Writing and Language Test Answer Explanations

> Question 1
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) see an annual loss of $63.2 billion each year
> (C) lose $63.2 billion annually
> (D) have a yearly loss of $63.2 billion annually

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Effective Language Use / Concision
Best Answer: C
Choice C is the best answer because it states the situation succinctly and is free of redundancies.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because all three contain a redundancy in which a reference to the annual nature of the loss is stated twice; for example, Choice A states "yearly" and "annually."

> Question 2
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) main things leading up to
> (C) huge things about
> (D) primary causes of

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone
Best Answer: D
Choice D is the best answer because the use of language is correct for standard written English and matches the formal tone of the passage.

Choices A and C are incorrect because both rely on colloquial language, specifically "big" and "huge," which strays from the formal tone of the article. Additionally, "things" in Choice C is vague and informal. Choice B is incorrect for the same reason.

> Question 3
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) have spent
> (C) spends
> (D) are spent

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Usage / Agreement / Subject-verb agreement
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the verb "spends" grammatically corresponds with the singular noun "American."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the noun and verb do not grammatically correspond. The verbs "spend," "have spent" and "are spent" would correspond with a plural noun, but not with the singular noun "American."

> Question 4
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) workers; managers
> (C) workers, managers,
> (D) workers, managers

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Within-sentence punctuation
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates a complete sentence with clauses whose relationship to one another is clear.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a sentence fragment. Choice B is incorrect because the first clause is dependent, signaled by the conditional phrase "As long as," so a semicolon cannot be used. Choice C is incorrect because the comma following "managers" inappropriately separates the noun from the verb "should champion."

> Question 5
>
> To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed
>
> (A) where it is now.
> (B) before sentence 1.
> (C) after sentence 1.
> (D) after sentence 4.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Organization / Logical sequence
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. Sentence 3 logically follows the statement in sentence 1 where readers learn that part of the problem is the work itself. Sentence 3 then tells readers what about the work has caused the decrease in sleep: "The hours the average American spend[s] working have increased dramatically…."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not order the information in the paragraph logically.

> Question 6
>
> At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.
> "Even fifteen-minute power naps improve alertness, creativity, and concentration."
> Should the writer make this addition here?
>
> (A) Yes, because it demonstrates that the benefits of napping can be gained without sacrificing large amounts of work time.
> (B) Yes, because it explains the methodology of the studies mentioned in the previous sentence.
> (C) No, because a discussion of the type of nap workers take is not important to the writer's main point in the paragraph.
> (D) No, because it contradicts the writer's discussion of napping in the previous sentences.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Focus
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it adds relevant information in support of the claim that companies should allow their employees to take naps.

Choice B is incorrect because the prospective sentence does not explain methodology. Choice C is incorrect because the example in the sentence provides additional information in support of napping. Choice D is incorrect because there is no contradiction.

> Question 7
>
> Which choice provides a supporting example that reinforces the main point of the sentence?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) including a lower risk of cardiovascular problems such as heart attack and stroke.
> (C) which are essential in an era of rising health care costs.
> (D) in addition to making employees more efficient.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Development / Support
Best answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it offers a specific example of a long-term health benefit that could lead to "reduced health care costs."

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they offer no supporting examples of long-term health benefits that could reduce health care costs.

> Question 8
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) gently wake
> (C) gently to wake
> (D) gentle waking of

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Parallel structure
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because the verb "wake" is consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, "block" and "play." Furthermore, choice B provides a verb that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the verb is not consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, "block" and "play."

> Question 9
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) among
> (C) between
> (D) into

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Usage / Conventional expression
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because, in this context, the preposition "among" is the only idiomatic choice: napping can be promoted "among" people but not "throughout," "between," or "into" them.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the prepositions "throughout," "between," and "into" are unidiomatic in this context.

> Question 10
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) but it benefits
> (C) as also to
> (D) but also to

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it completes a parallel construction in which two elements are compared. In this construction "but also to" is parallel to "not only to" and thus is the only choice that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence. The "not only…but also" construction is also known as a correlative conjunction, meaning that these two phrases should always travel in pairs.

Choices A and C are incorrect because they fail to complete the comparison that the preposition "not only to" signals. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on and incomplete sentence.

