

Question ID f21b9625

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f21b9625

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

ID: f21b9625 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, "multiple newspapers"), and this choice supplies the finite present tense verb "serve" to indicate that there are multiple newspapers serving the Spanish-speaking population of Washington, DC.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "having served" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to serve" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "serving" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d97d3cba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d97d3cba

Richard Spikes was a prolific African American inventor known for his contributions to automotive engineering. Between 1907 and 1946, he patented many inventions, _____ an automobile turn signal, a safety brake, and—most famously—the first automatic gearshift.

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

- A. included
- B. includes
- C. including
- D. will include

ID: d97d3cba Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite present participle "including" is correctly used to form a participial phrase that supplements the main clause "he patented many inventions," listing several of Spikes’s patented inventions.

Choice A is incorrect because the finite past tense verb "included" can’t be used in this way to supplement the main clause "he patented many inventions." Choice B is incorrect because the finite present tense verb "includes" can’t be used in this way to supplement the main clause "he patented many inventions." Choice D is incorrect because the finite future tense verb "will include" can’t be used in this way to supplement the main clause "he patented many inventions."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7c134445

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7c134445

The Boston Saloon was one of the most popular African American–owned establishments in nineteenth-century Nevada. _____ by businessman William A.G. Brown, the saloon was known to offer elegant accommodations and an inclusive environment.

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

- A. Created
- B. Creates
- C. Creating
- D. Create

ID: 7c134445 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite past participle "created" is correctly used to form a supplementary element that modifies the noun phrase "the saloon," identifying who established the Boston Saloon.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present tense verb "creates" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element to modify the noun phrase "the saloon." Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite present participle "creating" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element to modify the noun phrase "the saloon." Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite present tense verb "create" can't be used in this way to form a supplementary element to modify the noun phrase "the saloon."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c57fd777

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c57fd777

One of the earliest known maps is a Babylonian clay tablet thought to be almost 4,500 years old. The map _____ the area of a plot of land, shows a river valley, and includes the cardinal directions.

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

- A. describes
- B. describe
- C. have described
- D. are describing

ID: c57fd777 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The singular verb "describes" agrees in number with the singular subject "map."

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "describe" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have described" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are describing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bf369862

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bf369862

Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013, making _____ the first time the organization would appoint a Vietnamese leader.

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

- A. these
- B. those
- C. this
- D. some

ID: bf369862 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "this" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." The pronoun "this" is referring back to the singular event described earlier in the sentence in which Minh became secretary-general of ASEAN.

Choice A is incorrect because the plural pronoun "these" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." Choice B is incorrect because the plural pronoun "those" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013." Choice D is incorrect because the indefinite pronoun "some" is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear what marks the first time the organization appointed a Vietnamese leader.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6e983b1b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6e983b1b

Public-awareness campaigns about the need to reduce single-use plastics can be successful, says researcher Kim Borg of Monash University in Australia, when these campaigns give consumers a choice: for example, Japan achieved a 40 percent reduction in plastic-bag use after cashiers were instructed to ask customers whether _____ wanted a bag.

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

- A. they
- B. one
- C. you
- D. it

ID: 6e983b1b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun–antecedent agreement. The plural pronoun “they” agrees in number with the plural antecedent “customers.”

Choice B is incorrect because the singular pronoun “one” doesn’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “customers.” Choice C is incorrect because the second person pronoun “you” isn’t conventional as a substitute for “customers.” It suggests that the audience (“you”) is the customer. Choice D is incorrect because the singular pronoun “it” doesn’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “customers.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 06baf205

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 06baf205

Nowadays, tug-of-war is usually seen as an informal game one might play at a picnic or in gym class. Surprisingly, the Olympic committee once decided _____ tug-of-war as an official Olympic event! Nations competed in the event at the Olympic Games from 1900 to 1920.

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

- A. included
- B. including
- C. include
- D. to include

ID: 06baf205 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive verb "to include" is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the Olympic committee decided (to include tug-of-war as an Olympic event).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb "included" can't be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the Olympic committee decided. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "including" can't be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the Olympic committee decided. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb "include" can't be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the Olympic committee decided.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2a7c849a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2a7c849a

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Mary Golda Ross is renowned for her contributions to NASA’s Planetary Flight Handbook, which _____ detailed mathematical guidance for missions to Mars and Venus.

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

- A. provided
- B. having provided
- C. to provide
- D. providing

ID: 2a7c849a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of finite verbs in a relative clause. Relative clauses, such as the one beginning with “which,” require a finite verb, a verb that can function as the main verb of a clause. This choice correctly supplies the clause with the finite past tense verb “provided.”

Choice B is incorrect because the non-finite participle “having provided” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the non-finite to-infinitive “to provide” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the non-finite participle “providing” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 996e7abe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 996e7abe

Unsupervised machine learning is an approach that computer scientists like Nina Miolane use to engineer artificial intelligence technologies. It involves training computer algorithms to organize unlabeled data sets. Multitask learning is another approach. _____ involves training computer models to perform multiple tasks at the same time.

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

- A. Those
- B. They
- C. It
- D. Some

ID: 996e7abe Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "it" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "multitask learning" and clearly indicates what multitask learning involves.

