

Question ID b801489e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b801489e

Mia Heavener’s 2019 novel *Under Nushagak Bluff*, which takes place in a mid-twentieth-century rural Alaskan fishing _____ the story of three Yup’ik women who grapple with the rise of commercial fisheries and other changes affecting their community.

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

- A. village. Tells
- B. village tells
- C. village: tells
- D. village, tells

ID: b801489e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. The comma after “village” pairs with the comma after “*Under Nushagak Bluff*” to separate the supplementary relative clause (“which...village”) from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary relative clause functions to provide additional information about the setting of Heavener’s novel, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in two rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragments, one beginning with “Mia” and the other beginning with “tells.” Choice B is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary relative clause (“which...village”) from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a colon can’t be paired with a comma in this way to separate the supplementary relative clause (“which...village”) from the rest of the sentence. A colon can be used between two main clauses or a main clause and supplement, but here there is no main clause on either side of the colon.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 22f1e238

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 22f1e238

Many companies have simplified their products’ packaging designs in recent years, but _____ Researcher Lan Anh Nu Ton and her colleagues designed a research study to find out.

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

- A. consumers actually do prefer this simpler style.
- B. do consumers actually prefer this simpler style?
- C. do consumers actually prefer this simpler style.
- D. consumers actually do prefer this simpler style?

ID: 22f1e238 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a question mark to punctuate the interrogative clause “do consumers actually prefer this simpler style,” which asks a direct question at the end of the sentence. This is the question that the researchers in the next sentence were trying to investigate.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires an interrogative clause. The declarative clause “consumers actually do prefer this simpler style” incorrectly indicates the consumers’ preference was already known, whereas the researchers had yet to find this out. Choice C is incorrect because a period can’t be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative clause at the end of a sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a question mark can’t be used in this way to punctuate a declarative clause, such as “consumers actually do prefer this simpler style,” at the end of a sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e803340a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e803340a

Dolores Huerta’s advocacy on behalf of farmworkers was rooted in her experience as a schoolteacher in Stockton, California, in the early 1950s. Hoping to help her students and their families outside the _____ Huerta left teaching to start the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, a group focused on the needs of local farmworkers.

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

- A. classroom.
- B. classroom;
- C. classroom,
- D. classroom

ID: e803340a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the introductory participial phrase ("Hoping...classroom") and the main clause ("Huerta...farmworkers").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "hoping." Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between the participial phrase ("Hoping...classroom") and the main clause ("Huerta...farmworkers"). Choice D is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the participial phrase ("Hoping...classroom") and the main clause ("Huerta...farmworkers").

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 562d4b57

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 562d4b57

In 2000, Nora de Hoyos Comstock, herself an owner of a successful consulting firm, sought to increase Latina representation in corporate _____. She founded Las Comadres para las Americas, an international community that for over two decades has served as a resource and information network for Latina business professionals.

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

- A. settings she
- B. settings, she
- C. settings and she
- D. settings. She

ID: 562d4b57 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. It appropriately uses a period to mark the end of one independent clause ("In 2000...settings") and the start of another ("She founded...professionals").

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence error. Both the clause before the blank ("In 2000...settings") and the clause after the blank ("she...professionals") are independent clauses, so they need to be separated by punctuation. Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a comma splice error. It incorrectly joins two independent clauses with just a comma. Linking two independent clauses with a comma also requires the use of a coordinating conjunction (like *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, or *so*). Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, an error caused when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation or appropriate conjunctions. Since both the clause before the blank ("In 2000...settings") and the clause after the blank ("she...professionals") are independent, a comma would be required in addition to the coordinating conjunction "and."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 32445083

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 32445083

When using a search engine, many people click just the first one or two results. Click restraint is the practice of scanning a search results page and evaluating what you see before deciding which link _____

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

- A. should you choose.
- B. you should choose?
- C. should you choose?
- D. you should choose.

ID: 32445083 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence that ends with an indirect question (“which link you should choose.”)

Choice A is incorrect. The structure requires a declarative clause that presents an indirect question about what is evaluated in click restraint, not an interrogative clause that presents a direct question, such as “which link should you choose.” Choice B is incorrect. It’s unconventional to use a question mark in this way to punctuate a declarative clause that presents an indirect question, such as “which link you should choose.” Choice C is incorrect. The structure requires a declarative clause that presents an indirect question about what is evaluated in click restraint, not an interrogative clause that presents a direct question, such as “which link should you choose.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 72b7feaa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 72b7feaa

Technologies such as microphones and inkjet printers are made using piezoelectric materials, which generate an internal electric field when pressure is applied to them. The toxic nature of some of these materials recently led a team from the University of Sheffield to investigate how _____

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

- A. could their use be better regulated?
- B. their use could be better regulated.
- C. their use could be better regulated?
- D. could their use be better regulated.

ID: 72b7feaa Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence that asks an indirect question ("The toxic nature of some of these materials recently led a team from the University of Sheffield to investigate how their use could be better regulated").

Choice A is incorrect because the structure requires a period and a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states what the team investigated, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as "how could their use be better regulated?" Choice C is incorrect because it's unconventional to use a question mark in this way to punctuate a declarative sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the structure requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states what the team investigated, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as "how could their use be better regulated?"

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID af557364

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: af557364

In the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, Okonkwo is a leader of Umuofia (a fictional Nigerian clan) and takes pride in his culture’s traditions. However, when the arrival of European missionaries brings changes to Umuofia, the novel asks a central question: How _____

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

- A. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected.
- B. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected.
- C. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected?
- D. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected?