> Question 11
>
> The writer wants a concluding sentence that restates the main argument of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) Clearly, employers should consider reducing employees' hours when they are overworked.
> (C) Companies should consider employee schedules carefully when implementing a napping policy.
> (D) More businesses should follow their lead and embrace napping on the job.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it logically concludes the essay, the main argument of which is that napping during the workday boosts employee productivity and morale and reduces costs associated with poor health and absences.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these choices restates the main argument of the passage.

> Question 12
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) pollination: this is
> (C) pollination,
> (D) pollination;

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Nonrestrictive and parenthetical elements
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the appropriate punctuation for the nonrestrictive modifying clause "including honeybee pollination." Because the clause is not essential to the sentence, it should be offset with commas (or other matching punctuation). Since a comma is used before the clause, a comma must be used after it as well.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the punctuation does not match the comma that sets off the nonrestrictive modifying clause "including honeybee pollination."

Choice B is incorrect because "this is" is unnecessarily wordy.

> Question 13
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) highlights the potentially disastrous effects
> (C) highlight the potentially disastrous effects
> (D) highlight the potentially disastrous affects

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Usage / Frequently confused words
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because the verb "highlights" grammatically corresponds with the singular noun "the importance of bees." Additionally, "effects" is the correct noun to describe outcomes.

Choices A and D are incorrect because "affects" is the incorrect word in this context. Choice C is incorrect because there is no subject-verb agreement between the singular noun "the importance of bees" and the verb "highlight."

> Question 14
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) Known as colony
> (C) It is known as colony
> (D) Colony

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Modifier placement
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a dependent clause that adequately introduces the main subject, colony collapse disorder, which corresponds directly to the subject in the second clause: "this phenomenon."

Choice A is incorrect because "They" has no clear antecedent and creates a comma splice. Choice C is incorrect because it also results in a comma splice. Choice D is incorrect because it creates redundancy with the following noun phrase "this phenomenon."

> Question 15
>
> Which choice offers the most accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) been above the acceptable range.
> (C) not changed noticeably from year to year.
> (D) greatly increased every year.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Quantitative information
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it accurately represents the information in the chart.

Choice A is incorrect because in the 2011-2012 winter season, bee mortality rates fell below 25% of the bee colony. Choice C is incorrect because, according to the chart, bee mortality rates have varied noticeably year to year. Choice D is incorrect for a similar reason. The chart shows that, year to year, bee mortality rates have both increased and decreased.

> Question 16
>
> Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) portion of bees lost was double what it had been the previous year, rising to
> (C) number of losses, which had fallen within the acceptable range the previous year, rose to
> (D) portion of total colonies lost rose almost 10 percentage points, with a loss of

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Quantitative information
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately represents the comparison in bee population loss between the 2010–2012 and 2012–2013 periods. Compared to the 2011–2012 winter season, bee loss was almost 10 percentage points higher the following year.

Choice A is incorrect because it states that compared to the preceding years, bee losses fell in 2012–2013 when, according to the data, the opposite was true. Choice B is incorrect because the bee loss in 2012–2013 did not double from 2011–2012. Given that bee loss in 2011–2012 hovered around 22%, double would be around 44%, while the chart says bee loss in 2012–2013 was just over 30%. Choice C is incorrect because it makes a false statement: the number of losses had *not* "fallen within the acceptable range the previous year."

> Question 17
>
> Which choice most smoothly and effectively introduces the writer's discussion of studies of CCD in this paragraph?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) Bees are vanishing, and according to studies there are several possible reasons for this trend.
> (C) Several possible reasons, offered by studies, may explain why bees are vanishing.
> (D) DELETE the underlined sentence.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Effective Language Use / Syntax
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. It adequately introduces the paragraph's main topic in a grammatically complete and standard manner. In addition, its use of the passive voice ("Studies have offered") establishes a pattern that the next sentence maintains ("One reason that is often cited").

Choices B and C are incorrect because each is redundant. In B, there is no need to refer to bees vanishing and "this trend" in the same sentence. In C, there is no need to specify that "reasons . . . may explain." Choice D is incorrect because if the paragraph were to begin with the sentence "One reason that is often cited…," the writer's discussion of studies of CCD would not be introduced smoothly and effectively.