Choice A is incorrect because the plural demonstrative pronoun "those" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "multitask learning." Choice B is incorrect because the plural pronoun "they" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "multitask learning." Choice D is incorrect because the indefinite pronoun "some" is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear what exactly "involves training computer models."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ef44ae1e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ef44ae1e

During World War II, codebreakers played an essential role in deciphering coded messages. In the US military, more than 10,000 women _____ as codebreakers, making up nearly half of all US codebreakers.

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

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

ID: ef44ae1e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “more than 10,000 women”), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb “served” to state what the women did.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “having served” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to serve” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “serving” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3b569cee

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3b569cee

British scientists James Watson and Francis Crick won the Nobel Prize in part for their 1953 paper announcing the double helix structure of DNA, but it is misleading to say that Watson and Crick discovered the double helix. _____ findings were based on a famous X-ray image of DNA fibers, “Photo 51,” developed by X-ray crystallographer Rosalind Franklin and her graduate student Raymond Gosling.

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

- A. They’re
- B. It’s
- C. Their
- D. Its

ID: 3b569cee Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of possessive determiners. The plural possessive determiner “their” agrees in number with the plural conjoined noun phrase “Watson and Crick” and thus indicates that the findings were those of Watson and Crick.

Choice A is incorrect because “they’re” is the contraction for “they are,” not a possessive determiner. Choice B is incorrect because “it’s” is the contraction for “it is” or “it has,” not a possessive determiner. Choice D is incorrect because the singular possessive determiner “its” doesn’t agree in number with the plural conjoined noun phrase “Watson and Crick.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2c4c117b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2c4c117b

Smaller than poppy seeds, tardigrades are tiny, but they are tough. These minuscule animals can survive for thirty years without food or water, and _____ can withstand extreme temperatures as low as minus 328 degrees and as high as 304 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

- A. that
- B. it
- C. they
- D. he

ID: 2c4c117b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The plural pronoun "they" agrees in number with the plural antecedent "animals," which refers to tardigrades.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular pronoun "that" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "animals." Choice B is incorrect because the singular pronoun "it" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "animals." Choice D is incorrect because the singular pronoun "he" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "animals."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b73c10dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b73c10dd

On March 27, 2004, after nine years as a professional boxer, Isra Girgrah retired. The Yemeni American athlete _____ her career with a record of twenty-eight wins, three losses, and two ties.

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

- A. finish
- B. has been finishing
- C. finished
- D. will be finishing

ID: b73c10dd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of a verb to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb “finished” is consistent with the other past tense verb (“retired”) used to refer to Girgrah’s retirement in 2004.

Choice A is incorrect because the present tense verb “finish” isn’t consistent with the other past tense verb (“retired”) used to refer to Girgrah’s retirement in 2004. Furthermore, the plural verb “finish” doesn’t agree in number with the sentence’s singular subject “The Yemeni American athlete.” Choice B is incorrect because the present perfect progressive tense verb “has been finishing” isn’t consistent with the other past tense verb (“retired”) used to refer to Girgrah’s retirement in 2004. Choice D is incorrect because the future progressive tense verb “will be finishing” isn’t consistent with the other past tense verb (“retired”) used to refer to Girgrah’s retirement in 2004.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 899680a8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 899680a8

Why are Rome’s famous concrete structures, such as the Colosseum, still standing after 2,000-plus years, when modern concrete may not even last for fifty? Scientists _____ that the secret to Roman concrete’s durability was its unique blend of ingredients, which included volcanic ash and seawater.

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

- A. explain
- B. having explained
- C. explaining
- D. to explain

ID: 899680a8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The main clause of a sentence requires a finite (tensed) verb, and this choice supplies the finite present tense verb “explain” to indicate what the scientists do.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “having explained” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “explaining” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to explain” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f591f690

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f591f690

From 1912 to 1951, Charlotta Bass owned and operated the newspaper *The California Eagle*. While it was under Bass’s leadership, *The Eagle* _____ one of the US’s most influential Black-owned newspapers.

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

- A. will become
- B. became
- C. is becoming
- D. to become

ID: f591f690 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The conventions being tested are the use of verbs to express tense and the use of verb forms within a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb "became" is consistent with the other past tense verbs ("owned," "operated," and "was") used to indicate that, at a period of time in the past, Bass’s leadership resulted in her newspaper becoming one of the most influential Black-owned newspapers in the US. In addition, "became" supplies the main clause with a finite (tensed) verb, which is required to perform the action of the subject (in this case, "*The Eagle*").

Choice A is incorrect because the future tense verb "will become" isn’t consistent with the other past tense verbs used to discuss Bass and her newspaper. Choice C is incorrect because the present progressive verb "is becoming" isn’t consistent with the other past tense verbs used to discuss Bass and her newspaper. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to become" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 20e6d1e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 20e6d1e3

The rough frog is a species of amphibian native to Australia. Currently, the frog’s range _____ parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland.

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

- A. includes
- B. included
- C. will have included
- D. had included

ID: 20e6d1e3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the present tense verb “includes,” used in conjunction with the word “currently,” correctly indicates that the frog’s current range includes parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland.