ID: af557364 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The clause before the colon tells us that the novel “asks a question,” so the clause after the colon should be in the conventional form of a question: with the verb before the subject, and a question mark at the end.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice ends the sentence with a period, which isn’t right. The clause before the colon tells us that the novel “asks a question,” so the clause after the colon should be that question. Choice B is incorrect. This choice ends the sentence with a period, which isn’t right. The clause before the colon tells us that the novel “asks a question,” so the clause after the colon should be that question. In Standard English, questions place the verb before the subject and end with a question mark. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t conform to the conventions of Standard English. In Standard English, questions place the verb before the subject.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ef8408a4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ef8408a4

Typically, underlines, scribbles, and notes left in the margins by a former owner lower a book’s _____ when the former owner is a famous poet like Walt Whitman, such markings, known as marginalia, can be a gold mine to literary scholars.

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

- A. value, but
- B. value
- C. value,
- D. value but

ID: ef8408a4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of independent clauses within a sentence. An independent clause is a phrase containing a subject and a verb that can stand on its own as a sentence. This choice uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but” to join the first independent clause (“underlines...lower a book’s value”) and the second independent clause (“such markings...can be a gold mine to scholars”) to create a compound sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two independent clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between two independent clauses. Choice D is incorrect because a comma is needed to mark the boundary between two coordinated independent clauses.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e48e163e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e48e163e

The element carbon has the highest melting point _____ all the elements on the periodic table—3,500 degrees Celsius.

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

- A. of
- B. of—
- C. of,
- D. of:

ID: e48e163e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a preposition and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the preposition "of" and its complement "all the elements on the periodic table." The complement completes the meaning of the preposition in the phrase "the highest melting point of all the elements on the periodic table," and using punctuation to separate the complement from the preposition results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 95649ca9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 95649ca9

In 1727, dramatist Lewis Theobald presented a new play, *Double Falsehood*, at a London theater. Theobald claimed that his drama was based on a little-known play by William Shakespeare, *Cardenio*. Many, including poet Alexander Pope, were _____ historians have determined that Shakespeare’s company did perform a play called *Cardenio* in 1613.

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

- A. skeptical but
- B. skeptical, but
- C. skeptical,
- D. skeptical

ID: 95649ca9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. There are two independent clauses in the sentence, each with a subject and a verb: "many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined...." These clauses can be grammatically joined by a comma and the coordinating conjunction "but."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. Two independent clauses can’t be joined by just the coordinating conjunction "but." A comma would also be required. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error called a comma splice. This sentence contains two independent clauses ("Many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined..."). A comma alone can’t join two independent clauses. That requires a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. This sentence contains two independent clauses ("Many...were skeptical" and "historians have determined..."), which need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fe4e10cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fe4e10cc

Louise Bennett (1919–2006), also known as “Miss Lou,” was an influential Jamaican poet and folklorist. Her innovative poems _____ the use of Jamaican Creole (a spoken language) in literature.

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

- A. popularized;
- B. popularized,
- C. popularized
- D. popularized:

ID: fe4e10cc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a verb and an object. No punctuation is needed between the verb "popularized" and its object "the use of Jamaican Creole." The object helps complete the idea of the verb—in this case, it explains what Louise Bennett popularized—and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c44fcf03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c44fcf03

Where ____ Interestingly, it was invented by an author. It first appears in the novel *Through the Looking Glass* by English author Lewis Carroll.

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

- A. did the word “chortle” come from.
- B. the word “chortle” did come from?
- C. did the word “chortle” come from?
- D. the word “chortle” come from.

ID: c44fcf03 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a question mark to punctuate the interrogative sentence "where did the word ‘chortle’ come from," which asks a direct question.

Choice A is incorrect because a period can’t be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative sentence, such as "where did the word ‘chortle’ come from." Choice B is incorrect because "where the word ‘chortle’ did come from" does not follow the conventional structure of a direct question in Standard English. It’s conventional in Standard English to follow the interrogative word "where" with an auxiliary verb (such as "did") when asking a direct question. Choice D is incorrect because "where the word ‘chortle’ come from" does not follow the conventional structure of a direct question in Standard English. It’s conventional in Standard English to follow the interrogative word "where" with an auxiliary verb (such as "did") when asking a direct question. Furthermore, a period can’t be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5631e99d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5631e99d

By analyzing ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica, a research team at Sweden’s Lund University discovered evidence of a solar storm that occurred 9,200 years ago. Scientists had previously thought the Sun to be in a relatively “quiet” phase at that _____ the Lund team’s finding suggests otherwise.

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

- A. time but
- B. time, but
- C. time,
- D. time

ID: 5631e99d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction "but" to join the first main clause ("Scientists...time") and the second main clause ("the Lund...otherwise").

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it’s conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can’t be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f8497cc6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f8497cc6

The fine, powdery substance that covers the Moon’s surface is called regolith. Because regolith is both readily available and high in oxygen _____ scientists have wondered whether it could be used as a potential source of oxygen for future lunar settlements.

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

- A. content and
- B. content,
- C. content
- D. content, and

ID: f8497cc6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subordinate clause and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the subordinate clause (“Because...content”) and the main clause (“scientists...settlements”).

Choice A is incorrect. Joining the subordinate clause (“Because...content”) and the clause that follows (“scientists...settlements”) with the conjunction “and” results in an ungrammatical sentence that lacks a main clause. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the subordinate clause and the main clause with appropriate punctuation. Choice D is incorrect. Joining the subordinate clause (“Because...content”) and the clause that follows (“scientists...settlements”) with a comma and the conjunction “and” results in an ungrammatical sentence that lacks a main clause.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3bfd0a4f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3bfd0a4f

Azulejos, mosaics made of glazed ceramic tiles, can be found throughout Portugal. These mosaics beautify places such as _____ stations, and public squares.

