

Question ID 17d7ac54

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 17d7ac54

Interest in mechanotransduction, the mechanism by which cells sense and convert mechanical stimuli into biochemical signals, is expanding because of innovative work by biomedical scientists—many of whom, like neuroscience and biophysics expert Elba Serrano, _____ this mechanism to better understand how the body’s neurological and biomechanical systems interact.

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

- A. is studying
- B. has studied
- C. study
- D. studies

Question ID d687aae3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d687aae3

Both Arteaga, in the state of Coahuila, and Lagos de Moreno, in the state of Jalisco, have been designated by Mexico as *pueblos mágicos* (magical villages) to celebrate these _____ natural beauty and unique cultural traditions.

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

- A. town
- B. town’s
- C. towns
- D. towns’

Question ID 86fb01fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 86fb01fc

Mathematician Grigori Perelman, sometimes in conjunction with mathematicians Richard S. Hamilton and Shing-Tung Yau, _____ credited with proving the Poincaré conjecture. Having built on Hamilton’s previous work to solve the proof, Perelman has insisted that Hamilton receive credit. Yau later found and closed gaps in Perelman’s proof, persuading some mathematicians that he deserves credit as well.

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

Question ID f86f2087

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f86f2087

A worker cooperative is a business that is owned and operated by its workers. This model stands in contrast to traditional models in which a smaller group of owners controls a company. Because the profits made by a cooperative are shared by all workers—who are also owners—the workers _____ directly from its success.

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

- A. benefit
- B. benefited
- C. were benefiting
- D. had benefited

Question ID 2285c026

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 2285c026

The violins handmade in the seventeenth century by Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari have been celebrated as some of the finest in the world. In close collaboration with musicians, Stradivari introduced changes to the shape of a traditional violin, flattening some of the instrument’s curves and making _____ lighter overall.

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

- A. those
- B. one
- C. them
- D. it

Question ID 27b28681

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 27b28681

Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* first appeared in 1855 as a slim collection of twelve poems, but Whitman would revise and expand it substantially over the next four decades. These extensive _____ the addition of hundreds of new poems, the removal of some existing ones, and the insertion of prefatory material, reflected the poet's evolving literary perspective and experience of the US Civil War.

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

- A. changes, including
- B. changes would include
- C. changes included
- D. changes, include

Question ID 5b3d2657

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 5b3d2657

Recordings of electrical activity in the brain, _____ increased activity in brain areas associated with suppressing motor functions.

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

- A. electrograms show that while responding to hypothetical match scenarios, the most highly skilled soccer players have
- B. the most highly skilled soccer players responding to hypothetical match scenarios have electrograms that show
- C. responses to hypothetical match scenarios show that the most highly skilled soccer players have electrograms with
- D. hypothetical match scenario responses show that the most highly skilled soccer players captured in electrograms have

Question ID 640d12e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 640d12e2

The African Games Co-production Market, one of over 180 annual international conferences supporting video game development, _____ the growth of the African gaming industry by helping start-up studios in Africa find partners.

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

- A. promote
- B. are promoting
- C. promotes
- D. have promoted

Question ID b9beb1e2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: b9beb1e2

In October of 1648, representatives from 96 different parties convened to sign the final treaties of the Peace of Westphalia. The treaties, which brought an end to the Thirty Years’ War, _____ signed in the cities of Osnabrück and Münster, both located in the Holy Roman Empire–controlled region of Westphalia.

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

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

Question ID d2df888f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d2df888f

While exploring Nevada’s Gypsum Cave in 1930, Seneca and Abenaki archaeologist Bertha Parker made her most famous discovery: the skull of a now-extinct ground sloth (*Nothrotheriops shastensis*) alongside human-made tools. Parker’s crucial finding was the first _____ humans in North America as far back as 10,000 years ago.

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

- A. places
- B. placed
- C. place
- D. to place

Question ID 6c3682db

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 6c3682db

Josephine Paddock and Florence Esté were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City art exhibition that introduced modernism to American audiences. Though shocking at the time, an abstract cubist painting exhibited by Marcel Duchamp—one of several works that received scorn from critics—_____ the Western art canon more than a century later.

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

- A. has entered
- B. have entered
- C. were entering
- D. enter

Question ID f1790695

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f1790695

Bonnie Buratti of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory _____ data about Saturn’s rings collected by the *Cassini* spacecraft when she made an interesting discovery: the tiny moons embedded between and within Saturn’s rings are shaped by the buildup of ring material on the moons’ surfaces.