Choice B is incorrect because the past tense verb “included” doesn’t indicate that the frog’s range currently includes parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland. Choice C is incorrect because the future perfect tense “will have included” doesn’t indicate that the frog’s range currently includes parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland. Choice D is incorrect because the past perfect tense “had included” doesn’t indicate that the frog’s range currently includes parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6b901531

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6b901531

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

ID: 6b901531 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, "the collection"), and this choice supplies the finite present tense verb "includes" to indicate what is in the collection.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to be including" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "including" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to include" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e7089313

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e7089313

When they were first introduced to western Europe from Byzantium in the eleventh century, table forks were met with much resistance. The Bishop of Ostia, St. Peter Damian, condemned the eating utensils because he considered _____ dangerous and unnecessary luxury items.

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

- A. them
- B. this
- C. that
- D. it

ID: e7089313 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The plural pronoun "them" agrees in number with the plural antecedent "utensils."

Choice B is incorrect because the singular pronoun "this" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "utensils." Choice C is incorrect because the singular pronoun "that" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "utensils." Choice D is incorrect because the singular pronoun "it" doesn't agree in number with the plural antecedent "utensils."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a4f76872

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a4f76872

Zydeco music originated in the French Creole community of southwest Louisiana. One instrument that gives zydeco its unique sound is the vest frottoir. The vest frottoir _____ a wearable washboard that is played by rubbing spoons or bottle openers against it.

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

- A. have been
- B. is
- C. were
- D. are

ID: a4f76872 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "is" agrees in number with the singular subject "vest frottoir."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "vest frottoir." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "vest frottoir." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "vest frottoir."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID de1d5e60

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: de1d5e60

Occupying a significant part of modern-day Nigeria, the Kingdom of Benin was one of the major powers in West Africa between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries. It _____ ruled by Oba Ewuare I from 1440 to 1473.

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

- A. is
- B. will be
- C. has been
- D. was

ID: de1d5e60 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb “was ruled” correctly indicates that Oba Ewuare I ruled the Kingdom of Benin in the distant past (from 1440 to 1473). This past tense verb choice is consistent with the other past tense verb (“was”) used to describe the Kingdom of Benin.

Choice A is incorrect because the present tense verb “is ruled” doesn’t indicate that Oba Ewuare I ruled the Kingdom of Benin in the distant past. Choice B is incorrect because the future tense verb “will be ruled” doesn’t indicate that Oba Ewuare I ruled the Kingdom of Benin in the distant past. Choice C is incorrect because the present perfect tense verb “has been ruled” doesn’t indicate that Oba Ewuare I ruled the Kingdom of Benin in the distant past.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 31932e5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 31932e5c

Eighteen letters written by Louisa May Alcott, author of the popular novel *Little Women* (1868), can be found at the New York Historical Society. _____ letters demonstrate Alcott’s keen business sense in her interactions with publishers.

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

- A. One
- B. That
- C. This
- D. These

ID: 31932e5c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of determiners in a sentence. The plural determiner "these" agrees in number with the plural noun "letters" that it modifies. This choice clearly indicates that the letters demonstrate Alcott’s business sense.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular determiner "one" doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun "letters." Choice B is incorrect because the singular determiner "that" doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun "letters." Choice C is incorrect because the singular determiner "this" doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun "letters."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ad980673

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ad980673

What is the correct pronunciation of Kiribati? In the Gilbertese language spoken by residents of the island nation, the letter combination -ti makes the -s sound; as a result, the country’s name _____ pronounced “Kiribas.”

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

- A. are
- B. have been
- C. are being
- D. is

ID: ad980673 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "is" agrees in number with the singular subject "the country’s name."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "the country’s name." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "the country’s name." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "are being" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "the country’s name."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ce15baa7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ce15baa7

The Globe Theatre in London is a reconstruction of the famed venue where many of Shakespeare’s plays were first performed. In 1613, a prop cannon _____ during a performance and ignited the Globe’s thatched roof. No one was hurt, but in two hours the original Globe was gone.

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

- A. malfunctions
- B. will malfunction
- C. has malfunctioned
- D. malfunctioned

ID: ce15baa7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense. In this choice, the past tense verb "malfunctioned" is consistent with the other past tense verbs ("ignited" and "was") used to describe the destruction of the original Globe Theatre.

Choice A is incorrect because the present tense verb "malfunctions" isn’t consistent with the other past tense verbs used to describe the destruction of the original Globe Theatre. Choice B is incorrect because the future tense verb "will malfunction" isn’t consistent with the other past tense verbs used to describe the destruction of the original Globe Theatre. Choice C is incorrect because the present perfect tense verb "has malfunctioned" isn’t consistent with the other past tense verbs used to describe the destruction of the original Globe Theatre.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 51b771a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 51b771a5

The alga species *Chlorella vulgaris* is very efficient at making oxygen. For this reason, scientists are currently exploring ways to use this species in space. *C. vulgaris* might be used, for example, to build future biological air exchange systems that _____ oxygen for astronauts.

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

- A. are producing
- B. produced
- C. produce
- D. have produced

ID: 51b771a5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense. Simple present tense verbs can be used to describe actions that tend to occur, including in a hypothetical or future scenario. In this case, the simple present tense verb “produce” indicates what the air exchange systems might be able to do in the future (produce oxygen for astronauts).