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

- A. libraries train
- B. libraries: train
- C. libraries—train
- D. libraries, train

ID: 3bfd0a4f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a simple series. The comma after "libraries" is used conventionally to separate the first and second items ("libraries" and "train stations") in the series.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to separate the first two items ("libraries" and "train stations") in the series. Choice B is incorrect because a colon can't be used in this way to separate items in a simple series. Choice C is incorrect because a dash can't be used in this way to separate items in a simple series.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f6da3294

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f6da3294

In her two major series “Memory Test” and “Autobiography,” painter Howardena Pindell explored themes _____ healing, self-discovery, and memory by cutting and sewing back together pieces of canvas and inserting personal artifacts, such as postcards, into some of the paintings.

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

- A. of
- B. of,
- C. of—
- D. of:

ID: f6da3294 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a preposition and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the preposition “of” and its complement, the noun phrase “healing, self-discovery, and memory.”

Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between a preposition and its complement. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between a preposition and its complement. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between a preposition and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bfc41dd2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: bfc41dd2

About 70,000 meteorites have been found on Earth. Although most meteorites are fragments of _____ hundred have been identified as being from the Moon or Mars.

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

- A. asteroids. Several
- B. asteroids, several
- C. asteroids; several
- D. asteroids: several

ID: bfc41dd2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice uses a comma to correctly separate the dependent clause "although...asteroids" from the independent clause "several hundred have been...Mars."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a sentence fragment. "Although...asteroids" is a dependent clause. It can't stand on its own as a sentence, which means it can't end in a period. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. "Although...asteroids" is a dependent clause and can't be joined to the independent clause "several hundred have been...Mars" with a semicolon. A semicolon can only join two independent clauses. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. A colon can only come after an independent clause, but "although...asteroids" is a dependent clause.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 946c008f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 946c008f

The part of a compound that determines the compound’s color is _____ the chromophore. One example of a chromophore is hemoglobin, which gives human blood its red color.

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

- A. called,
- B. called
- C. called—
- D. called;

ID: 946c008f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a verb and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the verb “is called” and its complement “the chromophore.” The complement helps complete the idea of the verb—in this case, it explains what the part of a compound that determines the compound’s color is called—and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its complement. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its complement. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b79670a7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b79670a7

Santa Clara Pueblo artist Roxanne Swentzell's sculpture *Mud Woman Rolls On* consists of five human figures made of clay and plant fiber and arranged in descending size; each figure holds the smaller one in front of it. The arrangement of the figures, according to _____ represents her idea that “we all come from the Earth, generation after generation.”

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

- A. Swentzell
- B. Swentzell,
- C. Swentzell:
- D. Swentzell—

ID: b79670a7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks: two commas, two dashes, or a pair of parentheses. We already have a comma before “according,” so we must add a comma after “Swentzell.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks: one before and one after the phrase. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. “The arrangement of the figures, according to Swentzell” is not an independent clause, so it can’t come before a colon. Choice D is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. The phrase “according to Swentzell” is an aside that interrupts the flow of the sentence, so it needs to be separated from the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a comma at the beginning, so we have to use another comma here to match. We can’t just switch to a dash! .

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 37ccf84e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 37ccf84e

When particles are suspended in liquid (like pollen in a water glass), they will zigzag randomly through the liquid and collide with one another in perpetuity. This type of random, continuous _____ is known as Brownian motion, can be observed throughout the natural world.

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

- A. movement: which
- B. movement, which
- C. movement which
- D. movement. Which

ID: 37ccf84e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice correctly uses commas to set off the nonessential relative clause "which is known as Brownian motion" that provides extra information about the "random, continuous movement" that isn't necessary for the function of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. The relative clause "which is known as Brownian motion" is a nonessential supplement. Nonessential supplements need to be set apart from the rest of the sentence with a pair of commas, dashes, or parentheses, so we can't use a colon here. Also, notice that colons can only come after an independent clause, which isn't the case here. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a punctuation error. The relative clause "which is known as Brownian motion" is a nonessential supplement, so it should be separated from the rest of the sentence by a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a comma after "motion," so we need to add a comma before "which." This choice is missing that comma. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a sentence fragment. "This type of random, continuous movement" is not an independent clause and can't stand alone as a full sentence, so we can't put a period here.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b3e861cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b3e861cf

The algaita is a double reed wind instrument from West Africa. The reed of a wind instrument is the mouthpiece _____. A double reed contains two pieces of cane that vibrate and produce sound as air passes between them.

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

- A. where sound is made?
- B. where is sound made.
- C. where sound is made.
- D. where is sound made?

ID: b3e861cf Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence ("the reed of a wind instrument is the mouthpiece") that ends with a prepositional phrase ("where sound is made").

Choice A is incorrect. It's unconventional to use a question mark to punctuate a declarative sentence. Choice B is incorrect. The structure requires that the sentence continue as a declarative clause, not end with an interrogative clause. Choice D is incorrect. The structure requires that the sentence continue as a declarative clause and end with a period, not end with an interrogative clause and a question mark.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d72aaae9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d72aaae9

In early 1700s England, it was legal for shops to sell prints of artists’ engravings without the artists’ permission. This changed in 1735 with the passage of the Engravers’ Copyright ____ gave engravers control over the distribution and sale of all prints made from their designs.

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

- A. Act, which
- B. Act; which
- C. Act. Which
- D. Act

ID: d72aaae9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation between a main clause and a supplementary element. In this choice, the comma is used correctly to mark the boundary between the main clause ("This...Act") and the supplementary relative clause ("which...designs") that provides additional information about the Engravers’ Copyright Act.

Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between a main clause and a supplementary relative clause. A semicolon is conventionally used to join two main clauses, and "which...designs" isn’t a main clause. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment. Choice D is incorrect. Joining the main clause and the additional information about the Engravers’ Copyright Act ("gave...designs") without the comma and relative pronoun "which" results in a confusing and ungrammatical sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1dd740ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1dd740ff

While many video game creators strive to make their graphics ever more _____ others look to the past, developing titles with visuals inspired by the “8-bit” games of the 1980s and 1990s. (The term “8-bit” refers to a console whose processor could only handle eight bits of data at once.)