> Question 18
>
> At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.
> "Prolonged exposure to neonicotinoids has been shown to increase bees' vulnerability to disease and parasitic mites."
> Should the writer make this addition here?
> (A) Yes, because it provides support for the claim made in the previous sentence.
> (B) Yes, because it introduces a new idea that will become important later in the passage.
> (C) No, because it would be better placed elsewhere in the passage.
> (D) No, because it contradicts the main idea of the passage.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Focus
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the information supports the preceding claim by showing how lingering neonicotinoids impact bees in particular. The previous sentence notes "one reason" why bees are vanishing (the use of neonicotinoids), and this proposed sentence usefully elaborates on how neonicotinoids harm bees.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the information doesn't introduce a new idea that will become important later in the passage, belong elsewhere in the passage, or contradict the main idea.

> Question 19
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) is a pretty big deal.
> (C) can't be put on the back burner.
> (D) cannot be ignored.

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the diction is consistent with the article's tone and style.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the casual tone and style of the phrases "is not to be scoffed at," "is a pretty big deal," and "can't be put on the back burner" deviate from the more formal tone and style established in the rest of the article.

> Question 20
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) crops, this is an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
> (C) crops, an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
> (D) crops; an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Sentence boundaries
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it creates a grammatically correct relationship between an independent clause and a dependent one.

Choices A and D are incorrect because a semicolon should link two independent clauses in order to be grammatically correct; in each instance the second clause is dependent. Choice B is incorrect because it creates a comma splice.

> Question 21
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) there
> (C) their
> (D) its

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Usage / Possessive determiners
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the correct possessive form of a plural noun, the farmers who are the main subject of the sentence.

Choices A and B are incorrect because neither is the correct possessive form of "they." Choice A is a contraction of the subject "they" and the verb "are," while Choice B is an adverb that refers to a place or a particular point in time. Choice D is incorrect because it is the possessive form of a singular, not a plural, noun.

> Question 22
>
> The writer wants a conclusion that addresses the future of efforts to combat CCD. Which choice results in the passage having the most appropriate concluding sentence?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) Still, bee colonies have experienced such devastating losses that the consequences of the issue have been felt worldwide.
> (C) Although CCD is a relatively new phenomenon, scientists have been studying other aspects of honeybees for over a century.
> (D) Genetic variation in bee colonies generally improves bees' productivity, disease resistance, and ability to regulate body temperature.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the passage already has an appropriate concluding sentence that addresses "the future of efforts to combat CCD." This sentence supports the last paragraph's focus on "commonsense measures" by outlining potential CCD-prevention efforts such as "[a] decrease in the use of certain pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides" and stating that these efforts "could begin a shift in a favorable direction."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don't address "the future of efforts to combat CCD" that the question demands. Choice B describes the current impact of diminishing bee populations instead of discussing the future. Choice C introduces a new topic that departs from the paragraph's main topic. Choice D introduces a related topic that needs further elaboration.

> Question 23
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) stood;
> (C) stood—
> (D) stood

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Unnecessary punctuation
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each inserts unnecessary punctuation that disrupts the meaning of the sentence, which is to state where Giuseppe Ferrua stood.

> Question 24
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) inside
> (C) for
> (D) on

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Usage / Conventional expression
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because the preposition "with" correctly reflects the relationship between the subject, verb, and object: "landscape," "dotted," and "vineyards," respectively.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a preposition that does not appropriately represent the relationship between the subject, verb, and object. A landscape can be dotted "with" vineyards; it cannot be dotted "inside," "for," or "on" vineyards.

> Question 25
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) however,
> (C) by contrast,
> (D) thereafter,

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: A
Choice A is the best answer because the information in the sentence elaborates on and supports the claim in the previous sentence: that lunar farming "is driven by the belief that the Moon influences levels of moisture in the soil."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not appropriately signal the information in the sentence, which elaborates on and supports the claim in the previous sentence. Rather, Choices B and C suggest that the writer is drawing a contrast, and Choice D introduces a time sequence that is not present in the paragraph.

> Question 26
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) Given that
> (C) So
> (D) DELETE the underlined portion and begin the sentence with a capital letter.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence. It also correctly reflects the relationship specified in the passage between moisture and the lunar calendar.

Choice A is incorrect because "Although" suggests that the second clause will say something contrary to the first. Choices C and D are incorrect because each results in a grammatically incomplete sentence.