Choice A is incorrect. The present progressive tense verb “are producing” suggests that the oxygen is currently being produced, not that it might be produced in the future. Choice B is incorrect because the past tense verb “produced” suggests that the oxygen was produced in the past, not that it might be produced in the future. Choice D is incorrect because the present perfect tense verb “have produced” suggests that the oxygen has been produced from a point in the past up to the present, not that it might be produced in the future.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cd0a7e5b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cd0a7e5b

Following her debut album release in 2002, Mexican singer-songwriter Natalia Lafourcade quickly shot to fame. By 2023, she _____ one of the most celebrated musicians in Latin America, having released twelve albums and won seventeen Latin Grammy awards—more than any other female artist in history.

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

- A. will become
- B. becomes
- C. will have become
- D. had become

ID: cd0a7e5b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. The past perfect tense indicates an action that was completed before another past action. In this choice, the past perfect verb “had become,” together with the supplemental phrase “by 2023,” indicates that Lafourcade earned her status as one of the most celebrated musicians in Latin America before 2023.

Choice A is incorrect because the future tense “will become” doesn’t indicate that Lafourcade earned her celebrated status before 2023. Choice B is incorrect because the present tense “becomes” doesn’t indicate that Lafourcade earned her celebrated status before 2023. Choice C is incorrect because the future perfect tense “will have become” doesn’t indicate that Lafourcade earned her celebrated status by 2023.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 10c2c44d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 10c2c44d

To survive when water is scarce, embryos inside African turquoise killifish eggs _____ a dormant state known as diapause. In this state, embryonic development is paused for as long as two years—longer than the life span of an adult killifish.

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

- A. enter
- B. to enter
- C. having entered
- D. entering

ID: 10c2c44d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “embryos”), and this choice supplies the clause with the finite present tense verb “enter” to indicate how the embryos achieve diapause.

Choice B is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to enter” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “having entered” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “entering” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4656e8cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4656e8cc

The radiation that _____ during the decay of radioactive atomic nuclei is known as gamma radiation.

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

- A. occurs
- B. have occurred
- C. occur
- D. are occurring

ID: 4656e8cc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "occurs" agrees in number with the singular subject "radiation."

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have occurred" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "radiation." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "occur" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "radiation." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are occurring" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "radiation."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 49d1b00e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 49d1b00e

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

ID: 49d1b00e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "it" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "the Salt Lake Temple."

Choice B is incorrect because the singular pronoun "one" is ambiguous in this context; the resulting sentence leaves unclear whether there is only one Salt Lake temple or multiple. Choice C is incorrect because the plural pronoun "they" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "the Salt Lake Temple." Choice D is incorrect because the plural pronoun "both" doesn't agree in number with the singular antecedent "the Salt Lake Temple."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e33ee02c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e33ee02c

An imposing spire of igneous rock rising high above the Belle Fourche River in eastern Wyoming, Devils Tower (also known as Bear Lodge) is one of the most prominent examples of columnar jointing, a pattern of fracturing in rocks that _____ in parallel arrays of long polygonal prisms.

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

- A. resulting
- B. were resulting
- C. results
- D. to result

ID: e33ee02c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. Relative clauses, such as the one beginning with “that,” require a finite (tensed) verb, a verb that can function as the main verb of a clause. This choice correctly supplies the clause with the finite present tense verb “results.” Furthermore, the simple present tense verb “results” correctly indicates that the formation of parallel arrays of long polygonal prisms is an enduring property of this fracturing pattern.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “resulting” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because the past progressive tense verb “were resulting” doesn’t indicate that the formation of parallel arrays of long polygonal prisms is an enduring property of this fracturing pattern. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to result” doesn’t supply the clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1ebea879

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1ebea879

Even though bats prefer very sweet nectar, the plants that attract them have evolved to produce nectar that is only moderately sweet. A recent study _____ why: making sugar is energy-intensive, and it is more advantageous for plants to make a large amount of low-sugar nectar than a small amount of high-sugar nectar.

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

- A. explains
- B. explaining
- C. having explained
- D. to explain

ID: 1ebea879 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “a recent study”), and this choice supplies the finite present tense verb “explains” to indicate that the study explains why plants that attract bats have evolved to produce moderately sweet nectar.

Choice B is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “explaining” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “having explained” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to explain” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fdfbf0cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fdfbf0cc

When writing *The Other Black Girl* (2021), novelist Zakiya Dalila Harris drew on her own experiences working at a publishing office. The award-winning book is Harris’s first novel, but her writing _____ honored before. At the age of twelve, she entered a contest to have a story published in *American Girl* magazine—and won.

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

- A. were
- B. have been
- C. has been
- D. are

ID: fdfbf0cc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb “has been” agrees in number with the singular subject “writing.”

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb “were” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “writing.” Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb “have been” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “writing.” Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb “are” doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject “writing.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ca144403

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ca144403

The village of Panduyacu in Ecuador _____ one of the rare places in the world located almost directly on the equator.

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

- A. are being
- B. have been
- C. is
- D. are

ID: ca144403 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "is" agrees in number with the singular subject "village."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are being" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "village." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "village." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "village."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 945e161f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 945e161f

For decades after World War II, the women who had worked for the US military as wartime codebreakers _____ their vital efforts a secret.