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

- A. lifelike but
- B. lifelike
- C. lifelike,
- D. lifelike, but

ID: 1dd740ff Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subordinate clause and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the subordinate clause (“While...lifelike”) and the main clause (“others look to the past”).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in an incomplete sentence with no main clause. Choice B is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the subordinate clause (“While...lifelike”) and the main clause (“others...past”). Choice D is incorrect because it results in an incomplete sentence with no main clause.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2aa0bdaf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2aa0bdaf

In her large-scale sculpture *Casa-lsla*, artist Edra Soto included references to her childhood in Puerto Rico. For example, the sculpture’s steel panels have a crisscrossing pattern inspired by the iron gates _____

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

- A. Soto would see in her neighborhood?
- B. Soto would see in her neighborhood.
- C. would Soto see in her neighborhood.
- D. would Soto see in her neighborhood?

ID: 2aa0bdaf Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence ("For example...neighborhood").

Choice A is incorrect. It’s unconventional to use a question mark in this way to punctuate a declarative sentence. Choice C is incorrect. The structure requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states where Soto saw the steel panels, not an incomplete interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as "would Soto see in her neighborhood." Choice D is incorrect. The structure requires a period and a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states where Soto saw the steel panels, not an incomplete interrogative clause asking a direct question, such as "would Soto see in her neighborhood?"

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 121aae1f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 121aae1f

Human-made (synthetic) fibers used in clothes and many other consumer products are more durable than most natural plant ____ the manufacture of synthetic fibers requires toxic chemical solvents that can pollute air and water.

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

- A. fibers,
- B. fibers but
- C. fibers
- D. fibers, but

ID: 121aae1f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but” to join the first main clause (“Human-made...fibers”) and the second main clause (“the manufacture...water”).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can’t be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice B is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it’s conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 09333379

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 09333379

Nine months before Rosa Parks made history by refusing to comply with the segregated seating policy on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, a fifteen-year-old Montgomery girl named Claudette Colvin was arrested for the same _____ to some historians, Colvin’s arrest led to Parks’s action and eventually to the desegregation of Montgomery’s bus system.

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

- A. offense. According
- B. offense, according
- C. offense according
- D. offense and according

ID: 09333379 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses. Separating them with a period and turning them into their own sentences is the only grammatically correct choice among the provided options.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice results in a comma splice error, which is a punctuation error that occurs when two independent clauses are joined by only a comma. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses, so they need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period. Choice C is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are both independent clauses, so they need to be either joined by a semicolon, joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or separated by a period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice results in a run-on sentence, which occurs when two independent clauses are joined without punctuation. “Nine months...offense” and “according to...system” are independent clauses, so we would need to put a comma before the coordinating conjunction “and” to join them properly.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 103d9693

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 103d9693

Psychophysicist Howard Moskowitz was hired by a soda company to determine how much artificial sweetener _____. After conducting consumer taste tests, he found that no such ideal existed: participants expressed a wide range of preferences for different blends of sweetener, carbonization, and flavoring.

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

- A. do most people prefer in a diet drink?
- B. do most people prefer in a diet drink.
- C. most people prefer in a diet drink?
- D. most people prefer in a diet drink.

ID: 103d9693 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence is a statement: “Moskowitz was hired by a soda company to determine how much artificial sweetener most people prefer in a diet drink.” So a period is the most appropriate punctuation mark.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. This sentence is not a question—it’s a statement. So a question mark is not the appropriate punctuation. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. We already have the verbs “was hired... to determine” in this sentence. The verb “do” is not needed and results in a confusing, ungrammatical sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. This sentence is not a question—it’s a statement. So a question mark is not the appropriate punctuation.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ca565d66

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ca565d66

Many Samoans enjoy a sport called kilikiti. This bat-and-ball game was derived from _____. kilikiti differs from cricket in a few key ways.

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

- A. cricket but:
- B. cricket but,
- C. cricket, but
- D. cricket, but,

ID: ca565d66 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma before the coordinating conjunction "but" to join the first main clause ("This bat-and-ball game was derived from cricket") and the second main clause ("kilikiti differs from cricket in a few key ways").

Choice A is incorrect. When coordinating two main clauses such as these, it's not conventional to use a colon in this way after the coordinating conjunction. Choice B is incorrect. When coordinating two main clauses such as these, it's not conventional to use a comma in this way after the coordinating conjunction. Choice D is incorrect. When coordinating two main clauses such as these, it's not conventional to use a comma in this way after the coordinating conjunction.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3baa0f75

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3baa0f75

Before the Erie Canal was completed in 1825, transporting goods by wagon between New York City and the Midwest took up to forty-five days and cost one hundred dollars per ton. By linking the Hudson River to Lake _____ canal reduced transport time to nine days and cut costs to six dollars per ton.

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

- A. Erie; the
- B. Erie (the
- C. Erie, the
- D. Erie: the

ID: 3baa0f75 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a supplementary phrase and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the introductory supplementary phrase (“By linking the Hudson River to Lake Erie”), which identifies how the canal reduced transport time, and the main clause (“the canal reduced transport time to nine days and cut costs to six dollars per ton”).

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between a supplementary phrase (“By... Erie”) and the main clause (“the canal...ton”). Choice B is incorrect because an open parenthesis can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between a supplementary phrase (“By...Erie”) and the main clause (“the canal...ton”). Choice D is incorrect because a colon can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between an introductory supplementary phrase (“By...Erie”) and the main clause (“the canal...ton”).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c2fe5bbd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c2fe5bbd

A harpsichord may look just like a piano, but the difference between the two instruments is easy to hear. When a harpsichord’s keys are pressed, the strings inside the _____ are plucked, not struck.

