time. They reason that recent successes in training algorithms to identify features of digitized texts and images in a humanlike manner suggest that an algorithm could likewise be trained specifically to identify psychological features. This tool might therefore allow historians to discern relationships between psychological shifts in a population and concurrent historical events. But the team cautions that, necessarily, such an algorithm could only be verified to reflect how contemporary people think and therefore \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) should be used prudently because it might not reflect aspects of the psychology of past populations.
- B) should be preserved after training to represent a snapshot of the population at a certain time.
- C) should not be used to make judgments about more than one artifact at a time.
- D) should not be used in conjunction with traditional historical research practices.

19

In the twentieth century, many countries developed secret codes. These codes were used \_\_\_\_\_ plans during wartime.

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

- A) communicates
- B) to communicate
- C) have communicated
- D) communicate

20

Observational drawing and constructive drawing are two different approaches to \_\_\_\_\_ observational approach involves looking at a subject and drawing it as you see it. For the constructive approach, however, you have to think about the shape and characteristics of a subject, and then use your imagination to draw it.

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

- A) art, the
- B) art. The
- C) art (the
- D) art the

21

An analysis of past earnings data for nearly 5,000 US companies indicated a link between a company's market value and its strategy for managing its vulnerability to climate change. The data, collected between 2002 and 2018, show that companies that identified their level of risk and developed a mitigation plan received higher valuations than companies that \_\_\_\_\_ their risks but didn't create a plan.

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

- A) will determine
- B) are determining
- C) determined
- D) determine

22

The Tuskegee University Archives' collection includes an original 1957 photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. addressing a group of Tuskegee civil rights activists. Taken by P.H. Polk, the photo \_\_\_\_\_ King in profile, the glow of a stage light casting his silhouette onto the curtains behind him.

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

- A) shows
- B) having shown
- C) showing
- D) to show

23

A number of scientific phenomena have been named after nineteenth-century Czech physiologist Jan Evangelista Purkinje, including the Purkinje effect, which \_\_\_\_\_ the eye's tendency to perceive objects as blue tinted in low-light conditions.

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

- A) will have been
- B) was
- C) has been
- D) is

24

Before the Spanish arrived in the 1400s, the people of La Gomera, one of the Canary Islands, would use a whistled version of their native language to "speak" to each other from far away. Amazingly, under Spanish rule, the \_\_\_\_\_ adapted their whistling skills to whistle to each other in Spanish.

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

- A) islands residents'
- B) island's resident's
- C) island's residents
- D) islands resident's

25

Kizomba, a genre of dance that originated in Angola, has become an international \_\_\_\_\_. 2022, the Indian dance duo known as Elvis and Namrata defeated performers from around the world to win the annual Olympiads of Kizomba competition held in Paris, France, becoming the first ever Asian winners.

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

- A) phenomenon and in
- B) phenomenon, in
- C) phenomenon in
- D) phenomenon. In

26

The Grootbos florilegium in South Africa contains a collection of botanical paintings, with each painting depicting a local plant species in exquisite detail. The florilegium includes a vignette painting by contributing artist Sibonelo Chiliza. Unlike most paintings in the florilegium, \_\_\_\_\_

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

- A) Chiliza's vignette contextualizes a plant within an ecosystem.
- B) Chiliza contextualizes a plant within an ecosystem in his vignette.
- C) the contextualization of a plant within an ecosystem occurs in Chiliza's vignette.
- D) a plant's ecosystem is contextualized in Chiliza's vignette.

27

French mathematician Michel Talagrand has shown that over large numbers of trials, variables that appear to be independent and random are in fact extremely likely to cluster around an average. \_\_\_\_\_ according to Talagrand's research, if you flip a coin 1,000 times, there is a 99.7% probability that the coin will land heads side up between 450 and 550 times.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) However,
- B) For instance,
- C) In addition,
- D) In comparison,

28

Physicist Walter Massey led numerous scientific organizations over his long career. His most prominent appointment came in 1990, when Massey was named director of the National Science Foundation. \_\_\_\_\_ Massey had served as the first president of the National Society of Black Physicists.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Thus,
- B) In conclusion,
- C) For example,
- D) Previously,