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

- A. to keep
- B. having kept
- C. keeping
- D. kept

ID: 945e161f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “the women”), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb “kept” to indicate what the women did.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to keep” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite perfect participle “having kept” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite present participle “keeping” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8ccf6e2b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8ccf6e2b

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

ID: 8ccf6e2b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the future tense verb “will learn,” used in conjunction with the phrase “in a later chapter,” correctly indicates that “you” (the reader) are going to learn about obsidian’s structure at some point in the future.

Choice A is incorrect because the past perfect verb “had learned” doesn’t indicate that the subject is going to learn about obsidian’s structure in the future. Choice B is incorrect because the past perfect progressive verb “had been learning” doesn’t indicate that the subject is going to learn about obsidian’s structure in the future. Choice D is incorrect because the present perfect verb “have learned” doesn’t indicate that the subject is going to learn about obsidian’s structure in the future.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 02e5359f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 02e5359f

If you try on one of artist Nick Cave’s signature Soundsuits, you can expect to swish, rustle, or clang every time you move. Cave makes his suits out of found objects, everything from ceramic birds to broken record players. He carefully considers the sound an object makes before using _____ in a suit.

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

- A. this
- B. that
- C. these
- D. it

ID: 02e5359f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested here is pronoun-antecedent agreement. The singular pronoun "it" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "object."

Choice A is incorrect. The singular pronoun "this" is used to refer to a specific thing, but here there is no specific object being referred to. Instead, the sentence is referring back to a hypothetical object that Cave might use in a Soundsuit. Choice B is incorrect. The singular pronoun "that" is used to refer to a specific thing, but here there is no specific object being referred to. Instead, the sentence is referring back to a hypothetical object that Cave might use in a Soundsuit. Choice C is incorrect because the plural pronoun "these" doesn’t agree in number with the singular antecedent "object."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f68adfde

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f68adfde

In recent years, economists around the world have created new tools that quantify the overall well-being of a country’s citizens. Economists in India, for example, use an Ease of Living Index. This tool _____ economic potential, sustainability, and citizens’ quality of life.

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

- A. measures
- B. had measured
- C. would have measured
- D. will have been measuring

ID: f68adfde Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The previous sentence tells us how economists in India "use" a certain tool, while this sentence describes general facts about that tool. To express general facts (and also to match the simple present tense of "use"), we should use the simple present tense form "measures."

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses the past perfect tense, but the previous sentence tells us that the tool is currently used to measure things, so the past tense doesn’t make sense for this verb. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses the future perfect conditional tense, but the previous sentence tells us that the tool is currently used to measure things, so the future tense doesn’t make sense for this verb. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses the future perfect continuous tense, but the previous sentence tells us that the tool is currently used to measure things, so the future tense doesn’t make sense for this verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 42f8e788

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 42f8e788

In 1990, California native and researcher Ellen Ochoa left her position as chief of the Intelligent Systems Technology Branch at a NASA research center _____ the space agency’s astronaut training program.

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

- A. to join
- B. is joining
- C. joined
- D. joins

ID: 42f8e788 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of nonfinite verb forms in a sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive verb "to join" is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that expresses why Ochoa left her position (to join the training program).

Choice B is incorrect because the finite verb "is joining" can't be used in this way to indicate Ochoa's action of joining the training program. A conjunction such as "and" would be needed to coordinate "is joining" with the previous finite verb, "left." Choice C is incorrect because the finite verb "joined" can't be used in this way to indicate Ochoa's action of joining the training program. A conjunction such as "and" would be needed to coordinate "joined" with the previous finite verb, "left." Choice D is incorrect because the finite verb "joins" can't be used in this way to indicate Ochoa's action of joining the training program. A conjunction such as "and" would be needed to coordinate "joins" with the previous finite verb, "left."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 48d5b141

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 48d5b141

Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and space scientist, _____ part of the team that selected the lunar landing sites for the Apollo program during the 1960s and 1970s.

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

- A. are
- B. was
- C. have been
- D. were

ID: 48d5b141 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "was" agrees in number with the singular subject "Farouk El-Baz."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Farouk El-Baz." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Farouk El-Baz." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "Farouk El-Baz."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d4a1a5b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d4a1a5b9

In 1637, the price of tulips skyrocketed in Amsterdam, with single bulbs of rare varieties selling for up to the equivalent of \$200,000 in today’s US dollars. Some historians _____ that this “tulip mania” was the first historical instance of an asset bubble, which occurs when investors drive prices to highs not supported by actual demand.

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

- A. claiming
- B. claim
- C. having claimed
- D. to claim

ID: d4a1a5b9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “some historians”), and this choice supplies the finite present tense verb “claim” to indicate what some historians do.

Choice A is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “claiming” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “having claimed” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to claim” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ac98564d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ac98564d

In 1929, Edwin Herbert Land invented a polarizing filter that was featured in a number of products, from sunglasses to 3D movies. A decade later, Land _____ his technology to invent the world’s first instant camera, the Polaroid Land camera.

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

- A. used
- B. to have used
- C. to use
- D. using

ID: ac98564d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, Land), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb "used" to indicate what Land did with the technology he had invented.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite perfect infinitive "to have used" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to use" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "using" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f6be1318

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f6be1318

Dr. Rocío Paola Caballero-Gill is a paleoceanographer. This means that Dr. Caballero-Gill doesn’t just study oceans as they are today. She uses chemistry and fossil evidence _____ oceans as they were in the past.