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

- A. instrument:
- B. instrument
- C. instrument—
- D. instrument,

ID: c2fe5bbd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a subject and a verb. When, as in this case, a subject ("the strings inside the instrument") is immediately followed by a main verb ("are plucked"), no punctuation is needed.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 26a66f24

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 26a66f24

Fans of science fiction will _____ multiple references to classic sci-fi stories in Janelle Mon  e’s song lyrics, including her recurring nods to the plot of the 1927 sci-fi film *Metropolis*.

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

- A. appreciate the
- B. appreciate. The
- C. appreciate, the
- D. appreciate: the

ID: 26a66f24 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested here is punctuation between a verb and object. No punctuation is needed between the verb ("appreciate") and its object ("the multiple references..."). The object helps complete the idea of the verb—in this case, it explains what fans of science fiction will appreciate—and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d4c3122b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d4c3122b

Lucía Michel of the University of Chile observed that alkaline soils contain an insoluble form of iron that blueberry plants cannot absorb, thus inhibiting blueberry growth. If these plants were grown in alkaline soil alongside grasses that aid in iron solubilization, _____ Michel was determined to find out.

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

- A. could the blueberries thrive.
- B. the blueberries could thrive.
- C. the blueberries could thrive?
- D. could the blueberries thrive?

ID: d4c3122b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a question mark to punctuate the interrogative clause “could the blueberries thrive,” which asks a direct question at the end of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because a period can’t be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative clause, such as “could the blueberries thrive,” at the end of a sentence. Choice B is incorrect because the context requires an interrogative clause. The declarative clause “the blueberries could thrive” incorrectly indicates that it was known that the blueberries could thrive in alkaline soil, whereas Michel had yet to find this out. Choice C is incorrect because a question mark can’t be used in this way to punctuate a declarative clause, such as “the blueberries could thrive,” at the end of a sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 61e6cf3b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 61e6cf3b

Located in the northern United States, the Great Lakes Basin contains roughly 35,000 islands. Lake Superior has Grand Island, for example. Lake Michigan has Belle Isle. Lake Huron, though, is home _____ the largest island of them all: Manitoulin Island.

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

- A. to;
- B. to—
- C. to
- D. to,

ID: 61e6cf3b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a preposition and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the preposition "to" and its complement "the largest island of them all." The complement completes the meaning of the preposition in the phrase "home to the largest island of them all," and any punctuation within it results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3c2cf8cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3c2cf8cd

After the United Kingdom began rolling out taxes equivalent to a few cents on single-use plastic grocery bags in 2011, plastic-bag consumption decreased by up to ninety _____ taxes are subject to what economists call the “rebound effect”: as the change became normalized, plastic-bag use started to creep back up.

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

- A. percent, such
- B. percent and such
- C. percent. Such
- D. percent such

ID: 3c2cf8cd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after “percent” is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence (“After...percent”) and another (“Such...up”).

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice B is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to join sentences. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“After...percent” and “Such...up”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f856be23

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f856be23

In her book *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, author Maxine Hong Kingston examines themes _____ childhood, womanhood, and Chinese American identity by intertwining autobiography and mythology.

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

- A. of:
- B. of
- C. of—
- D. of,

ID: f856be23 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Themes of childhood” is one noun phrase, with “themes of” implicitly carrying over to the other items on the list (“themes of childhood, [themes of] womanhood, and [themes of] Chinese American identity”).

Choice A is incorrect. This choice inappropriately breaks up the introduction of a list. Also, “In her book...themes of” is not an independent clause, thanks to the dangling “of” at the end, so it can’t precede a colon. Choice C is incorrect. This choice inappropriately breaks up the introduction of a list. Also, “In her book...themes of” is not an independent clause, thanks to the dangling “of” at the end, so it can’t precede a single dash. Choice D is incorrect. This choice inappropriately breaks up the introduction of a list. “Themes of” implicitly carries over to each item on the list (“themes of childhood, [themes of] womanhood, and [themes of] Chinese American identity”), so we don’t want to use a comma to separate it.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9edd64ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9edd64ae

In 1953, a fellow performer tripped on legendary jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie’s trumpet, bending its bell upward. When Gillespie tested the damaged instrument, he realized that he _____ sound of a bent bell over that of a straight one.

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

- A. preferred; the
- B. preferred the
- C. preferred, the
- D. preferred. The

ID: 9edd64ae Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a verb and its object. No punctuation is needed between the verb "preferred" and its object "the sound of a bent bell over that of a straight one." The object helps complete the idea of the verb—in this case, it explains what type of sound Gillespie preferred—and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 25f752f4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 25f752f4

In the 1980s, Latino filmmakers Luis Valdez, Gregory Nava, and Ramón Menéndez helped expand on-screen representation of Latino Americans with the films *Zoot Suit* _____ and *Stand and Deliver* (1988), respectively.

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

- A. (1981) *El Norte* (1983),
- B. (1981)—*El Norte* (1983)—
- C. (1981), *El Norte* (1983),
- D. (1981) *El Norte* (1983)

ID: 25f752f4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a series. The comma after “(1981)” is used conventionally to separate the first and second items in the series, and the comma after “(1983)” is used conventionally to separate the second and third items in the series.

Choice A is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the first and second items in the series. Choice B is incorrect because dashes can’t be used in this way to separate items in a simple series. Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the items in the series.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9bcab648

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9bcab648

In 1976, the Inuit rock group Sikumiut recorded the album *People of the Ice*. Though only their first record, it shows a band already skilled at the difficult task of making music that sounds easy and fun. On songs like “Utirumavunga,” Lucassie Koperqualuk’s guitar riffs effortlessly _____ Charlie Adams’s delightfully catchy vocal melodies.