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

- A. studies
- B. has been studying
- C. will study
- D. was studying

Question ID 1a85d5c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 1a85d5c4

In 1930, Japanese American artist Chiura Obata depicted the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park in two memorable woodcuts: *Evening at Carl Inn* and *Lake Basin in the High Sierra*. In 2019, _____ exhibited alongside 150 of Obata’s other works in a single-artist show at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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

- A. it was
- B. they were
- C. this was
- D. some were

Question ID d58cff43

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d58cff43

In a US national election, one might expect major-party campaigns to focus on the most populous states. However, if polls and past voting data suggest that the outcome in a given state is a foregone conclusion, a campaign will not invest its resources there. Ultimately, a state’s voting record and polling data, not its population size, _____ its importance to campaigns.

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

- A. determines
- B. determining
- C. has determined
- D. determine

Question ID a5a00b23

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: a5a00b23

Wanda Diaz-Merced is an astrophysicist who lost her sight when she was young. Diaz-Merced’s condition inspired her to develop software that can translate scientific data into sound. Sound-based tools _____ scientists to detect subtle patterns in data. Such patterns may not be evident in traditional graphs.

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

- A. has enabled
- B. enable
- C. is enabling
- D. enables

Question ID e7becedb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: e7becedb

Official measurements of the Mississippi River’s length vary: according to the US Geological Survey, the river is 2,300 miles long, whereas the Environmental Protection Agency records its length as 2,320 miles. This disparity can be explained in part by the fact that rivers such as the Mississippi expand and contract as _____ sediment.

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

- A. they accumulate
- B. one accumulates
- C. it accumulates
- D. we accumulate

Question ID fdcab605

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: fdcab605

Every last second of space shuttle mission STS-79, which lasted ten days and three hours, _____ carefully monitored by a team of experts.

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

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

Question ID 86980f69

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 86980f69

In 2016, engineer Vanessa Galvez oversaw the installation of 164 bioswales, vegetated channels designed to absorb and divert stormwater, along the streets of Queens, New York. By reducing the runoff flowing into city sewers, _____

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

- A. the mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved by bioswales.
- B. the bioswales have mitigated both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways.
- C. the bioswales’ mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved.
- D. both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways have been mitigated by bioswales.

Question ID b482b3c8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: b482b3c8

The Proto-Nilotic language, common ancestor of fifty-five African languages with similar linguistic properties, _____ like all protolanguages, hypothetical: there’s no direct evidence these ancestral languages actually existed.

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

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

Question ID 350e9346

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 350e9346

In a recent analysis of lyrical trends in 350,000 songs, researchers cite increases in certain measures, such as the ratio of choruses to verses, as evidence music lyrics are becoming more repetitive. For instance, from 1970 to 2020, _____ chorus-to-verse ratios trended similarly, with each genre’s data indicating that relative to the number of unique verses, the number of repeated choruses in songs increased.

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

- A. rocks and raps
- B. rock’s and rap’s
- C. rocks and rap’s
- D. rock and rap’s

Question ID a38bdd37

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: a38bdd37

A pioneer in the field of taphonomy (the study of how organic remains become fossils), _____ may be just as prevalent in the fossil record as those of thick-shelled organisms.

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

- A. fossils of thin-shelled organisms, Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis,
- B. Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- C. it was demonstrated in a 2005 analysis by Anna Behrensmeyer that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
- D. a 2005 analysis—by Anna Behrensmeyer—demonstrated that fossils of thin-shelled organisms

Question ID 7a58cdc7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 7a58cdc7

Several advantages—the ability to react strongly with chip components, to avoid interference from other waves, and to be confined within tiny circuits—_____ acoustic waves as a promising alternative to electrical waves for transmitting data on computer chips; as a result, researchers are invested in developing more acoustic wave-based chips.

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

- A. have positioned
- B. positioning
- C. by positioning
- D. having positioned

Question ID 00ef0f55

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 00ef0f55

Oyster mushrooms typically get their nutrients from the damp logs on which they grow, but the fungi are also carnivorous, with the ability to kill and consume microscopic worms known as nematodes. As researcher Yen-Ping Hsueh has shown, the mushrooms release a toxin that is deadly to nematodes that _____ in contact with it.

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

- A. has come
- B. comes
- C. is coming
- D. come

Question ID 90081efe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 90081efe

To fully describe the motion of an object requires knowing each of five _____ movement: displacement, time, initial velocity, final velocity, and acceleration. These are called kinematic variables.