> Question 27
>
> Which choice most effectively sets up the paragraph?
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) People all over the world farm by the Moon.
> (C) Farming by the Moon is not new.
> (D) Talk of the Moon's influence is far-reaching.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Proposition
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it acts effectively as a transition between the previous paragraph and this one.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none of the three introduces the paragraph's main topic, the long history of lunar farming.

> Question 28
>
> Which choice provides the most specific information on the type of advice a lunar calendar offers?
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) actions relevant to farming.
> (C) points in time at which to undertake certain tasks.
> (D) optimal times to plant, weed, prune, and harvest.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Effective Language Use / Precision
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides "the most specific information on the type of advice a lunar calendar offers."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each is vague; specifically, "farm chores," "actions," and "certain tasks" are all nebulous terms, and the question asks for the "most specific information."

> Question 29
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) almanacs's
> (C) almanac's
> (D) almanacs'

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Possessive nouns and pronouns
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the grammatically correct option for a possessive singular noun. The editor belongs to, or is affiliated with, the almanac.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to provide a grammatically correct possessive noun. There is only one almanac, the "*Old Farmer's Almanac*," to which the editor belongs.

> Question 30
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) skeptics, who have yet to be convinced.
> (C) skeptics—those who doubt the method.
> (D) skeptics.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Effective Language Use / Concision
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it introduces the paragraph's topic succinctly without repeating information. By definition, skeptics are people who are unsure, have yet to be convinced, doubt the method, etc.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because all three include redundant information about skeptics.

> Question 31
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) those
> (C) it's
> (D) its

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Usage / Possessive determiners
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides the possessive pronoun that grammatically corresponds to a singular noun, "agriculture."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each fails to provide a grammatically correct or appropriate possessive pronoun. Choice A presents a possessive pronoun for a plural antecedent rather than a singular one. Choice B's "those" is vague, leaving the reader unsure of the relationship between the practices and agriculture. Choice C presents a grammatically incorrect construction of the possessive pronoun for it.

> Question 32
>
> The writer wants to conclude the paragraph effectively while also reinforcing the point that skepticism toward lunar farming still exists. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) and therefore no sound scientific data on the subject exist to date.
> (C) yet many continue to practice lunar farming.
> (D) leading many to conclude that the practice is based in folklore, not fact.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it satisfies the directions of the question by "reinforcing the point that skepticism toward lunar farming still exists." Only Choice D refers back to the skeptics mentioned at the beginning of the paragraph, acknowledging that "many...conclude that the practice" of lunar farming is "based in folklore, not fact."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because, while each makes a logical connection with the preceding part of the sentence, none of the three refers back to the skeptics mentioned at the beginning of the paragraph.

> Question 33
>
> Which choice gives an additional supporting example that emphasizes the importance of the senses in judging the success of the lunar farming method?
>
> (A) NO CHANGE
> (B) She has taken photographs of the grapevines and landscape.
> (C) She takes careful notes about Ferrua's farming methods, asking Ferrua to clarify how he prepares the soil.
> (D) She dips bread into Ferrua's olive oil as he explains a soil preparation he does in the fall.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Development / Support
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it corresponds with the question's instructions to choose "an additional supporting example that emphasizes the importance of the senses." Professor Coffman's statement about the fragrant rosemary logically follows the English farmer's statement about his potatoes, as both use sensory impressions to attest to the success of lunar farming.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each fails to provide an additional supporting example that demonstrates that Professor Coffman "has a similar response" to that of the English farmer. Choices B and D both involve the senses, but neither uses sensory impressions to judge the success of lunar farming. Choice C doesn't involve a sensory experience; it recounts an experience of information gathering.

> Question 34
>
> The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion (ending the sentence with a period). Should the writer make this deletion?
>
> A) Yes, because the underlined portion detracts from the paragraph's focus on the Szathmary collection.
> B) Yes, because the information in the underlined portion is provided in the previous sentence.
> C) No, because the underlined portion defines a term that is important to the passage.
> D) No, because the underlined portion gives an example of a particular culinary artifact.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Development / Focus
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the term "manuscript recipe books" is unclear without the underlined portion to define it.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion is consistent with the paragraph's focus; it does not detract from it. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined information does not appear in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because, while it asserts correctly that the underlined portion should not be deleted, it does not offer a persuasive reason for keeping the definition of "manuscript recipe books."