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

- A. has studied
- B. to study
- C. studied
- D. studies

ID: f6be1318 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive verb “to study” is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that indicates what Dr. Caballero-Gill uses chemistry and fossil evidence for (to study oceans as they were in the past).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “has studied” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what Dr. Caballero-Gill uses the evidence for. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “studied” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what Dr. Caballero-Gill uses the evidence for. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “studies” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what Dr. Caballero-Gill uses the evidence for.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 958b6c8a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 958b6c8a

In 1881, French chemist Camille Faure redesigned the rechargeable lead-acid battery. Faure’s design greatly increased the amount of electricity that the original battery, which the French physicist Gaston Planté _____ fifteen years earlier, could hold.

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

- A. is inventing
- B. will invent
- C. invents
- D. had invented

ID: 958b6c8a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Faure redesigned the battery in 1881, and the original battery was invented “fifteen years earlier.” Notice that this is the only choice in the past tense. To indicate that a past occurrence took place before another past occurrence, we need to use “had” + the past tense form of the verb. This is called the “past perfect” tense.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a tense error. Planté invented the original battery in the past, so we shouldn’t use the present tense “is inventing.” Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a tense error. Planté invented the original battery in the past, so we shouldn’t use the future tense “will invent.” Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a tense error. Planté invented the original battery in the past, so we shouldn’t use the present tense “invents.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4b5aea15

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4b5aea15

Water is constantly moving and changing forms on Earth and in the atmosphere. This process is called the water cycle, and it is typically thought to consist of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. However, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks _____ understanding of the water cycle to include transpiration, sublimation, and other types of water movement.

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

- A. is expanding
- B. to expand
- C. has expanded
- D. expands

ID: 4b5aea15 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive verb “to expand” is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks to do.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “is expanding” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks to do. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “has expanded” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks to do. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The finite verb “expands” can’t be used in this way to form a subordinate clause that indicates what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks to do.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 43bcedb1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 43bcedb1

Light of Truth is a bronze and marble sculpture by artist Richard Hunt. It honors civil rights icon Ida B. Wells. The sculpture _____ in a tree-lined plaza in Chicago, just a few blocks from where Wells lived.

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

- A. are standing
- B. have been standing
- C. stands
- D. were standing

ID: 43bcedb1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "stands" agrees in number with the singular subject "sculpture."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are standing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "sculpture." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "have been standing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "sculpture." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "were standing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "sculpture."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID aa356008

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: aa356008

With residents from Mexico, China, El Salvador, and many other countries, Los Angeles has long been a city of cultural diversity. Even back in the 1860s, nearly 30% of the city’s population _____ from outside the United States.

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

- A. is being
- B. was
- C. is
- D. will be

ID: aa356008 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb "was," used in conjunction with the prepositional phrase "from outside the United States," correctly indicates that in the 1860s nearly 30% of the population in Los Angeles wasn’t from the US.

Choice A is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb "is being" doesn’t indicate that the claim about Los Angeles’s population refers to the population back in the 1860s. Choice C is incorrect because the present tense verb "is" doesn’t indicate that the claim about Los Angeles’s population refers to the population back in the 1860s. Choice D is incorrect because the future tense verb "will be" doesn’t indicate that the claim about Los Angeles’s population refers to the population back in the 1860s.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f51eaafc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f51eaafc

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

ID: f51eaafc Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The plural verb "were" agrees in number with the plural subject "ayllus," which are described as plural "family clans."

Choice A is incorrect because the singular verb "is" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "ayllus." Choice B is incorrect because the singular verb "was" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "ayllus." Choice C is incorrect because the singular verb "has been" doesn't agree in number with the plural subject "ayllus."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID db3cc7c0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: db3cc7c0

In 1903, environmentalist John Muir guided President Theodore Roosevelt on a scenic, sprawling trip through California’s Yosemite Valley. Upon returning from the three-day excursion, Roosevelt _____ to conserve the nation’s wilderness areas, a vow he upheld for his remaining six years in office.

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

- A. is vowing
- B. vowed
- C. will vow
- D. vows

ID: db3cc7c0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb “vowed” is consistent with the other past tense verbs (“guided” and “upheld”) used to narrate the events surrounding President Roosevelt’s decision to conserve the nation’s wilderness areas.

Choice A is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb “is vowing” isn’t consistent with the past tense verbs used to narrate the events surrounding President Roosevelt’s decision to conserve the nation’s wilderness areas. Choice C is incorrect because the future tense verb “will vow” isn’t consistent with the past tense verbs used to narrate the events surrounding President Roosevelt’s decision to conserve the nation’s wilderness areas. Choice D is incorrect because the simple present tense verb “vows” isn’t consistent with the past tense verbs used to narrate the events surrounding President Roosevelt’s decision to conserve the nation’s wilderness areas.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2c10e64c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2c10e64c

“He was just the man for such a place, and it was just the place for such a man.” This line is from Frederick Douglass’s autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845). It’s an example of antimetabole, a writing technique that _____ emphasis by repeating a statement in a reversed order.