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

- A. variable’s that characterize objects’
- B. variables that characterize objects’
- C. variables that characterize object’s
- D. variables that characterize objects

Question ID 21b7a258

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 21b7a258

Slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo’s debut novel *The Poet X*, winner of the 2018 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, is composed of _____ protagonist, fifteen-year-old Xiomara Batista.

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

- A. poems putatively written by the novel’s
- B. poem’s putatively written by the novel’s
- C. poem’s putatively written by the novels’
- D. poems putatively written by the novels’

Question ID 617c45ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 617c45ff

Because a cycle of lunar phases _____ 29.5 days to complete, it’s possible to observe two full moons in a single month, one at the beginning and one at the end.

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

- A. are taking
- B. have taken
- C. take
- D. takes

Question ID cff5bbab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: cff5bbab

A popular suite of mapping and spatial analysis software, ArcGIS enables cartographers like Karachi Cartography founder Namra Khalid _____ maps by analyzing and arranging raw geospatial data.

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

- A. create
- B. to create
- C. creating
- D. created

Question ID 0f0e713c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 0f0e713c

In the 1950s, a man named Joseph McVicker was struggling to keep his business afloat when his sister-in-law Kay Zufall advised him to repurpose the company’s product, a nontoxic, clay-like substance for removing soot from wallpaper, as a modeling putty for kids. In addition, Zufall _____ selling the product under a child-friendly name: Play-Doh.

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

- A. suggested
- B. suggests
- C. had suggested
- D. was suggesting

Question ID 49213f80

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 49213f80

The Progressive Era in the United States witnessed the rise of numerous Black women’s clubs, local organizations that advocated for racial and gender equality. Among the clubs’ leaders _____ Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, founder of the Women’s Era Club of Boston.

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

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

Question ID 60ba1f93

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 60ba1f93

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

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

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

Question ID bdf2d352

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: bdf2d352

Rabinal Achí is a precolonial Maya dance drama performed annually in Rabinal, a town in the Guatemalan highlands. Based on events that occurred when Rabinal was a city-state ruled by a king, _____ had once been an ally of the king but was later captured while leading an invading force against him.

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

- A. *Rabinal Achí* tells the story of K'iche' Achí, a military leader who
- B. K'iche' Achí, the military leader in the story of *Rabinal Achí*,
- C. the military leader whose story is told in *Rabinal Achí*, K'iche' Achí,
- D. there was a military leader, K'iche' Achí, who in *Rabinal Achí*

Question ID 19648d64

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 19648d64

Many folktales that originate in the Czech language start with a phrase that roughly translates to “there was, there was not.” Many tales that originate in English use “once upon a time.” Such phrases, known as story starters, _____ from language to language.

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

- A. vary
- B. has varied
- C. varies
- D. is varying

Question ID bd773a8d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: bd773a8d

Legal scholars James Melton and Tom Ginsburg’s analysis of de jure judicial independence and its growth over decades _____ six constitutional features that enhance such independence, including judicial tenure and selection procedure. Albania’s constitution contains five of these features.

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

- A. are identifying
- B. identify
- C. have identified
- D. identifies

Question ID 54a1acd0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 54a1acd0

The present-day city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan, was for years the capital of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, one of many nominally autonomous republics within the Soviet Union. Like _____ peer autonomous Soviet socialist republics, the Tajik Republic was established along ethnolinguistic lines: most of the republic’s residents spoke Persian.

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

- A. their
- B. they’re
- C. its
- D. it’s

Question ID c3f92445

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: c3f92445

In 2015, a team led by materials scientists Anirudha Sumant and Diana Berman succeeded in reducing the coefficient of friction (COF) between two surfaces to the lowest possible level—superlubricity. A nearly frictionless (and, as its name suggests, extremely slippery) state, _____

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

- A. when their COF drops below 0.01, two surfaces reach superlubricity.
- B. two surfaces, when their COF drops below 0.01, reach superlubricity.
- C. reaching superlubricity occurs when two surfaces’ COF drops below 0.01.
- D. superlubricity is reached when two surfaces’ COF drops below 0.01.

Question ID 25ee9bc5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 25ee9bc5

Based on genetic evidence, archaeologists have generally agreed that reindeer domestication began in the eleventh century CE. However, since uncovering fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia, _____ may have begun much earlier.