> Question 35
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) Regardless of
> C) In contrast to
> D) In addition to

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. "Because of" supports the cause-effect relationship between the two clauses in the sentence, which state that as result of the 20,000-item donation's size and range, figuring out how to make the information available to the public was "a challenge."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not support the cause-effect relationship between the two clauses.

> Question 36
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) donation of so many culinary artifacts,
> C) massive donation of cookbooks,
> D) donation,

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Effective Language Use / Concision
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it does not contain information that has already been established in the preceding sentences of the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they repeat information already established in the preceding sentences of the passage.

> Question 37
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) for
> C) and
> D) but

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a conjunction, "but," that accurately reflects the relationship between the two clauses. This relationship contrasts the librarians' desire to share all the objects in the collection with the problem of presenting the delicate manuscripts.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each provides a conjunction that does not reflect the relationship between the two clauses.

> Question 38
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) his or her
> C) their
> D) one's

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Conventions of Usage / Agreement / Pronoun-antecedent agreement
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the possessive pronoun "their" grammatically corresponds to the plural "volunteers."

Choice A is incorrect because it provides a possessive pronoun that would correspond with "we," which would only be valid if the writer were part of the group of volunteers. Choices B and D are incorrect because each provides a possessive pronoun for a singular noun, yet the subject of the clause is the plural noun "volunteers."

> Question 39
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) simple directions
> C) bare-bones how-tos
> D) facile protocols

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it offers wording that is clear and consistent with the style of the passage.

Choices A and D are incorrect because both use jargon, or unnecessarily esoteric language, which is inconsistent with the passage's formal yet accessible style. Choice C is incorrect because the wording is clunky and too colloquial for the passage's style.

> Question 40
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) therefore,
> C) however,
> D) in short,

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. It provides a conjunction, "however," which captures the contrast between transcribing the recipes, described as "easy," and recognizing some of the ingredients and measurements in the recipes, described as "puzzling."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each fails to capture the relationship between the sentence in which the conjunction appears and the sentence preceding it. Choice A is incorrect because it proposes a conjunction that suggests the sentence is building upon information in the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because "therefore" suggests a cause-effect relationship between the two sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it suggests that the second sentence is providing a shortened version of information introduced in the first sentence. Instead, the difference between "easy" in the first sentence of the sequence and "puzzling" in the second denotes a contrast.

> Question 41
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) access to
> C) excess of
> D) excess to

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Usage / Frequently confused words
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the correct noun, "access," to indicate the ability to utilize something, and the correct preposition, "to," to link the noun to the prepositional phrase that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect because it provides a noun and preposition combination that does not correspond to standard English. Choices C and D are incorrect because both present the noun "excess," which is a close homonym of "access," but means a surfeit or overabundance.

> Question 42
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) work
> C) worked
> D) could have worked

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Sentence Structure / Inappropriate shifts in construction / Verb tense, mood, and voice
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a verb in the present tense ("work"), which is consistent with the present tense verb "don't fare" that opens the sentence.

Choices A and C are incorrect because both use verbs in the past tense. Choice D is incorrect because the compound verb "could have worked" presents a possibility that is not consistent with the tone or purpose of the sentence, in which the writer is making a comparison between archival recipes that don't hold up well in the present day and those that do.

> Question 43
>
> A) NO CHANGE
> B) almond, cheesecake summer, mince,
> C) almond cheesecake summer, mince
> D) almond, cheesecake, summer, mince,

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Items in a series
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it provides items in a series that are whole discrete items, each one an example of a dessert from the Szathmary collection. Each item in the series is presented in standard English with the adjective preceding the main noun, for example, "summer mince pie."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each one scrambles the names of the dessert items by separating the parts of their names by commas.

> Question 44
>
> The writer plans to add the following sentence to this paragraph.
>
> "The judges reported that the entries were delicious."
>
> To make this paragraph most logical, the sentence should be placed
>
> A) after sentence 1.
> B) after sentence 2.
> C) after sentence 3.
> D) after sentence 4.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Organization / Logical sequence
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the proposed sentence logically follows information about a contest at the Iowa State Fair. At no other point in the paragraph does the writer mention a contest.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the writer has yet to state that there was a contest or other situation that involved an official judge, so placement of the proposed sentence after any of the first three sentences would be illogical.