

Writing and Language Test

30 MINUTES, 40 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a “NO CHANGE” option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

The Shipment to Jefferson

In 1805, United States President Thomas Jefferson received a shipment that he had been eagerly anticipating. It included four boxes, two trunks, and three cages. Inside these containers were hundreds of items that explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had **1** collected. During their exploration of the nation’s westernmost territories. Opening the containers,

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) collected; during
- C) collected, it was during
- D) collected during

Jefferson found such items as pressed plants, soil, bones, and even live animals. The collection also **2** included in addition to the plants, soil, bones, and animals objects that Lewis and Clark had acquired through their dealings with American Indian tribes. **3**

One goal of Lewis and Clark's journey, which extended from St. Louis, Missouri, all the way to the Pacific Ocean, **4** were forging relationships with the American Indian tribes who lived in those areas. During

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) included, along with the plants, soil, bones, and animals,
- C) included, besides the plants, soil, bones, and animals,
- D) included

3

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

The Jefferson administration had purchased 827,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi from France for about 15 million dollars.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides details that support the previous sentence's claim about acquiring objects.
- B) Yes, because it helps explain why Lewis and Clark's journey was historically important.
- C) No, because it contains information that repeats what has already been stated.
- D) No, because it interrupts the discussion of Lewis and Clark's collection with a poorly integrated detail.

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) was
- C) are
- D) is

their travels, Lewis and Clark encountered over fifty **5** tribes. With each interaction, Lewis and Clark exchanged gifts with the tribe members as a gesture of respect and indication of their willingness to trade.

[1] The gifts from Lewis and Clark to the tribes included **6** weapons, kettles for cooking, and medicine.

[2] In exchange, the tribe members gave them feather and quill garments, pipes, and canoes, among other **7** objects they gave them. [3] One notable gift in the collection was a Mandan buffalo robe. [4] Lewis and Clark included a note in the shipment explaining that the robe represented a legendary battle involving the Mandan tribe. [5] Jefferson designated these gifts as “tokens of friendship.” **8**

5

The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following.

tribes, including the Sioux, Mandan, Shoshone, and Nez Perce.

Should the writer make this revision?

- A) Yes, because it provides additional relevant information about Lewis and Clark’s encounters with American Indian tribes.
- B) Yes, because it gives details that tell more about Lewis and Clark’s daily life on the journey.
- C) No, because it provides information that is unrelated to the paragraph’s point about the American Indian tribes.
- D) No, because it doesn’t fully explain why the tribes would exchange gifts with Lewis and Clark.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) weapons; kettles for cooking and
- C) weapons, kettles for cooking; and
- D) weapons, kettles for cooking, and,

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) stuff they gave.
- C) objects.
- D) stuff.

8

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 2 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 3.
- C) after sentence 4.
- D) after sentence 5.

Jefferson had a deep interest in the objects Lewis and Clark had shipped to him. In the entrance hall of his home, Monticello, he displayed the artifacts that Lewis and Clark had sent him, including the Mandan robe.

9 Jefferson donated some of the items to different museums and kept others at Monticello, but over the years many of the items were lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, modern artists have been able to re-create the Monticello exhibit by fabricating artifacts such 10 as: weaponry, paintings, hide robes, and a replica of the famous Mandan buffalo robe.

9

Which sentence, if added here, would most effectively introduce the topic of the paragraph?

- A) Jefferson hoped to sell many of the items in hopes of paying off the national debt of the United States.
- B) One original item from the Jefferson shipment still displayed at Monticello is the set of elk antlers Lewis and Clark sent.
- C) Unfortunately, the contents of the shipment, including the Indian artifacts, have not been preserved intact.
- D) Other artifacts that Jefferson displayed at his home were items from Egypt and maps from all over the world.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) as
- C) as;
- D) as—

Questions 11-20 are based on the following passage.