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

- A. researcher Robert Losey has argued that domestication
- B. researcher Robert Losey’s argument is that domestication
- C. domestication, researcher Robert Losey has argued,
- D. the argument researcher Robert Losey has made is that domestication

Question ID 8ccd1c72

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 8ccd1c72

The musical scores of Japanese composer Hiroyuki Sawano are famous for their mysterious titles. Laden with emojis and seemingly meaningless words, and driven largely by Sawano’s “personal feeling and mood,” _____

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

- A. the listener can approach each piece free from expectations because of the titles.
- B. the titles allow the listener to approach each piece free from expectations.
- C. each piece can be approached by the listener free from expectations because of the titles.
- D. the listener’s approach to each piece because of the titles can be free from expectations.

Question ID 5140d6fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 5140d6fc

French philosopher René Descartes doubted whether he could prove his own existence. Eventually, he found proof in his famous phrase “I think, therefore I am.” The _____ complexity: only those who exist would be able to ponder their existence.

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

- A. phrases’ simplicity masks its
- B. phrases simplicity masks their
- C. phrase’s simplicity masks their
- D. phrase’s simplicity masks its

Question ID 37a096b3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 37a096b3

In the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou, known as a hub for silk manufacturing, a unique tradition of embroidery _____ back over two thousand years—one that includes iconic double-sided stitching with different images on each side—remains popular with modern audiences, preserving the city’s cultural heritage.

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

- A. dates
- B. date
- C. dating
- D. has dated

Question ID cb1a7cfa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: cb1a7cfa

Nuhād al-Ḥaddād, known as Fairuz, was one of the most beloved Lebanese singers of the twentieth century. Her broad singing repertoire—which included traditional forms, such as the Arabic *qasida* and *maqam*, alongside modern pop and jazz styles—lent Fairuz a timeless, cross-generational appeal, _____ her the moniker “the soul of Lebanon.”

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

- A. earned
- B. had earned
- C. earning
- D. earn

Question ID c2e4a567

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: c2e4a567

Increased gender diversity is revitalizing the field of economics, according to Harvard’s Claudia Goldin. The trailblazing accomplishments of Goldin, winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on women in the labor force, _____ to the value of scholars of diverse backgrounds in spurring research into previously unexplored, but vitally important, topics.

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

- A. attests
- B. has attested
- C. is attesting
- D. attest

Question ID 676e462a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 676e462a

Known as Earth’s “living skin,” biocrusts are thin layers of soil held together by surface-dwelling microorganisms such as fungi, lichens, and cyanobacteria. Fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion, _____

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

- A. a recent study’s estimate is that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.
- B. an estimated 60 percent reduction in global dust emissions each year is due to these crusts, according to a recent study.
- C. these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.
- D. a recent study has estimated that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

Question ID 713bf969

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 713bf969

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, automobiles were commonly referred to as horseless carriages after the older technology they still resembled. Known as the Brass Era, this period in automotive design is remembered for its grandeur and artistry, its vehicles _____ by collectors for their ornate detailing and gleaming brass fittings.

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

- A. are highly prized
- B. had been highly prized
- C. highly prized
- D. were highly prized

Question ID 48823388

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 48823388

Despite being cheap, versatile, and easy to produce, _____ they are made from nonrenewable petroleum, and most do not biodegrade in landfills.

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

- A. there are two problems associated with commercial plastics:
- B. two problems are associated with commercial plastics:
- C. commercial plastics' two associated problems are that
- D. commercial plastics have two associated problems:

Question ID d3508a94

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d3508a94

Inventor John Friedman created a prototype of the first flexible straw by inserting a screw into a paper straw and, using dental floss, binding the straw tightly around the _____. When the floss and screw were removed, the resulting corrugations in the paper allowed the straw to bend easily over the edge of a glass.

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

- A. screw’s thread’s.
- B. screws’ threads.
- C. screw’s threads.
- D. screws threads’.

Question ID 1c09d493

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 1c09d493

In knot theory (the mathematical study of curved, closed loops), knots are characterized by their crossing numbers—that is, the number of times the knotted thread crosses over itself. The trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot, each with a crossing number below five, _____ among the simplest possible knots with the fewest number of crossings.

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

- A. was
- B. are
- C. has been
- D. is

Question ID 78bcc359

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 78bcc359

When a given term—“self-fulfilling prophecies” and “role models” are two well-known examples—is generally accepted and frequently used, _____ susceptible to obliteration by incorporation (OBI). In cases of OBI, widely used terms are rarely, if at all, attributed to the individuals who coined them.

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

- A. they often become
- B. these often become
- C. this often becomes
- D. it often becomes

Question ID f0fc062e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f0fc062e

In the canon of North African literature, Moroccan author Driss Chraïbi’s 1954 novel *The Simple Past* (*Le Passé simple*) looms large. A coming-of-age story, a social meditation, and a sober gaze into the dark maw of French colonialism, _____ interrogates systemic power with memorable intensity.