29

The Eloi are not real: they are fictional creatures that feature in H.G. Wells's acclaimed science fiction novella *The Time Machine*. \_\_\_\_\_ the Eloi were prime candidates for inclusion in Jorge Luis Borges and Margarita Guerrero's *The Book of Imaginary Beings*, a compendium of fantastical entities from legend and literature.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In reality,
- B) For example,
- C) As such,
- D) Granted,

30

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

- Wilkie Collins’s mystery novel *The Woman in White* first appeared in a London literary magazine.
- The novel was published in forty weekly installments between November 1859 and August 1860.
- Every installment ended with a moment of unresolved suspense.
- *The Woman in White* became extremely popular as readers eagerly anticipated the next week’s entry.
- The magazine’s sales increased to a record-breaking 100,000 copies per issue.

The student wants to emphasize how popular *The Woman in White* became when it was first published. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Every installment of *The Woman in White* ended with a moment of unresolved suspense, which led readers to eagerly anticipate the next week’s entry.
- B) *The Woman in White* became so popular that sales of the magazine it appeared in increased to a record-breaking 100,000 copies per issue.
- C) *The Woman in White*, a mystery novel, first appeared in a London literary magazine.
- D) Collins’s novel *The Woman in White* was published in forty weekly installments between November 1859 and August 1860.

31

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

- Igneous rock is one of the three main types of rock.
- It is formed when molten rock, known as magma or lava, cools.
- Intrusive igneous rock forms when molten rock cools deep within Earth’s crust.
- Extrusive igneous rock forms when molten rock exits Earth’s crust and cools on the surface.
- Acadia National Park in Maine contains examples of intrusive igneous rock.
- Crater Lake National Park in Oregon contains examples of extrusive igneous rock.

The student wants to contrast how the igneous rock at the two national parks formed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Acadia National Park contains examples of intrusive igneous rock; the other type of igneous rock is called extrusive igneous rock.
- B) Acadia National Park’s igneous rock formed from molten rock that cooled deep within Earth’s crust, whereas Crater Lake National Park’s igneous rock formed from molten rock that cooled after it exited Earth’s crust.
- C) Acadia National Park and Crater Lake National Park both contain igneous rock, which is formed when molten rock cools.
- D) Two types of igneous rock, which is formed when molten rock cools, are intrusive igneous rock and extrusive igneous rock, both of which can be found in national parks.

32

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

- Capillary action is a process that allows liquids to flow upward against the force of gravity.
- It occurs in extremely narrow spaces where surface forces are stronger than gravitational forces.
- It is an important biological process in trees and human bodies.
- Science writer Serena Alagappan writes, “Capillary action...is crucial to the sound functioning of our bodies and our environment. Surely it is something to marvel at.”

The student wants to quote Alagappan to emphasize the biological importance of capillary action. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Occurring in trees and human bodies alike, capillary action is a process that allows liquids to flow upward.
- B) A process that allows liquids to flow upward, capillary action is, as Serena Alagappan writes, “crucial to the sound functioning of our bodies and our environment.”
- C) “Surely it is something to marvel at,” Serena Alagappan writes about the process.
- D) Serena Alagappan writes about the “marvel” of capillary action, a process that occurs in extremely narrow spaces where surface forces are stronger than gravitational forces.

33

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

- Ike Taiga (1723–1776) was a Japanese painter.
- Li Bai (701–762) was a Chinese poet.
- Taiga created the artwork titled *Landscape and Couplet of Chinese Verse*.
- The artwork is made up of two scrolls.
- Scroll 1 features a painting of a lone figure walking among tall, narrow mountains.
- Scroll 2 features a poem from Li Bai that is about being in nature.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two scrolls. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) One of the two scrolls that make up *Landscape and Couplet of Chinese Verse* features mountains, and one features a portrait of poet Li Bai.
- B) Made up of two scrolls that each depict nature, *Landscape and Couplet of Chinese Verse* was created by Li Bai.
- C) In *Landscape and Couplet of Chinese Verse*, one scroll features a painting, while the other scroll features a poem.
- D) Ike Taiga created *Landscape and Couplet of Chinese Verse*, which is made up of two scrolls that each depict nature.

**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.**

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