Learning about Lemurs

Lemurs, a type of primate whose ancestors came to the island of Madagascar roughly 65 million years ago, have lived there ever since in isolation from other primates. Those other primates, who stayed behind on the African mainland, evolved into the simian group: monkeys and apes. **11** Scientists have compared the cognitive traits of lemurs to those of the simian primates to gain a better understanding of primate evolution.

According to psychologist Laurie Santos, who studies modern primates to determine when certain cognitive abilities evolved, “Lemurs are our best living model of the earliest primate mind.” Earlier research had suggested that lemurs’ learning capacities were less sophisticated than those of apes and monkeys. Neuroscientist Elizabeth Brannon’s initial research, however, gave scientists new insight into lemur intelligence. **12**

11

Which sentence provides the best transition to the next paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Scientists are studying why the lemurs left the African mainland in order to understand the animals’ cognitive evolution.
- C) Scientists are excited to discover the cognitive abilities of both lemurs and simian primates.
- D) Scientists have studied the cognitive abilities of simian primates to gain a better understanding of lemurs and their isolated evolution.

12

The writer is considering revising the paragraph to remove the quotation from Santos. Assuming that the revision would result in a complete sentence, should the quotation be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it fully explains the scientific process Santos used.
- B) Kept, because it helps explain why lemurs have been viewed as valuable research subjects.
- C) Deleted, because it blurs the focus of the paragraph by giving information that is not necessary at that point.
- D) Deleted, because it does not support the paragraph’s main point about the relationship between lemurs and simian primates.

Both Santos and Brannon have observed behaviors that suggest lemurs are skilled with ordered **13** sequences—a high-level cognitive trait known to be present in simian primates. **14** Lemurs, it seems, appear to have quantitative abilities similar to those of apes and monkeys, even though they diverged from **15** there ancestors so long ago. This information suggests that those cognitive traits were present in the primate ancestors.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sequences a
- C) sequences, and a
- D) sequences. A

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Lemurs, apparently,
- C) Lemurs, evidently,
- D) Lemurs

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) their
- C) they're
- D) they are

[1] In one set of trials at Brannon's cognitive neuroscience lab, lemurs watched a researcher place grapes one by one into an opaque bucket. [2] Brannon and her team observed that the amount of time the lemurs spent searching for the fruit depended on whether

16 they thought there should be more grapes left in the bucket. [3] **17** For halves of those trials, the researcher put some of the grapes into a false bottom inside the bucket. [4] Santos has conducted similar experiments with lemurs. [5] Both scientists concluded that the lemurs have quantitative reasoning skills. [6] They based their findings on the way the lemurs seemed to keep track of the objects they were shown. [7] They observed the same type of reaction when a numerical outcome was different from what the lemurs had expected. **18**

Scientists **19** daydream that future research will show whether lemurs have additional characteristics of high-level cognition, such as social behaviors or the ability to use language. **20** As the work of Santos and Brannon shows, lemurs appear to be a key link to understanding the origin of primate cognition.

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) he or she
- C) it
- D) you

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Four halves
- C) For have
- D) For half

18

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 5.
- D) after sentence 6.

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) pine away for future research to
- C) hope that future research will
- D) search with desire for future research to

20

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Because of the work of Santos and Brannon,
- C) Nonetheless, the work of Santos and Brannon shows that
- D) As an example of the work of Santos and Brannon,

Questions 21-30 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

Connecting in the Twenty-First Century

Videoconferencing is a technology **21** allowing for people in different locations to hold face-to-face meetings. With videoconferencing, people can see and talk to each other on computer or television screens almost as if they were in the same room. Although this technology first became available for commercial use in the United **22** States, in the early 1970s, it took several decades for videoconferencing to become a practical substitute for business travel. Videoconferencing programs have significantly changed the business **23** world. They have made it faster and easier for colleagues in different locations to hold discussions and share information.