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

- A. Morocco gained its independence two years before the publication of Chraïbi’s debut novel, which
- B. Chraïbi’s debut novel, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
- C. Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
- D. published two years before Morocco gained its independence, Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that

Question ID 766e527a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 766e527a

In Marisol's 1968 sculpture *Mi Mama y Yo*, gone are the types of pop culture references that made the Parisian-born Venezuelan American artist a star at the height of the pop art movement. In _____ place is a far more personal subject: a sculptural depiction of the artist as a young girl with her mother.

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

- A. its
- B. they're
- C. their
- D. it's

Question ID 87bdcfd3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 87bdcfd3

Entomologists Yash Sondhi and Samuel Fabian have tried to explain why moths fly erratically around light sources at night. Knowing that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day, _____

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

- A. the researchers theorize that moths, mistaking nighttime lights for the Sun, continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights.
- B. the researchers’ theory is that moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun, continually trying to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights.
- C. moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun and continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights, the researchers theorize.
- D. moths continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near nighttime lights, the researchers theorize, mistaking such lights for the Sun.

Question ID 014e1dd4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 014e1dd4

The ghazal, a poetic form originating in seventh-century Arabic poetry, has an intricate structure. The twentieth-century Kashmiri American poet Agha Shahid Ali explains that each one of a ghazal’s couplets, while adhering to the patterns of rhyme (*qafia*) and refrain (*radif*) established in the poem’s opening lines (*matla*), _____ thematically and logically autonomous, resulting in a poem with “a stringently formal disunity.”

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

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

Question ID 8832dddb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 8832dddb

Water in the North Atlantic Ocean is pushed eastward by powerful winds, but the rotation of Earth and interference from nearby landmasses together cause _____ to swirl into a massive, churning whirlpool—also called the North Atlantic Gyre—that spins clockwise.

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

- A. these
- B. those
- C. them
- D. it

Question ID 3cc73025

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 3cc73025

African American Percy Julian was a scientist and entrepreneur whose work helped people around the world to see. Named in 1999 as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years, _____ led to the first mass-produced treatment for glaucoma.

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

- A. Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine in 1935; it
- B. in 1935 Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine, which
- C. Julian’s 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine
- D. the alkaloid physostigmine was synthesized by Julian in 1935 and

Question ID 03c94899

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 03c94899

English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne’s _____ much admired during his lifetime (1572–1631) and in the decades that followed, had, at the time of their enthusiastic rediscovery by the early twentieth-century modernists, been essentially gathering dust for the intervening 250 years.

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

- A. works were
- B. works, were
- C. works,
- D. works had been

Question ID fd088738

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: fd088738

Cheng Dang and her colleagues at the University of Washington recently ran simulations to determine the extent to which individual snow _____ affect the amount of light reflecting off a snowy surface.

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

- A. grain’s physical properties’
- B. grains’ physical properties
- C. grains’ physical property’s
- D. grains physical properties

Question ID cafcd8ba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: cafcd8ba

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

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

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

Question ID c1e1b8f8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: c1e1b8f8

When a given industry—water and electricity are two well-known examples—carries high infrastructural start-up costs and other barriers that discourage competition, _____ of just one or two suppliers per municipality. Such industries are known as natural monopolies.

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

- A. these often consist
- B. they often consist
- C. it often consists
- D. this often consists

Question ID f6704bc7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f6704bc7

Supported by biochemical analyses of over 2,000 skeletons from the Middle Ages, _____

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

- A. vegetables and grains were, a 2022 study found, the primary components of early medieval rulers’ diets.
- B. early medieval rulers’ diets were found, in a 2022 study, to have primarily consisted of vegetables and grains.
- C. the primary components of early medieval rulers’ diets were vegetables and grains, according to a 2022 study.
- D. findings from a 2022 study suggested that vegetables and grains were the primary components of early medieval rulers’ diets.

Question ID 2d9816c9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 2d9816c9

Professional American football player Fred Cox invented one of the world’s most popular toys. In the 1970s, he came up with the idea for the Nerf football, which _____ of the harder and heavier regulation football.

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

- A. were a smaller, foam version
- B. are smaller, foam versions
- C. were smaller, foam versions
- D. is a smaller, foam version

Question ID 29427be9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 29427be9

American abstract artist Richard _____ his installations to make passersby keenly aware of how one’s movements are affected by the physical features of one’s environment, assembles large-scale steel plates into sculptures that dominate the outdoor spaces they occupy.