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

- A. blend, with
- B. blend. With
- C. blend; with
- D. blend with

ID: 9bcab648 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a verb and a prepositional phrase. No punctuation is needed between the verb “blend” and the prepositional phrase “with Charlie Adams’s delightfully catchy vocal melodies.” The prepositional phrase completes the idea of the sentence, explaining with what Koperqualuk’s guitar riffs blend.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the prepositional phrase. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the prepositional phrase. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and the prepositional phrase.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 550d6484

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 550d6484

In forecasting weather events, meteorologists sometimes discuss the role of atmospheric rivers. What are atmospheric rivers, and how _____. Part of the water cycle, atmospheric rivers are narrow channels of moisture moving through the atmosphere. In certain conditions, these “rivers” can release some of their moisture as precipitation.

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

- A. do they affect our weather.
- B. they do affect our weather.
- C. do they affect our weather?
- D. they do affect our weather?

ID: 550d6484 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a question mark to punctuate the coordinated interrogative clauses "What are atmospheric rivers" and "how do they affect our weather," both of which ask direct questions.

Choice A is incorrect because a period can't be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative clause, such as "how do they affect our weather," at the end of a sentence. Choice B is incorrect because the structure requires an interrogative clause and a question mark at the end of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the structure requires an interrogative clause at the end of the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9e56d8e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9e56d8e7

Award-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe was known for his innovative filming techniques. While filming a boxing match for the movie *Body and Soul* _____ Howe had a handheld camera operator wear roller skates. This allowed the operator to move smoothly around actors in a boxing ring, creating an immersive experience for viewers.

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

- A. (1947), and
- B. (1947),
- C. (1947) and
- D. (1947)

ID: 9e56d8e7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a supplementary element and a main clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the supplementary phrase (“While...1947”), which indicates when the action occurred, and the main clause (“Howe had a handheld camera operator wear roller skates”).

Choice A is incorrect because a comma paired with the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between the supplementary element (“While...1947”) and the main clause (“Howe...skates”). Choice C is incorrect because the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to join the supplementary element (“While...1947”) and the main clause (“Howe...skates”). Choice D is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the supplementary element and the main clause with appropriate punctuation.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f3ef485f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f3ef485f

At 1,280 meters, the Golden Gate Bridge in the United States is one of the longest suspension bridges in the _____ the Tsing Ma Bridge in China, at 1,377 meters, is even longer.

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

- A. world but
- B. world, but,
- C. world,
- D. world, but

ID: f3ef485f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but” to join the first main clause (“At...world”) and the second main clause (“the...longer”).

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two main clauses such as these, it’s conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because a comma isn’t needed after the conjunction “but.” Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can’t be used in this way to join two main clauses.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fb0a6682

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fb0a6682

At eight paragraphs long, the preamble to the constitution of _____ country in Western Asia—is much longer than the one-paragraph preamble to the United States Constitution.

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

- A. Bahrain—a
- B. Bahrain, a
- C. Bahrain a
- D. Bahrain: a

ID: fb0a6682 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The dash after “Bahrain” pairs with the dash after “Asia” to separate the supplementary element “a country in Western Asia” from the rest of the sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because a comma can’t be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a colon can’t be paired with a dash in this way to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c4e54735

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c4e54735

Researchers Amit Kumar and Nicholas Epley investigated how _____. In a series of experiments conducted in 2022, they found that people performing small acts of kindness underestimated the positive effect their actions had on others.

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

- A. do people perceive acts of kindness.
- B. do people perceive acts of kindness?
- C. people perceive acts of kindness?
- D. people perceive acts of kindness.

ID: c4e54735 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence that asks an indirect question ("Researchers Amit Kumar and Nicholas Epley investigated how people perceive acts of kindness").

Choice A is incorrect. The structure of the sentence requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states what Kumar and Epley did, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as "how do people perceive acts of kindness."
Choice B is incorrect. The structure of the sentence requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence that states what Kumar and Epley did, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as "how do people perceive acts of kindness?"
Choice C is incorrect. It's unconventional to use a question mark in this way to punctuate a declarative sentence that asks an indirect question, such as "Researchers...kindness."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f26ab826

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f26ab826

The Kaiparowits Formation is a fossil-rich layer of sedimentary rock in the Grand Staircase, a colossal sequence of rock layers stretching from Utah’s Bryce Canyon to Arizona’s Grand Canyon. The sandstones and mudstones of the Kaiparowits Formation were deposited _____ the Late Cretaceous, preserving many species from that time.

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

- A. during:
- B. during;
- C. during,
- D. during

ID: f26ab826 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a preposition and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the preposition “during” and its complement “the Late Cretaceous.” The complement completes the meaning of the preposition in the phrase “deposited during the Late Cretaceous,” and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 082574fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 082574fc

The life spans of rockfish vary greatly by species. For instance, the colorful calico rockfish (*Sebastes dallii*) can survive for a little over a _____ the roughey rockfish (*Sebastes aleutianus*) boasts a maximum life span of about two centuries.

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

- A. decade: while
- B. decade. While
- C. decade; while
- D. decade, while

ID: 082574fc Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a main clause and a subordinate clause. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("the colorful...decade") and the subordinate clause ("while...centuries") that provides contrasting information about the life span of roughey rockfish.

Choice A is incorrect because a colon can't be used in this way to join a main clause and a subordinate clause. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "while." Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join a main clause and a subordinate clause.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 44a7cf65

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 44a7cf65

Ganga is a folk singing tradition that originated in the Dinaric Alps in southern Europe. Ganga singers sing different melodies at the same time. The clashing notes can echo a long way across the mountains, which is why _____

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

- A. ganga has been used as a communication method?
- B. ganga has been used as a communication method.
- C. has ganga been used as a communication method.
- D. has ganga been used as a communication method?

ID: 44a7cf65 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a period to punctuate a declarative sentence ending with a relative clause that presents an indirect question (“why ganga has been used as a communication method.”)