Getting to and from out-of-town meetings can be expensive and exhausting. The good news is that by making a relatively small investment in videoconferencing technologies, most companies can save a **24** distinguished amount of money and time. According to a report by the Carbon Disclosure Project, a business with \$1 billion or more in annual revenue could save nearly 900 business trips in the first year by equipping four rooms as centers for videoconference meetings. **25** The report, however, projects that a company could start making money back on its investment in as little as fifteen months.

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) while allowing
- C) that allows
- D) allowed by

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) States in the early 1970s,
- C) States, in the early 1970s
- D) States in the early 1970s

23

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) world that made
- B) world, although they make
- C) world, which makes
- D) world by making

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) heavy
- C) significant
- D) weighty

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) First of all, the report
- C) The report also
- D) As mentioned previously, the report

Once they are fully utilizing videoconferencing technology, most companies **26** were very pleased with the results. To better understand business **27** executive's attitudes about using videoconferencing technology, *Forbes* magazine conducted a survey in 2009. Of the 760 business executives who responded, 92 percent reported that videoconferencing saves time, and **28** 88 percent responded that videoconferencing saves money. In addition, **29** some of the respondents reported that they prefer videoconferences because they increase productivity.

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) has been
- C) was
- D) are

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) executives' attitudes
- C) executives attitude's
- D) executives attitudes'

28

Which choice most accurately represents the data in the chart?

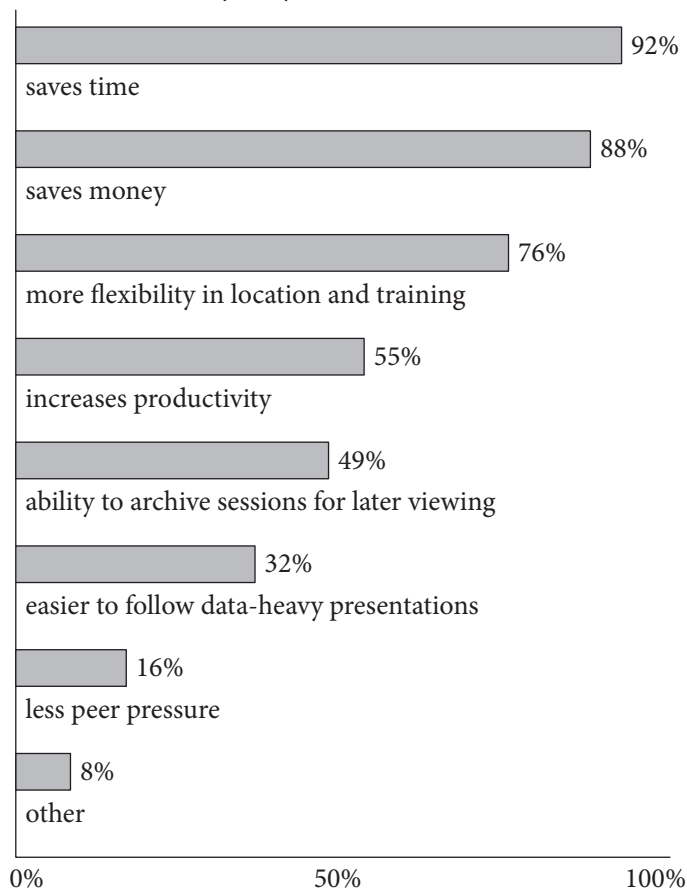
- A) NO CHANGE
- B) executives noted that videoconferencing reduced their budgets by 88 percent.
- C) another 88 percent agreed that videoconferencing is more convenient.
- D) executives use videoconferencing for 88 percent of their meetings.

29

Which choice most accurately and precisely provides specific data from the chart?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 55 percent of respondents
- C) other executives surveyed
- D) 55 executives

Responses of 760 Business Executives to Questions
about Why They Prefer Videoconferences



Adapted from Jeff Koyen, "Business Meetings." ©2009 by Forbes Insights.