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

- A. Serra is intending
- B. Serra, intends
- C. Serra, intending
- D. Serra intends

Question ID 359d139a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 359d139a

Featuring jagged peaks of black ink surrounded by hazy swirls of blue and green paint, Zhang Daqian’s 1983 painting *Panorama of Mount Lu* is inspired by the tradition of *qinglǔ shanshui*, a type of Chinese landscape painting _____ by the use of blue and green hues to depict ethereal, otherworldly landscapes.

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

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

Question ID 44e1ddc0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 44e1ddc0

The soundtrack to Mira Nair’s 1991 film *Mississippi Masala* expressively captures the clashing of cultures that happens when _____ (a young Indian woman from Uganda and a young African American man from Mississippi) meet. Featured throughout the film are songs from Uganda’s Afrigo Band, the Indian composer L. Subramaniam, and the Mississippi blues musician Sam Chatmon.

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

- A. it’s two protagonists
- B. its two protagonist’s
- C. it’s two protagonist’s
- D. its two protagonists

Question ID e61ed6ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: e61ed6ff

During a 2022 expedition led by research zoologist Andrea Quattrini, scientists discovered a new species of black coral off the coast of Puerto Rico. Like other black corals, the newly discovered species, which they named *Aphanipathes puertoricoensis*, has coiled branching structures that _____ it survive in the deep sea.

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

- A. has helped
- B. helps
- C. helping
- D. help

Question ID 200574b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 200574b9

Instead of sleeping on soft pillows, ancient Egyptians slept on hard, elevated headrests, their design _____ airflow, protection from insects, and hairstyle maintenance over comfort.

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

- A. had prioritized
- B. was prioritizing
- C. prioritized
- D. prioritizing

Question ID e88b05e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: e88b05e7

If an animal can recognize itself in a reflective surface (“the mirror test”), it is considered to have self-awareness. In a recent study, scientists _____ for evidence of self-awareness in snakes, species that rely primarily on olfactory rather than visual processing, adapted the test to foreground smell, modifying the scent trails of North American eastern garter snakes and African ball pythons.

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

- A. searched
- B. searching
- C. were searching
- D. have searched

Question ID 1d24a21e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 1d24a21e

In assessing the films of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, _____ have missed his equally deep engagement with Japanese artistic traditions such as Noh theater.

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

- A. many critics have focused on Kurosawa’s use of Western literary sources but
- B. Kurosawa’s use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
- C. there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa’s use of Western literary sources, but they
- D. the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa’s use of Western literary sources; they

Question ID 439dd708

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 439dd708

During the American Civil War, Thomas Morris Chester braved the front lines as a war correspondent for the *Philadelphia Press*. Amplifying the voices and experiences of Black soldiers _____ of particular importance to Chester, who later became an activist and lawyer during the postwar Reconstruction period.

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

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

Question ID aa2641ca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: aa2641ca

Established in 1936 by African American novelist Richard Wright, _____ it would become a vital part of the creative movement known as the Chicago Black Renaissance.

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

- A. the South Side Writers Group provided a valuable forum for Chicago writers to share ideas;
- B. Chicago writers in the South Side Writers Group had a valuable forum for sharing ideas;
- C. writers shared ideas at a valuable forum known as the South Side Writers Group in Chicago;
- D. Chicago was where the South Side Writers Group provided a valuable forum for writers to share ideas;

Question ID 0306371f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 0306371f

A species of *Byropsis* algae produces toxins to avoid being eaten by predators. However, in some cases, the toxins the organism uses to protect itself from predation actually _____ its attractiveness to predators. The Hawaiian sea slug, for example, not only tolerates *Byropsis* toxins but actually uses them for protection in the same way the algae does.

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

- A. is increasing
- B. increase
- C. increases
- D. has increased

Question ID 3879c2f3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 3879c2f3

In her 1983 book *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild first explored at length her conception of a “sociology of emotions”—the idea that the various cultural and ideological frameworks a person has internalized (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) _____ each emotional reaction that person has within a situation.

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

- A. underlies
- B. is underlying
- C. underlie
- D. has been underlying

Question ID f170a512

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f170a512

Solarpunk is an art movement that imagines renewable energy–powered technology infused complementarily into nature. In Paolo Bacigalupi’s solarpunk short story “Efficiency,” an artificial intelligence that absorbs sustainable energies, redistributing them through intricate networks of weights and generators, _____ Chicago’s energy grid.