Choice A is incorrect. It’s unconventional to use a question mark to punctuate a declarative sentence that presents an indirect question. Choice C is incorrect. The structure requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as “has ganga been used as a communication method.” Choice D is incorrect. The structure requires a declarative clause at the end of the sentence, not an interrogative clause that asks a direct question, such as “has ganga been used as a communication method.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 27260414

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 27260414

According to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, aloha 'āina is “a recognition, commitment, and practice sustaining the ea—or life breath” between the Hawaiian people and their natural environments. The concept has been proudly embodied _____ Native Hawaiians for generations, contributing to the lush flora and renowned beauty of the islands.

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

- A. by;
- B. by:
- C. by,
- D. by

ID: 27260414 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a preposition and its complement. No punctuation is needed between the preposition "by" and its complement "Native Hawaiians." The complement completes the meaning of the preposition in the phrase "proudly embodied by Native Hawaiians," and any punctuation within it results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the preposition and its complement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 26b716e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 26b716e8

Emperor Ashoka ruled the Maurya Empire in South Asia from roughly 270 to 232 BCE. He is known for enforcing a moral code called the Law of Piety, which established the sanctity of animal _____ the just treatment of the elderly, and the abolition of the slave trade.

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

- A. life
- B. life;
- C. life:
- D. life,

ID: 26b716e8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Notice that "the sanctity of animal life" is the first item in a list of three things. We must use a comma to separate the first two items in the list, just as a comma is used to separate "the just treatment of the elderly" and "the abolition of the slave trade."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. Notice that "the sanctity of animal life" is the first item in a list of three things. To appropriately format the list, we need punctuation to separate each item. Choice B is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. Notice that "the sanctity of animal life" is the first item in a list of three things. While semicolons are sometimes used to separate list items, this list uses commas to separate the other list items, and lists must use the same punctuation throughout. Choice C is incorrect. This choice creates a punctuation error. Notice that "the sanctity of animal life" is the first item in a list of three things. While colons can be used to introduce lists, they can't be used to separate items within a list.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f8627b74

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f8627b74

The capital city of the Aztec empire, Tenochtitlan, was built on an island in a lake. Because of the marshy conditions, the Aztec people _____ floating farms called “chinampas.”

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

- A. created
- B. created:
- C. created,
- D. created;

ID: f8627b74 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a verb and its object. No punctuation is needed between the verb “created” and its object “floating farms called ‘chinampas.’” The object helps complete the idea of the verb—in this case, it explains what the Aztec people created—and any punctuation between the two results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the verb and its object.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6378f094

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6378f094

Emperor penguins don’t waddle out of the ocean. They launch themselves at such a high speed that they travel up to two meters before landing. How _____ A layer of microbubbles on their plumage reduces friction as the penguins speed to the surface.

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

- A. they are able to move so fast!
- B. are they able to move so fast.
- C. they are able to move so fast.
- D. are they able to move so fast?

ID: 6378f094 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice correctly uses a question mark to punctuate the interrogative sentence “how are they able to move so fast?” The interrogative sentence asks a direct question, and the next sentence answers it.

Choice A is incorrect because the context requires an interrogative sentence. The exclamative sentence “how they are able to move so fast!” emphasizes the penguin’s high rate of speed, but it doesn’t set up the next sentence’s explanation of how the penguins achieve such speeds. Choice B is incorrect because a period can’t be used in this way to punctuate an interrogative sentence. Choice C is incorrect because the context requires an interrogative sentence. The exclamative sentence “how they are able to move so fast” emphasizes the penguin’s high rate of speed, but it doesn’t set up the next sentence’s explanation of how the penguins achieve such speeds.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c18d995f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c18d995f

The Alvarez theory, developed in 1980 by physicist Luis Walter Alvarez and his geologist son Walter Alvarez, maintained that the secondary effects of an asteroid impact caused many dinosaurs and other animals to die _____ it left unexplored the question of whether unrelated volcanic activity might have also contributed to the mass extinctions.

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

- A. out but
- B. out, but
- C. out
- D. out,

ID: c18d995f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but” to join the first main clause (“the Alvarez...out”) and the second main clause (“it left...extinctions”).

Choice A is incorrect because when coordinating two longer main clauses such as these, it’s conventional to use a comma before the coordinating conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can’t be used in this way to join two main clauses.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 47e67c42

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 47e67c42

Polyphenols are organic compounds _____ among their many roles, provide pigment that helps protect plants against ultraviolet radiation from sunlight.

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

- A. that—
- B. that;
- C. that,
- D. that:

ID: 47e67c42 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of a supplementary element within a sentence. The comma after “that” pairs with the comma after “roles” to separate the supplementary element “among their many roles” from the rest of the sentence. This supplementary element functions to clarify that polyphenols have many roles, and the pair of commas indicates that this element could be removed without affecting the grammatical coherence of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because a dash can’t be paired with a comma to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be paired with a comma to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a colon can’t be paired with a comma to separate the supplementary element from the rest of the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d1145534

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d1145534

Generations of mystery and horror _____ have been influenced by the dark, gothic stories of celebrated American author Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849).

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

- A. writers
- B. writers,
- C. writers—
- D. writers;

ID: d1145534 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation between a subject and a verb. When, as in this case, a subject (“Generations of mystery and horror writers”) is immediately followed by a verb (“have been influenced”), no punctuation is needed.

Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb. Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the subject and the verb.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 62e50f59

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 62e50f59

A standard Argo float, a type of autonomous robot, measures temperature and salinity in the upper regions of ice-free oceans. More advanced floats can measure a wider range of _____ and monitor seasonal ice zones.

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

- A. variables: travel to greater depths
- B. variables, travel to greater depths,
- C. variables travel to greater depths,
- D. variables, travel to greater depths;

ID: 62e50f59 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a series. The comma after “variables” is used conventionally to separate the first and second items in the series, and the comma after “depths” is used conventionally to separate the second and third items.