Videoconferencing helps companies to bridge geographical divides and save time, not to mention the wear and tear on employees who have to travel long distances for meetings. **30** Rather, it also preserves the irreplaceable value of a face-to-face relationship in today's global business world.

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Therefore,
- C) For this very reason,
- D) At the same time,

Questions 31-40 are based on the following passage.

“It’s Showtime!”

There was a brisk wind **31** blowing, on November 21, 1934, as a fifteen-year-old Ella Fitzgerald made her way down 125th Street in New York City’s Harlem district. Up ahead, Ella could see the Apollo Theater’s prominent neon sign. The light blazing from its white background and purple letters flooded the night sky.

32 At the age of legal racial segregation, the Apollo Theater was one of the few settings in which hopeful African American performers could show off their talent. At that time, if you were white and hoped to become an entertainer, you went to Broadway, but if you were black, like Ella, **33** she went to amateur night at the Apollo. Ella knew that winning the amateur night talent show could launch her career, as it had launched the careers of so many entertainers before her. **34**

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) blowing on
- C) blowing: on
- D) blowing, on,

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) During the age
- C) For the era
- D) At the moment

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they
- C) you
- D) he or she

34

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

To this day, amateur night at the Apollo remains an institution, one that has been instrumental in promoting the careers of such famous talents as Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it reinforces the paragraph’s point about the Apollo’s significance.
- B) Yes, because it adds a historical detail to remind the reader that the passage is nonfiction.
- C) No, because it blurs the paragraph’s focus on explaining racial segregation.
- D) No, because it is irrelevant to the passage’s focus on how Fitzgerald got her start as an entertainer.

As Ella walked toward the theater's door, she stared aghast at the long line of people waiting to take their seats. These were the **35** people, who would choose the evening's winner by the volume of their applause. **36**

From backstage, Ella watched as a pair of dancers dazzled the audience. Her heart sank as she realized her dance routine couldn't compete with this performance. It was her turn next to perform, but Ella was so petrified that she could barely force herself to walk out onto the stage.

[1] After Ella was introduced, she heard people in the audience wondering what she was going to do. [2] Then, she made a sudden decision to sing instead of dance. [3] She began shakily, and after a few sour notes of "The Object of My Affection" stumbled out of her mouth, Ella stopped short. [4] With this song, Ella's bold, singular voice brought the house down. [5] She tried again, but this time she went with a song called "Judi." [6] As she finished, a wave of applause swept over her. [7] The audience demanded an encore **37** because they wanted her to sing again. **38**

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) people, who would choose the evening's winner,
- C) people who would choose the evening's winner
- D) people who would choose the evening's winner,

36

Which choice, if added here, would most effectively explain why Ella might be nervous?

- A) Ella knew that audiences at amateur night were notoriously tough on the entertainers.
- B) Most entertainers simply ignored the audience's reaction and kept on performing.
- C) Even now the audience at the Apollo is not shy about voicing its opinions about the performers.
- D) Ella had often sat in those seats and wondered when it would be her turn to be on stage.

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to show they thought she was a great singer.
- C) because they wanted to hear more from her.
- D) DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

38

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 6.

The appearance Ella made at the Apollo Theater that night **39** undertook her career. She was invited to sing with a well-known swing band and eventually started a solo career. She became one of the top international jazz performers and won many awards for her recordings. **40**

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) ignited
- C) caused
- D) introduced

40

The writer wants to conclude with a thought that emphasizes the idea of Ella Fitzgerald as an important entertainer. Which sentence, if added here, would best accomplish this goal?

- A) Ella Fitzgerald always knew that the Apollo would be the key to achieving her dream.
- B) To many, Ella Fitzgerald is still “the first lady of song.”
- C) Though it wasn’t her original plan, Ella Fitzgerald’s choice to sing was the right one.
- D) Ella Fitzgerald would always remember that first night at the Apollo.

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**

No Test Material On This Page