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

- A. have been powering
- B. power
- C. powers
- D. are powering

Question ID b7d115d4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: b7d115d4

Woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted using a carpet weaving technique passed down by the artist’s Turkish grandmother, _____ so lush and tactilely inviting that you are tempted to reach out and touch them.

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

- A. the topological tapestries of Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou are
- B. the Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou creates topological tapestries that are
- C. when she creates her topological tapestries, Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou makes them
- D. Alexandra Kehayoglou is an Argentine textile artist whose topological tapestries are

Question ID 31255f5e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 31255f5e

Unique among animal species, humans use our vocal apparatuses primarily for two separate communicative purposes: to talk and to sing. The question of what cross-cultural traits distinguish these distinct modes, and secondarily what pressures led humans to develop them in the first place, _____ neuropsychologist Daniela Sammler’s 2024 study “Signatures of Speech and Song: ‘Universal’ Links despite Cultural Diversity.”

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

- A. animates
- B. have animated
- C. animate
- D. animating

Question ID 25345c56

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 25345c56

A model created by biologist Luis Valente predicts that the rate of speciation—the rate at which new species form—on an isolated island located approximately 5,000 kilometers from the nearest mainland _____ triple the rate of speciation on an island only 500 kilometers from the mainland.

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

- A. being
- B. to be
- C. to have been
- D. will be

Question ID 10f20645

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 10f20645

Artist Yto Barrada’s exhibition *Ways to Baffle the Wind* incorporates sculptures, textiles, and films. Barrada’s pieces, utilizing elements as disparate as plant-dyed fabrics, wire crab traps filled with stones, and cotton balls dangling above a fan, _____ the ways humans attempt to organize and regulate nature.

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

- A. explore
- B. has explored
- C. explores
- D. exploring

Question ID b54d5f32

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: b54d5f32

It can take time for proposed amendments to the US Constitution to become law. For example, the Twenty-Second Amendment, which limits the number of _____ can serve, was first proposed in 1947 but wasn’t approved by the required three-fourths majority of state legislatures until 1951.

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

- A. terms presidents
- B. term’s presidents
- C. term’s president’s
- D. terms president’s

Question ID a2074e21

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: a2074e21

Ten of William Shakespeare’s plays are classified as histories. Although each one of these plays, which include *Henry V* and *Richard III*, _____ on a single historical figure (specifically, an English king), some, such as *Henry VI Part One* and *Henry VI Part Two*, feature different episodes from the same monarch’s life.

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

- A. focuses
- B. focus
- C. are focused
- D. were focused

Question ID cddb4183

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: cddb4183

A government body officially known as the Althing, _____

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

- A. the world’s oldest parliaments include one which first met in 930 CE, Iceland’s.
- B. Iceland’s parliament is one of the oldest in the world, first meeting in 930 CE.
- C. the first meeting of one of the oldest parliaments in the world, Iceland’s, was in 930 CE.
- D. 930 CE was the year when Iceland’s parliament, one of the oldest parliaments in the world, first met.

Question ID 944f7c2e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 944f7c2e

In the list “Adorable Things” from Sei Shōnagon’s *Pillow Book*, the author delights in baby sparrows, a face drawn on a melon, and a young courtier in ceremonial garb. So shrewd an observer is Shōnagon, a lady-in-waiting to Empress Teishi, that her book’s musings on tenth-century Japanese courtly life _____ readers a thousand years later.

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

- A. fascinate
- B. has fascinated
- C. fascinates
- D. is fascinating

Question ID d07e1039

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d07e1039

Researchers studying the “terra-cotta army,” the thousands of life-size statues of warriors found interred near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of China, were shocked to realize that the shape of each statue’s ears, like the shape of each person’s ears, _____ unique.

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

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

Question ID 1f5f78ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 1f5f78ec

In Death Valley National Park’s Racetrack Playa, a flat, dry lakebed, are 162 rocks—some weighing less than a pound but others almost 700 pounds—that move periodically from place to place, seemingly of their own volition. Racetrack-like trails in the _____ mysterious migration.

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

- A. playas sediment mark the rock’s
- B. playa’s sediment mark the rocks
- C. playa’s sediment mark the rocks’
- D. playas’ sediment mark the rocks’

Question ID d3c331b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d3c331b0

Star actress Kiki Omeili, who has appeared in 47 Nollywood films, is one of numerous luminaries to be pictured in Nigerian portraitist Iké Udé’s exhibition *Nollywood Portraits*. _____ referred to Nollywood—Nigeria’s \$3 billion film industry—as “Africa’s vivid mirror par excellence,” honors its legacy with his vivid classical portraits of Omeili and her peers.

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

- A. Udé, has
- B. Udé has
- C. Udé
- D. Udé, having

Question ID d1c65571

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d1c65571

Far from being modern inventions, _____ more than 5,000 years ago.

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

- A. Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia used drinking straws
- B. drinking straws were used by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia
- C. the use of drinking straws by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia happened
- D. ancient Mesopotamia was home to Sumerians who used drinking straws

Question ID fa025ecf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: fa025ecf

Tracy Fullerton’s *Walden, a game*, an unlikely fusion of the writings of nineteenth-century transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau with today’s open-world video games, _____ players to explore a digital version of Walden Pond, the idyllic natural setting featured in Thoreau’s book *Walden*.

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

- A. invites
- B. invite
- C. are inviting
- D. have invited

Question ID 9544af6a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 9544af6a

Tortoises can be found in many works of literature. For example, in Tom Stoppard's 1993 play *Arcadia*, there is a tortoise that _____ by two names (Plautus and Lightning) and appears in both of the play's parallel timelines. As a character, the tortoise symbolizes the connection between the past and present.

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

- A. goes
- B. will have gone
- C. went
- D. had gone

Question ID fe93e03f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: fe93e03f

The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), a commonly used measure of competition between companies in a particular market, ranges from a score of zero to 10,000 points. Compared with that of a highly concentrated market—that is, a market controlled by very few companies—_____

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

- A. a market that is less concentrated will have a much lower HHI score.
- B. the HHI score of a less concentrated market will be much lower.
- C. when a market is less concentrated, its HHI score will be much lower.
- D. a less concentrated market will have an HHI score that is much lower.

Question ID d8530372

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d8530372

Oglala Lakota poet Layli Long Soldier’s star quilt poems offer an unusually open-ended reading experience. With _____ eight panels of text stitched together in the shape of a traditional eight-pointed Lakota star quilt, the poems present viewers with a seemingly infinite number of ways to read them.

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

- A. their
- B. it’s
- C. they’re
- D. its

Question ID f71697d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: f71697d7

In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, an appeal for freedom from the British monarchy that famously helped ignite the desire for independence among the American colonists. After the colonies achieved their independence, Paine moved to Paris, where the provocative _____ would contribute to another revolution—the French Revolution.

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

- A. authors political writings
- B. author’s political writings
- C. author’s political writing’s
- D. authors’ political writings’

Question ID ce80743f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: ce80743f

Wanting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase, _____ up with a motto that best captured the state’s unique character. The commission selected “North to the Future,” submitted by Juneau journalist Richard Peter, as its winning entry.

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

- A. a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission would award \$300 to an individual who came
- B. an award of \$300 would go to an individual in a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission for coming
- C. \$300 would be awarded to an individual by the Alaska Centennial Commission in a contest for coming
- D. the Alaska Centennial Commission sponsored a contest that would award \$300 to an individual who came

Question ID d8dd0668

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: d8dd0668

In 1966, Emmett Ashford became the first African American to umpire a Major League Baseball game. His energetic gestures announcing when a player had struck out and his habit of barreling after a hit ball to see if it would land out of _____ transform the traditionally solemn umpire role into a dynamic one.

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

- A. bounds helped
- B. bounds, helping
- C. bounds that helped
- D. bounds to help

Question ID ee06fd88

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: ee06fd88

Recent pollen analyses of the Aran Islands have led some researchers to propose that the now treeless islands were once wooded. This hypothesis _____ that certain trees, such as *P. sylvestris*, survived without interruption or human intervention throughout the Holocene cannot stand, researchers Michael O’Connell and Karen Molloy counter, unless other explanations can first be ruled out.

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

- A. suggesting
- B. suggested
- C. suggests
- D. has suggested

Question ID 3a1b783b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Form, Structure, and Sense	

ID: 3a1b783b

Forming extensive networks via mycorrhizal association—that is, a symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi—_____

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

- A. it is the entanglement of pine trees’ roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*’s fungal hyphae that makes nutrient transport possible.
- B. the transport of nutrients is possible through the entanglement of pine trees’ roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*’s fungal hyphae.
- C. nutrients can be transported through the entanglement of pine trees’ roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*’s fungal hyphae.
- D. pine trees and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake* can transport nutrients through their entangled tree roots and fungal hyphae.