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

- A. create
- B. are creating
- C. have created
- D. creates

ID: 2c10e64c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "creates" agrees in number with the singular subject "technique."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "create" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "technique." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "are creating" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "technique." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have created" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "technique."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 94933266

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 94933266

For thousands of years, people in the Americas _____ the bottle gourd, a large bitter fruit with a thick rind, to make bottles, other types of containers, and even musical instruments. Oddly, there is no evidence that any type of bottle gourd is native to the Western Hemisphere; either the fruit or its seeds must have somehow been carried from Asia or Africa.

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

- A. to use
- B. have used
- C. having used
- D. using

ID: 94933266 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is finite and nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, “people in the Americas”), and this choice supplies the finite past perfect tense verb “have used” to indicate what people in the Americas used the gourd for.

Choice A is incorrect because the nonfinite to-infinitive “to use” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “having used” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite participle “using” doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ac40afce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ac40afce

Mary Madden of Ohio _____ a fierce advocate of women’s voting rights in the late 1800s. The dedication of Madden and her fellow activists was rewarded in 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution guaranteed American women the right to vote.

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

- A. are
- B. was
- C. have been
- D. were

ID: ac40afce Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "was" agrees in number with the singular subject "Mary Madden of Ohio."

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "are" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "Mary Madden of Ohio." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "have been" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "Mary Madden of Ohio." Choice D is incorrect because the plural verb "were" doesn’t agree in number with the singular subject "Mary Madden of Ohio."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 143981d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 143981d7

Midway through her 1968 jazz album *A Monastic Trio*, Alice Coltrane switches instruments, swapping the piano for the harp. With the same fluid style that Coltrane was famous for on piano, she _____ her fingers across the harp strings and creates a radiant sound.

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

- A. sweep
- B. are sweeping
- C. were sweeping
- D. sweeps

ID: 143981d7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb "sweeps" agrees in number with the singular subject "she," which refers to Alice Coltrane.

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb "sweep" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "she." Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "are sweeping" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "she." Choice C is incorrect because the plural verb "were sweeping" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "she."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b37212e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b37212e7

American poet Emily Dickinson wrote many of her poems on scraps of paper, but she also took steps to collect these works. From 1858 to around 1864, for example, she copied more than 800 of _____ into forty homemade booklets (known as fascicles).

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

- A. them
- B. this
- C. that
- D. it

ID: b37212e7 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The pronoun "them" agrees with the plural antecedents "poems" and "works."

Choice B is incorrect. "This" is a singular pronoun, but its antecedents, "poems" and "works," are plural. Choice C is incorrect. "That" is a singular pronoun, but its antecedents, "poems" and "works," are plural. Choice D is incorrect. "It" is a singular pronoun, but its antecedents, "poems" and "works," are plural.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 50ddbac6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 50ddbac6

According to the traditional RYB (red-yellow-blue) color model, yellow is a complementary color to purple. However, yellow _____ considered complementary to blue in modern color theory.

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

- A. is
- B. having been
- C. to be
- D. being

ID: 50ddbac6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, "yellow"), and this choice supplies the present tense verb "is considered" to indicate that yellow is considered a complementary color to blue in modern color theory.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "having been considered" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to be considered" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "being considered" doesn't supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8d8d0ae5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8d8d0ae5

How did whales, once no bigger than seals, evolve to become the largest animals on Earth? Brazilian biologist Mariana Nery believes the answer might be found in whales’ DNA. In January 2023, Nery and her colleagues _____ a study showing changes over time in four whale genes associated with body size.

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

- A. published
- B. publishing
- C. having published
- D. to publish

ID: 8d8d0ae5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. A main clause requires a finite (tensed) verb to perform the action of the subject (in this case, Nery and her colleagues), and this choice supplies the finite past tense verb "published" to indicate that these biologists shared their findings about changes in whale genes associated with body size.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "publishing" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "having published" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to publish" doesn’t supply the main clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e834148f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e834148f

In 2019, New Zealand produced 88,465 hectograms per hectare (hg/ha) of wheat, and Portugal produced 23,298 hg/ha. This is the type of information on global food production that the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization _____ since 1945.

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

- A. is collecting
- B. has collected
- C. will collect
- D. collects

ID: e834148f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the present perfect tense verb “has collected,” used in conjunction with the phrase “since 1945,” correctly indicates that the Food and Agriculture Organization has collected this type of information in the past and continues to do so in the present.

Choice A is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb “is collecting” is inconsistent with the phrase “since 1945,” which indicates that the action occurred in the past and continues into the present. Choice C is incorrect because the future tense verb “will collect” is inconsistent with the phrase “since 1945,” which indicates that the action occurred in the past and continues into the present. Choice D is incorrect because the present tense verb “collects” is inconsistent with the phrase “since 1945,” which indicates that the action occurred in the past and continues into the present.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c18c5135

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c18c5135

In the late 1960s, inspired in part by the sight of laundry hanging on a clothesline, African American abstract painter Sam Gilliam began to create his iconic “Drape” paintings. He applied bold, saturated hues to large canvases and _____ them from ceilings or walls, causing the drooping fabric to cascade in dramatic loops and curves.

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

- A. to have suspended
- B. suspending
- C. to suspend
- D. suspended

ID: c18c5135 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The past tense verb “suspended” provides a second finite verb to complete the coordinated structure of the sentence, in which the two finite verbs (“applied” and “suspended”) are used to describe what Gilliam did.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to have suspended” doesn’t supply a second finite verb to complete the coordinated structure of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle “suspending” doesn’t supply a second finite verb to complete the coordinated structure of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive “to suspend” doesn’t supply a second finite verb to complete the coordinated structure of the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 0dc453f4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0dc453f4

Cycads are palmlike plants with cones. _____ plants were abundant throughout the Mesozoic Era (66 to 252 million years ago).

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

- A. These
- B. That
- C. Each
- D. This

ID: 0dc453f4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of determiners. The plural demonstrative determiner “these” agrees in number with the plural noun “plants” that it modifies. This choice clearly indicates that the plants, referring to cycads from the previous sentence, were abundant throughout the Mesozoic Era.

Choice B is incorrect because the singular demonstrative determiner “that” doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun “plants.” Choice C is incorrect because the singular determiner “each” doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun “plants.” Choice D is incorrect because the singular demonstrative determiner “this” doesn’t agree in number with the plural noun “plants.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 380c7986

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 380c7986

The Dust Bowl was a period of severe drought that plagued the Great Plains of the US during the 1930s. During this time, dust storms _____ over 100 million acres of land. They even reached as far east as New York City.

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

- A. are affecting
- B. will have affected
- C. will affect
- D. affected

ID: 380c7986 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb "affected," used in conjunction with the phrase "during this time," correctly indicates that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s.

Choice A is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb "are affecting" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s. Choice B is incorrect because the future perfect tense verb "will have affected" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s. Choice C is incorrect because the future tense verb "will affect" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 592088f6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 592088f6

In the 2011 documentary *The Barber of Birmingham*, civil rights activist James Armstrong recounts how his barbershop in Birmingham, Alabama, _____ as a political hub for members of the Black community during the 1950s.

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

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

ID: 592088f6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. Relative clauses, such as the one beginning with "how," require a finite (tensed) verb, a verb that can function as the main verb of a clause. This choice correctly supplies the clause with the finite past tense verb "served."

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "serving" doesn't supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice B is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite participle "having served" doesn't supply the clause with a finite verb. Choice D is incorrect because it results in an ungrammatical sentence. The nonfinite to-infinitive "to serve" doesn't supply the clause with a finite verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8bf7663e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8bf7663e

Atoms in a synchrotron, a type of circular particle accelerator, travel faster and faster until they _____ a desired energy level, at which point they are diverted to collide with a target, smashing the atoms.

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

- A. will reach
- B. reach
- C. had reached
- D. are reaching

ID: 8bf7663e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the present tense verb “reach” is consistent with the present tense verbs “travel” and “are diverted” used to describe how atoms move through the synchrotron.

Choice A is incorrect because the future tense verb “will reach” is inconsistent with the present tense verbs used to describe how atoms move through the synchrotron. Though the atoms’ movement is a recurring action and “will reach” can also be used to indicate a habitual or recurring action, it creates a logical inconsistency in this sentence when paired with the present tense verbs “travel” and “are diverted.” Choice C is incorrect because the past perfect tense verb “had reached” is inconsistent with the present tense verbs used to describe how atoms move through the synchrotron. Choice D is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb “are reaching” is inconsistent with the present tense verbs used to describe how atoms move through the synchrotron. While both verbs occur in the present, the present progressive tense suggests that the action is currently in progress. This creates a logical inconsistency when paired with the present tense verbs “travel” and “are diverted,” which offer a general description of the tendencies of the atoms’ movement, rather than a description of an action that is currently in progress.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7c51b8ef

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7c51b8ef

The sun never sets during the Arctic summer in the Far North. In response, reindeer in this region must change their sleep habits. Instead of resting when it gets dark, they rest when they need _____ their food.

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

- A. digest
- B. will digest
- C. to digest
- D. digesting

ID: 7c51b8ef Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of nonfinite verb forms within a sentence. Working together with the finite verb "need," the nonfinite to-infinitive verb "to digest" is correctly used to form a subordinate clause that describes what the reindeer need.

Choice A is incorrect because the verb "digest" (in either its finite or nonfinite form) can't be used in this way with the finite verb "need." Choice B is incorrect because the finite verb "will digest" can't be used in this way with the finite verb "need." Choice D is incorrect because the nonfinite participle "digesting" can't be used in this way with the finite verb "need."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e5aae306

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e5aae306

The US Geological Survey wants to map every human-made structure in the United States, and it is asking volunteers to help. Cassie Tammy Wang and Ashish D’Souza are just two of the many volunteer map editors who _____ to the project since it began in 2012.

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

- A. contribute
- B. will contribute
- C. have contributed
- D. will be contributing

ID: e5aae306 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the present perfect tense verb “have contributed,” used in conjunction with the phrase “since it began in 2012,” correctly indicates that map editors have contributed in the past and continue to do so in the present.

Choice A is incorrect because the present tense verb “contribute” is inconsistent with the phrase “since it began in 2012,” which suggests that the contributions occurred in the past and continue into the present. Choice B is incorrect because the future tense verb “will contribute” is inconsistent with the phrase “since it began in 2012,” which suggests that the contributions occurred in the past and continue into the present. Choice D is incorrect because the future tense verb “will be contributing” is inconsistent with the phrase “since it began in 2012,” which suggests that the contributions occurred in the past and continue into the present.

Question Difficulty: Easy