Choice A is incorrect because a colon can’t be used in this way to separate items in a simple series. Choice C is incorrect because a comma is needed after “variables” to separate the first and second items in the series. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to separate items in a simple series.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 678404ae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 678404ae

The intense pressure found in the deep ocean can affect the structure of proteins in fish’s cells, distorting the proteins’ shape. The chemical trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) counters this effect, ensuring that proteins retain their original _____ is found in high concentrations in the cells of the deepest-dwelling fish.

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

- A. configurations. TMAO
- B. configurations TMAO
- C. configurations, TMAO
- D. configurations and TMAO

ID: 678404ae Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period after “configurations” is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence (“The intense...configurations”) and another (“TMAO...fish”). The supplementary phrase (“ensuring...configurations”) modifies the main clause of the first sentence (“The chemical...effect”), and “TMAO” is the subject of the second sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences (“The intense...configurations” and “TMAO...fish”) are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. A comma can’t be used in this way to mark the boundary between sentences. Choice D is incorrect. Without a comma preceding it, the conjunction “and” can’t be used in this way to join sentences.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID dd53fb5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dd53fb5c

Both Sona Charaipotra, an Indian American, and Dhonielle Clayton, an African American, grew up frustrated by the lack of diverse characters in books for young people. In 2011, these two writers joined forces to found CAKE Literary, a book packaging _____ specializes in the creation and promotion of stories told from diverse perspectives for children and young adults.

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

- A. company,
- B. company that
- C. company
- D. company, that

ID: dd53fb5c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use and punctuation of an integrated relative clause. This choice correctly uses the relative pronoun “that” and no punctuation to create an integrated relative clause that provides essential information about the noun phrase (“a book packaging company”) that it modifies.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn’t use a relative pronoun to link the verb phrase beginning with “specializes” to the noun phrase that it modifies (“a book packaging company”). Choice C is incorrect because it doesn’t use a relative pronoun to link the verb phrase beginning with “specializes” to the noun phrase that it modifies (“a book packaging company”). Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the integrated relative clause beginning with “that specializes” and the noun phrase that it modifies (“a book packaging company”).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 83868036

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 83868036

The short story “Rogue Enchantments” by Isabel Ibañez appears in *Reclaim the _____* anthology of fantasy and science fiction written by authors of Latin American descent.

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

- A. *Stars*. An
- B. *Stars*, while an
- C. *Stars* an
- D. *Stars*, an

ID: 83868036 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("The short...*Stars*") and the supplementary element ("an anthology...descent") that provides additional information about what *Reclaim the Stars* is.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "an anthology." Choice B is incorrect. Joining the main clause and the following supplementary element with the conjunction "while" results in a confusing and ungrammatical sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it fails to mark the boundary between the main clause and the supplementary element with appropriate punctuation.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2e1e5d09

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2e1e5d09

In 2009, researchers determined that pottery fragments from a cave in China were close to 18,000 years old. These are some of the oldest _____ of pottery ever found.

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

- A. pieces:
- B. pieces,
- C. pieces
- D. pieces—

ID: 2e1e5d09 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between a noun and a prepositional phrase. No punctuation is needed between the noun "pieces" and the prepositional phrase "of pottery." The prepositional phrase provides essential information about what kind of pieces were found, so it shouldn't be separated from the rest of the noun phrase ("some of the oldest pieces") with punctuation.

Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun phrase "some of the oldest pieces" and the prepositional phrase "of pottery." Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun phrase "some of the oldest pieces" and the prepositional phrase "of pottery." Choice D is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun phrase "some of the oldest pieces" and the prepositional phrase "of pottery."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7399839f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7399839f

After the printing press was introduced in 1440, handwritten manuscripts from Europe’s medieval period were often destroyed and the paper used for other purposes. In one instance, pages _____ a collection of Norse tales dating to 1270 were discovered lining a bishop’s miter (hat).

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

- A. from:
- B. from,
- C. from
- D. from—

ID: 7399839f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use within a sentence. No punctuation is needed between the preposition “from” and the noun phrase beginning with “a collection.” The word “from” introduces a prepositional phrase that modifies the noun “pages” and provides essential information about the pages’ origin.

Choice A is incorrect. No punctuation is needed within the prepositional phrase beginning with “from.” Choice B is incorrect. No punctuation is needed within the prepositional phrase beginning with “from.” Choice D is incorrect. No punctuation is needed within the prepositional phrase beginning with “from.”

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4439e901

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4439e901

Robin Wall Kimmerer of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a bryologist, a plant scientist who specializes in mosses. To Kimmerer, mosses are Earth’s most adaptable plants: they can clone _____ enter a dormant state in times of drought, and grow in areas that don’t have soil.

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

- A. themselves;
- B. themselves,
- C. themselves. And
- D. themselves

ID: 4439e901 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The convention being tested is the punctuation of items in a series. The comma after “themselves” is used conventionally to separate the first item (“they can clone themselves”) and the second item (“enter a dormant state in times of drought”) in the series of things mosses can do.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to separate items in a simple series such as this. Choice C is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with “And enter.” Choice D is incorrect because it fails to use appropriate punctuation to separate the first and second items in the series.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7c6971f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7c6971f0

Many mechanical calculators were powered by a notched cylinder mechanism called the Leibniz wheel. Leibniz wheel calculators were popular in the first half of the twentieth _____ these ingenious devices were eventually replaced by electronic calculators.

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

- A. century
- B. century,
- C. century, but
- D. century that

ID: 7c6971f0 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and a coordinating conjunction ("but") to join the first main clause ("Leibniz...century") and the second main clause ("these ingenious...calculators").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because joining the two main clauses in this way with the subordinating conjunction "that" results in an ungrammatical and illogical sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy