

Answer Explanations

SAT Practice Test #8

Section 1: Reading Test

QUESTION 1

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph explains the narrator’s love of reading: “Even then my only friends were made of paper and ink. . . . Where my school friends saw notches of ink on incomprehensible pages, I saw light, streets, and people.” The fourth paragraph reiterates this love in its description of the bookshop as a “sanctuary” and “refuge.” The shift in focus occurs in the last six paragraphs, which recount the gift of a book that transforms the narrator’s love of reading into a desire to write: “I did not think there could be a better [book] in the whole world and I was beginning to suspect that Mr. Dickens had written it just for me. Soon I was convinced that I didn’t want to do anything else in life but learn to do what Mr. Dickens had done.” Thus the passage’s overall focus shifts from the narrator’s love of reading to a specific incident that influences his decision to become a writer.

Choice B is incorrect because the passage never focuses on the narrator’s father, who primarily serves to illustrate the narrator’s determination to read books despite all obstacles. Choice C is incorrect because the passage focuses on the narrator’s desire to write rather than on whatever skill he may have as a writer. Choice D is incorrect because the passage doesn’t make the narrator’s childhood hardships its central focus or analyze the effects of those hardships.

QUESTION 2

Choice C is the best answer. In the first paragraph, the third sentence describes the narrator’s love of reading (“where my school friends saw notches of ink on incomprehensible pages, I saw light, streets, and people”), and the fourth sentence describes the role that reading played in the narrator’s life (“a safe haven from that home, those streets, and those troubled days in which even I could sense that only a limited fortune awaited me”). The remainder of the passage recounts incidents in which the narrator’s actions arise from his love of, and dependence on, reading. Thus the third and fourth sentences can be seen as describing a passion that accounts for those actions.

Choice A is incorrect because although the narrator's "school friends" are mentioned in passing in the third sentence, they aren't introduced as proper characters and make no further appearance in the passage. Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn't list the difficult conditions of the narrator's childhood until after these sentences. Choice D is incorrect because the narrator's aspirations aren't discussed until the last paragraph of the passage.

QUESTION 3

Choice C is the best answer. The tenth paragraph shows that upon returning home, the narrator hides the gift (the "new friend") that Sempere had given him: "That afternoon I took my new friend home, hidden under my clothes so that my father wouldn't see it." It can be inferred from this sentence that the narrator's concern arises from an awareness that his father would disapprove of the gift.

Choice A is incorrect because although the passage discusses the father's hostility toward the narrator's love of reading, there is no indication that the father is not affectionate to the narrator more generally; indeed, the third paragraph depicts the father's generosity toward the narrator. Choice B is incorrect because the father's generosity toward the narrator, as depicted in the third paragraph, clearly shows that the father encourages unnecessary purchases of such things as candy. Choice D is incorrect because although the first paragraph shows that the father is hostile toward books in general, there is no indication in the passage that Dickens or any other author is a specific object of the father's disdain.

QUESTION 4

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks which statement about the narrator's father would the narrator most likely agree with. The answer, that his father wouldn't have approved of Sempere's gift to the narrator, is best supported in the tenth paragraph: "That afternoon I took my new friend home, hidden under my clothes so that my father wouldn't see it." It can be inferred from this sentence that the narrator is aware of his father's likely disapproval of the gift (the "new friend").

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they show the father giving his own gift to the narrator (choice A) and illustrate how the narrator was treated when in Sempere's bookshop (choices B and C).

QUESTION 5

Choice A is the best answer. The last paragraph makes clear the narrator's enthusiasm for Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, and it can be inferred from the last sentence of this paragraph that this enthusiasm motivated the narrator to aspire to a career as a writer: "Soon I was convinced that I didn't want to do anything else in life but learn to do what Mr. Dickens had done."

Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn't discuss gifts the narrator has received in the past; although the father sometimes gave the narrator money to buy sweets and snacks, these weren't gifts since the narrator made the purchases himself. Choice C is incorrect because although it is clear from the passage that Sempere was kind and even indulgent to the narrator, there is no suggestion that this treatment was inspired by respect for the narrator. Choice D is incorrect because there is no suggestion that the narrator took Sempere's figurative designation of Dickens as a "lifelong friend" in the ninth paragraph to be a literal statement.

QUESTION 6

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks why the narrator considers *Great Expectations* to be the greatest gift he ever received. The answer, that the book convinced him to become a writer, is best supported by the last sentence of the last paragraph: "Soon I was convinced that I didn't want to do anything else in life but learn to do what Mr. Dickens had done."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they explain the narrator's interactions with the bookseller (choice A), describe the book's physical condition (choice B), and indicate the narrator's initial, erroneous assumption that Sempere knew Charles Dickens personally (choice C).

QUESTION 7

Choice D is the best answer. In the fourth paragraph, the narrator explains that although Sempere normally didn't charge him for books, he still left Sempere a few coins as payment: "It was only small change—if I'd had to buy a book with that pittance, I would probably have been able to afford only a booklet of cigarette papers." These lines signal the narrator's awareness that he was paying less for the books than they were worth.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage states that Sempere didn't expect or want the narrator to pay: "He hardly ever allowed me to pay for the books." Choice B is incorrect because the fourth paragraph makes clear that even if Sempere didn't want the narrator's money, the narrator would still "leave the coins I'd managed to collect." Choice C is incorrect because the third paragraph states that the money with which the narrator paid Sempere was originally given to the narrator by his father.

QUESTION 8

Choice B is the best answer. In the fourth paragraph, the narrator describes his reluctance to leave Sempere's bookshop: "When it was time for me to leave, I would do so dragging my feet, a weight on my soul." In this context, "weight" most nearly means burden.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the narrator having to do something he doesn't want to, a "weight" he had to carry most nearly means a burden, not a bulk (choice A), force (choice C), or clout (choice D).

QUESTION 9

Choice C is the best answer. When, in the eighth paragraph, the narrator asks Sempere if the author Charles Dickens is a friend of his, Sempere replies, in the ninth paragraph, that Dickens is a "lifelong friend. And from now on, he's your friend too." Sempere designated Dickens a "friend" of both himself and the narrator, who had never heard of the author before. This signals that the use of "friend" in these lines is figurative and emphasizes Sempere's emotional connection to Dickens and, more generally, to reading. It also signals Sempere's hope that the narrator will come to have a similar connection to Dickens.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the word "friend" is used in these lines to emphasize Sempere's connection to reading, rather than his connection to the narrator (choice A), the narrator's relationships or home life (choice B), or the narrator's emotional state or decision making (choice D).

QUESTION 10

Choice B is the best answer. In the ninth paragraph, Sempere describes the author Charles Dickens to the narrator: "A lifelong friend. And from now on, he's your friend too." As the reader can reasonably assume that Sempere doesn't actually know Dickens, this description can be read as signaling Sempere as an avid admirer of Dickens's work.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage describes Sempere as a bookseller, not a writer. Choice C is incorrect because although the passage implies Sempere feels an emotional connection to Dickens, it doesn't suggest that this connection arises from any similarity between Sempere's life and that of Dickens. Choice D is incorrect because even if the passage implies that Sempere admires Dickens's work, Sempere's admiration isn't discussed in relation to that felt by other readers of Dickens, nor is Sempere shown to compare himself to other such readers.

QUESTION 11

Choice B is the best answer. The first paragraph describes the widespread practice of not reporting null results, or results in which researchers fail to see an effect that should be detectable. The second through sixth paragraphs discuss a study that examined how scientists have dealt with null results. The seventh and eighth paragraphs discuss the negative consequences that null results pose for future research and the possible creation of a registry for all data produced by research studies, reported and unreported alike, as a remedy for those

consequences. Therefore, the purpose of the passage as a whole is to explain a common practice in the reporting of research studies and summarize a study that provides support for a change to that practice.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage doesn't dispute a widely held belief about the publication of social science research; rather, it suggests a solution to deal with a long-debated problem. Choice C is incorrect because while the passage hints at possible shortcomings in research trials, it doesn't describe them in detail; because it addresses other kinds of research besides medical trials; and because it doesn't call for a government database, specifically. Choice D is incorrect because the passage calls for changes to the reporting of research results, rather than to research methodology itself, and because it doesn't address the publishers of research at all.

QUESTION 12

Choice D is the best answer. The second paragraph states that “TESS allows scientists to order up Internet-based surveys.” In the context of the service that the TESS program provides to scientists, “allows” most nearly means enables.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage's discussion of TESS, “allows” most nearly means enables, not admits (choice A), tolerates (choice B), or grants (choice C).

QUESTION 13

Choice D is the best answer. The fifth paragraph of the passage addresses the “statistical strength” of certain scientific findings. In this context, “strength” most nearly means significance, or importance.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the statistical importance of scientific findings, “strength” most nearly means significance, not attribution (choice A), exertion (choice B), or toughness (choice C).

QUESTION 14

Choice A is the best answer. The seventh paragraph discusses the negative consequences of not publishing null results, emphasizing that “worse, if researchers publish significant results from similar experiments in the future, they could look stronger than they should because the earlier null studies are ignored.” In other words, failing to document null results means that the results of later, related studies will not be as accurate as they appear.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the passage does not indicate that failing to document null results can cause promising areas of research to be overlooked (choice B), cause errors in data collection practices that lead to null results being overlooked (choice C), or lessen bias against null results (choice D).

QUESTION 15

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what the passage indicates could result from failing to document null results. The answer, that the results of future studies will be misleading, is best supported in the seventh paragraph: “Worse, if researchers publish significant results from similar experiments in the future, they could look stronger than they should because the earlier null studies are ignored.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don’t support the answer to the previous question. Instead, choice A suggests how the findings of a study about null results may affect existing beliefs about such results; choice B explains how infrequently null results had been written up, according to Malhotra’s study; and choice C illustrates a problem resulting from the failure to document null results, but one that is unrelated to the fact that this documentation failure may make the results of future, related studies appear more valid than they are.

QUESTION 16

Choice B is the best answer. The last two sentences of the seventh paragraph identify a particular research scenario that Malhotra uncovered in his study: “Even more troubling to Malhotra was the fact that two scientists whose initial studies ‘didn’t work out’ went on to publish results based on a smaller sample. ‘The non-TESS version of the same study, in which we used a student sample, did yield fruit,’ noted one investigator.” Since Malhotra especially objected to these researchers’ suppression of data that produced null results and their subsequent publication of related data that were statistically significant, it can be inferred that the hypothetical situation to which he would most strongly object is one in which researchers publish their study results in a journal but exclude the portion of data that produced null results.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the seventh paragraph, which identifies a research scenario that Malhotra disapproved of, provides no basis for an inference that he would especially object to a team’s insisting on publishing null results in a top journal only (choice A) or a team’s expanding the scope of a study that had produced null results (choice D). Choice C is incorrect because although the first sentence of the seventh paragraph indicates Malhotra’s concern that failing to publish null results can mean that other researchers unwittingly replicate strategies that produced null results in prior studies, the paragraph goes on to identify other scenarios as being “worse” and “even more troubling” from Malhotra’s perspective.

QUESTION 17

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks about which hypothetical situation Malhotra would most strongly object to. The answer, that he would most strongly object to researchers' reporting their findings but failing to disclose the null results, is best supported at the end of the seventh paragraph: "Even more troubling to Malhotra was the fact that two scientists whose initial studies 'didn't work out' went on to publish results based on a smaller sample. 'The non-TESS version of the same study, in which we used a student sample, did yield fruit,' noted one investigator."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question about which situation Malhotra would most strongly object to. Instead, they cite another researcher's attitude toward null results from his or her own study (choice A), compare the publication rate for studies that produce null results with that for studies that produce statistically significant results (choice B), and describe the recommendation by Malhotra and his team for the creation of a database to remedy problems resulting from the nonpublication of null results (choice D).

QUESTION 18

Choice B is the best answer. After describing problems that could arise from the failure to report null results, the passage shifts in the last paragraph to a potential solution to such problems: "A registry for data generated by all experiments would address these problems, the authors argue." The paragraph goes on to imply that a registry could solve such problems by deterring the suppression of null results.

Choice A is incorrect because the last paragraph proposes a "registry for data" rather than a future research project. Choice C is incorrect because the summary of the results of Malhotra's study occurs in the fifth paragraph, not in the last. Choice D is incorrect because the last paragraph of the passage does not mention reexamining results already obtained in social science trials.

QUESTION 19

Choice C is the best answer. The far left bar of the graph pertains to social science studies that produced strong results. This bar shows that approximately 20 percent (or two full increments of 10 percent) of such studies were published in a top journal.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that approximately 5 percent of social science studies that produced strong results were unwritten, rather than over 50 percent. Choice B is incorrect because the graph shows that about 30 percent of social science studies that produced strong results were unpublished but written, rather than 50 percent. Choice D is incorrect because the graph shows that slightly over 40 percent of social science studies that produced strong results were published in a non-top journal, rather than almost 80 percent.

QUESTION 20

Choice A is the best answer. The middle bar of the graph pertains to social science studies that produced mixed results. The top 50 percent of this bar represents studies that were published. The bottom 50 percent of this bar represents studies that were either unpublished or went unwritten. Since each of the two categories accounts for 50 percent of the total, it can be said that studies with mixed results were just as likely to be published as they were to be left either unpublished or unwritten.

Choice B is incorrect because the graph indicates that roughly 42 percent of social science studies produced strong results and roughly 22 percent produced null results; together, these two percentages far exceed the 36 percent accounted for by studies that produced mixed results. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that roughly 12 percent of studies that produced mixed results were published in top journals, well less than the percentage published in non-top journals (approximately 38 percent). Choice D is incorrect because the graph indicates that studies that produced strong results accounted for approximately 42 percent of all studies, while those that produced mixed results only accounted for around 36 percent of all studies.

QUESTION 21

Choice C is the best answer. The first sentence of the fifth paragraph states, “Not unexpectedly, the statistical strength of the findings made a huge difference in whether they were ever published.” This statement is supported by the graph, which shows that more than 60 percent of social science studies that produced strong results were published, while only about 50 percent of studies with mixed results and about 20 percent of studies with null results were published.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none of the cited lines contain information that is represented by the data in the graph. Instead, they recount scientists’ explanations for why they didn’t publish their null results (choices A and B) and highlight claims about the importance of Malhotra’s study (choice D).

QUESTION 22

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph explains that in the nanoworld, salt can be seen “stretching like taffy.” The third paragraph notes that while this elasticity was expected in metals, it wasn’t imagined for salt: “But scientists don’t expect this superplasticity in a rigid, crystalline material like salt.” The rest of the passage explores this unexpected behavior of salt. Therefore it can be said that one of the central ideas of the passage is that materials don’t always behave as scientists might expect them to.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the passage focuses on the unexpected way that salt reacts in the nanoworld, not on the role of inputs and outputs in systems (choice B), the relative strengths and weaknesses of models (choice C), or how the properties of systems differ from the properties of their parts (choice D).

QUESTION 23

Choice D is the best answer. The first five paragraphs introduce salt's ability to stretch "like taffy to more than twice its length." In the fifth paragraph, the passage shifts into an explanation of how "Moore and his colleagues discovered salt's stretchiness." The last paragraph speculates about the possible application of this discovery: "The work also suggests new techniques for making nanowires, which are often created through nano-imprinting techniques." The passage's overall structure can therefore be seen as consisting of an introduction to an interesting salt property, followed by a description of how the property was discovered, followed by a speculation regarding applications of this property.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage discusses only one way in which salt differed from researchers' expectations. Choice B is incorrect because the passage begins not with a hypothesis about salt's behavior but with an explanation of its behaviors. Choice C is incorrect because the passage discusses complementary observations of salt crystals rather than two experiments involving salt that yield seemingly conflicting results.

QUESTION 24

Choice A is the best answer. That Moore's group was surprised to observe salt stretching is most directly suggested by the last sentence of the third paragraph: "But scientists don't expect this superplasticity in a rigid, crystalline material like salt, Moore says."

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the idea that Moore's group was surprised to observe salt stretching. Instead, they explain how the group happened upon their observation (choice B), the measures the group took to investigate the stretching further (choice C), and how common salt is in nature (choice D).

QUESTION 25

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence of the fourth paragraph states, "This unusual behavior highlights that different forces rule the nanoworld." In this context, to "rule" most nearly means to control.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of a discussion of forces that operate on the nanoworld, to "rule" most nearly means to control, not to mark (choice A), declare (choice C), or restrain (choice D).

QUESTION 26

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence of the sixth paragraph identifies “electrostatic forces, perhaps good old van der Waals interactions” as the potential cause of the initial attraction between the microscope tip and the salt.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the first sentence of the sixth paragraph clearly identifies the potential cause of the initial attraction between the microscope tip and the salt as van der Waals interactions, not as gravity (choice A), nano-imprinting (choice B), or surface tension (choice C).

QUESTION 27

Choice B is the best answer. The sixth paragraph says that “several mechanisms might lead to” salt’s elasticity. In this context, the phrase “lead to” most nearly means result in.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of something causing salt molecules to exhibit elasticity, the phrase “lead to” most nearly means result in, not guide to (choice A), point toward (choice C), or start with (choice D).

QUESTION 28

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph of the passage makes clear that salt exhibits elasticity (“stretching like taffy”) in the nanoworld, and the eighth paragraph explains that salt possesses some degree of elasticity in the macroworld as well: “Huge underground deposits of salt can bend like plastic, but water is believed to play a role at these scales.” Thus flexibility describes the relationship between salt’s behavior in both the nanoworld and the macroworld.

Choice B is incorrect because the third paragraph explains that “scientists don’t expect” salt’s flexibility in the nanoworld, not that they do expect it; moreover, there is no indication that salt’s flexibility in the macroworld is surprising. Choice C is incorrect because the passage doesn’t make clear whether nanowires were first observed in the nanoworld or the macroworld. Choice D is incorrect because the passage does not examine the interaction of salt and water in the nanoworld or suggest that such interaction causes salt to have properties that are different from those it possesses in the macroworld.

QUESTION 29

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks about which description of the relationship between salt behavior in the nanoworld and in the macroworld can be inferred from the passage. The answer, that salt is flexible or elastic in both worlds, is best supported in the eighth paragraph: “Huge underground deposits of salt can bend like plastic, but water is believed to play a role at these scales.” These lines suggest that in the macroworld, as in the nanoworld, salt possesses flexibility.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they highlight the prevalence of nanowires (choice A), identify which forces dominate the nanoworld (choice B), and offer a tentative explanation for an observation discussed in the passage (choice C).

QUESTION 30

Choice C is the best answer. The lower graph, which shows the “tip moving away from salt surface,” indicates that when the microscope tip was 15 nanometers from the surface, the force on the tip was approximately 0.75 micronewtons.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the graph shows that when the microscope tip was 15 nanometers from the salt surface, the force on the tip was approximately 0.75 micronewtons, not 0 micronewtons (choice A), 0.25 micronewtons (choice B), or 1.25 micronewtons (choice D).

QUESTION 31

Choice D is the best answer. The bottom graph illustrates the process described in the first sentence of the seventh paragraph of the passage: “as the microscope pulls away from the salt, the salt stretches.” On the graph, the stretching of the salt is represented by the amount of force, in micronewtons, exerted on the microscope tip as the tip moves away from the salt surface. The graph shows that force was exerted on the tip until the tip reached point T at approximately 22 nanometers from the salt surface; from point T on, the force was 0 micronewtons. It can be inferred that since no force is being exerted after point T, point T is the point at which a salt nanowire breaks.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the labels P, Q, and R all appear on the top graph, which represents data on the movement of the microscope tip toward the salt surface. As the fifth sentence of the fifth paragraph explains, when the microscope tip moved toward the salt, “the salt actually stretched out to glom on to the microscope tip.” Therefore, the first graph shows the salt attaching itself to the microscope tip and forming nanowires, not the breaking of a nanowire.

QUESTION 32

Choice B is the best answer. In the first paragraph of Passage 1, Douglas argues that throughout the period in which the United States had both free and slave states, the nation as a whole “increased from four millions to thirty millions of people . . . extended our territory from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean . . . acquired the Floridas and Texas . . . [and had] risen from a weak and feeble power to become the terror and admiration of the civilized world.” It can reasonably be inferred that Douglas cites such growth in territory and population to make the point that the division into free and slave states was obviously not a threat to the country's health or survival.

Choice A is incorrect because although it can be inferred that Douglas would argue for continued expansion of the United States, he cites the expansion it has already undergone as support for perpetuating the division into free and slave states. Choice C is incorrect because although Douglas implies that basic facts pertaining to the historical growth of the nation cast doubt on Lincoln's political agenda, he doesn't imply that Lincoln is unaware of those facts. Choice D is incorrect because although Douglas notes that the United States is globally perceived to be powerful, he doesn't imply that this perception can be accounted for by the nation's record of growth.

QUESTION 33

Choice C is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 1, Douglas uses a rhetorical question to stress that the division into slave and free states has existed since the beginning of the United States: "I now come back to the question, why cannot this Union exist forever, divided into Free and Slave States, as our fathers made it?" It can be inferred from this question that Douglas believes that since this division is long-standing, the provisions for it in the US Constitution have provided a good basic structure that doesn't need to be changed.

Choice A is incorrect because in Passage 1, Douglas doesn't observe that the US Constitution's provisions for slavery lack a means for reconciling differences between slave states and free states. Choice B is incorrect because although Douglas stresses that the provisions for slavery are long-standing, he doesn't characterize them as having somehow anticipated the Union's expansion to the west. Choice D is correct because although it can be inferred from Passage 1 that Douglas believes the provisions for slavery have had a positive economic impact, he nowhere implies that the founders based them on an assumption that slavery was economically necessary.

QUESTION 34

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks about how Douglas, in Passage 1, characterizes the Constitution's provisions for slavery. The answer, that Douglas believes they provided a good basic structure and don't need to be changed, is best supported in the first sentence of the second paragraph of Passage 1: "I now come back to the question, why cannot this Union exist forever, divided into Free and Slave States, as our fathers made it?"

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they describe the various ways in which the nation has expanded since its founding (choice A), stress the likelihood that the nation will only continue to expand (choice C), and assert the importance of the sovereignty of individual states to the future expansion of the nation (choice D).

QUESTION 35

Choice C is the best answer. In the first sentence of the second paragraph of Passage 2, Lincoln raises a question about how the consequences of the division of the United States into slave states and free states compare with the consequences of the other ways in which states differ from each other: “But has it been so with this element of slavery?” In this context, the word “element” most nearly means factor.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the context of Lincoln’s discussion of the “element of slavery,” the word “element” most nearly means factor, not ingredient (choice A), environment (choice B), or quality (choice D).

QUESTION 36

Choice B is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 2, Lincoln asserts that the controversy surrounding slavery in the United States has died down whenever the institution of slavery has been restricted geographically: “Whenever it has been limited to its present bounds, and there has been no effort to spread it, there has been peace.” Since Lincoln associates peace on this issue with geographical limits on the institution of slavery itself, it can be inferred that he would agree that the controversy would abate if all attempts to establish slavery in new regions ceased.

Choice A is incorrect because Lincoln neither urges Northern states to attempt to abolish slavery unilaterally nor implies that such an attempt would extinguish the controversy over slavery. Choice C is incorrect because Lincoln neither suggests that the laws regulating slavery are ambiguous nor that such ambiguity exacerbates controversy over slavery. Choice D is incorrect because Lincoln never attributes the controversy over slavery to differences in religion or social values from one state to another.

QUESTION 37

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks which claim about the controversy over slavery would Lincoln agree with. The answer, that the controversy would abate if attempts to spread slavery to regions where it isn’t practiced were abandoned, is best supported in the second paragraph of Passage 2: “Whenever [slavery] has been limited to its present bounds, and there has been no effort to spread it, there has been peace.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they discuss state-to-state differences in laws regulating issues other than slavery (choice A), assert that the differences among the various states generally benefit the nation (choice B), and ask a philosophical question that doesn’t directly address the issue of slavery (choice D).

QUESTION 38

Choice D is the best answer. In the last sentence of Passage 2, Lincoln asks about the likelihood that people will fundamentally change: “Do you think that the nature of man will be changed?” In this context, the word “nature” most nearly means character.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of a discussion of the “nature of man,” the word “nature” most nearly means character, not force (choice A), simplicity (choice B), or world (choice C).

QUESTION 39

Choice C is the best answer. In the first paragraph of Passage 1, Douglas claims that Lincoln considers the Constitution to be “a house divided against itself,” due to its provisions for the division of the nation into slave states and free states, and to be “in violation of the law of God.” In Passage 2, Lincoln objects to this characterization of his position and devotes the majority of the passage to clarifying that it isn’t the Constitution he finds fault with, or even its provisions for slavery, but rather with attempts to spread slavery to regions where it isn’t currently practiced. Therefore it can be said that a central tension between the two passages arises from, on the one hand, Douglas’s criticism of Lincoln for finding fault with the Constitution and, on the other, Lincoln’s insistence that Douglas has misrepresented his position.

Choice A is incorrect because Douglas (Passage 1) proposes no changes to federal policies on slavery and because Lincoln (Passage 2) doesn’t consider whether changes to such policies would enjoy popular support. Choice B is incorrect because Douglas (Passage 1) never expresses concern about the potential impact of abolition on the US economy and because Lincoln (Passage 2) neither discusses such an impact nor dismisses concerns about it. Choice D is incorrect because neither passage offers any interpretation of federal law.

QUESTION 40

Choice A is the best answer. In the first paragraph of Passage 1, Douglas discusses the issue of slavery in the context of the division of free states and slave states throughout the period when the United States “extended our territory from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean” and “acquired the Floridas and Texas, and other territory sufficient to double our geographical extent.” In the second paragraph of Passage 2, Lincoln asserts that the controversy over slavery has historically been “excited by the effort to spread [slavery] into new territory,” as in the case of Missouri, Texas, and “the territory acquired by the Mexican War.” Therefore, it can be said that, notwithstanding their differences of opinion, both Douglas and Lincoln discuss the issue of slavery in relationship to the expansion of the Union.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because it is in relationship to the nation's expansion that both passages discuss the issue of slavery, not in relationship to questions of morality (choice B), religious toleration (choice C), or laws regulating commerce (choice D).

QUESTION 41

Choice D is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 1, Douglas asks the rhetorical question: “why cannot this Union exist forever, divided into Free and Slave States, as our fathers made it?” The remainder of the paragraph amounts to an answer to this rhetorical question and a refutation of Lincoln’s viewpoint on slavery, as represented by Douglas. In the second paragraph of Passage 2, Lincoln asks a series of rhetorical questions: “But has it been so with this element of slavery? Have we not always had quarrels and difficulties over it? And when will we cease to have quarrels over it?” These questions imply that there are flaws in Douglas’s equating the division into slave states and free states with other, more unambiguously beneficial differences from state to state. The remainder of the second paragraph expands on these flaws. Therefore, it can be said that in context, the rhetorical questions asked by each speaker serve to undermine the argument of the other speaker.

Choice A is incorrect because in asking rhetorical questions, neither Douglas nor Lincoln casts doubt on the sincerity of his opponent. Choices B and C are incorrect because although Douglas and Lincoln find fault with each other’s ideas, they don’t criticize each other’s methods (choice B) or reproach each other’s actions (choice C).

QUESTION 42

Choice A is the best answer. The first two paragraphs of the passage describe the physical process by which the Venus flytrap closes its trap but also note certain long-standing questions about that process: “How does the plant encode and store the information from the unassuming bug’s encounter with the first hair? How does it remember the first touch in order to react upon the second?” The passage then answers those questions by discussing, in the third and fourth paragraphs, a study conducted by Dieter Hodick and Andreas Sievers that identified the physiological means behind the closing of the Venus flytrap’s trap and, in the last paragraph, a study conducted by Alexander Volkov that confirmed and built on Hodick and Sievers’s findings. The primary purpose of the passage can therefore be seen as discussing scientific findings that explain how the Venus flytrap closes its trap.

Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn’t discuss the Venus flytrap’s ability to close its trap in the context of the abilities of other plants. Choice C is incorrect because the passage discusses how the closing action operates but not how it has evolved. Choice D is incorrect because the passage doesn’t provide an overview of the Venus flytrap and its predatory behavior; it merely notes in passing that the closing action has a predatory function.

QUESTION 43

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph discusses the challenge posed to the Venus flytrap by the opening and closing of its trap: “Closing its trap requires a huge expense of energy, and reopening the trap can take several hours, so *Dionaea* only wants to spring closed when it’s sure that the dawdling insect visiting its surface is large enough to be worth its time.” Since closing and reopening the trap requires the expense of precious energy, it can be inferred that by guarding against unnecessary closing, multiple triggers safeguard the plant’s energy supply.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage never indicates that multiple triggers allow the Venus flytrap to identify which species its prey belongs to, only that they allow it to gauge the prey’s size. Choice B is incorrect because although the passage implies that the plant needs to conserve energy and indicates that calcium is involved in the trap-closing mechanism, there is no indication that the plant’s calcium reserves themselves require conservation. Choice D is incorrect because it can be inferred from the passage that the advantage of multiple triggers is that they prevent the Venus flytrap from closing on the improper prey rather than from prematurely closing on the proper prey; the passage never implies that when touched by its proper prey, the Venus flytrap is at risk of closing too soon to capture it.

QUESTION 44

Choice A is the best answer. The previous question asks what the Venus flytrap gains from requiring multiple triggers before closing. The answer, that multiple triggers allow the plant to conserve energy, is best supported near the beginning of the first paragraph: “Closing its trap requires a huge expense of energy, and reopening the trap can take several hours, so *Dionaea* only wants to spring closed when it’s sure that the dawdling insect visiting its surface is large enough to be worth its time.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they describe how the hairs on the Venus flytrap function and how the system of multiple triggers works (choices B and C) and explain how the plant preserves a memory, as it were, that something has touched the trigger hairs (choice D).

QUESTION 45

Choice C is the best answer. The phrases “dawdling insect,” “happily meanders,” and “unassuming bug’s encounter” are less typical of word choices made in formal, scientific writing than of those made in less formal writing modes. Therefore, the tone that these phrases establish is best described as informal.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the phrases establish a tone that is informal, not academic (choice A), melodramatic (choice B), or mocking (choice D).

QUESTION 46

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph describes the mechanism that prompts the Venus flytrap to close its trap. The second paragraph makes an analogy of each step of that mechanism to an aspect of short-term memory formation in humans and then poses questions about the precise physiological terms in which those steps are carried out. It can therefore be said that the discussion of short-term memory serves to clarify the first paragraph's explanation of what prompts the trap of the Venus flytrap to close.

Choice B is incorrect because it is the third paragraph, not the second, that discusses the function of electric charges in the Venus flytrap; moreover, the passage presents this function as a fact, not as a controversial hypothesis. Choice C is incorrect because rather than stressing the differences between Venus flytraps and humans, the analogy in the second paragraph stresses their superficial similarities. Choice D is incorrect because the second paragraph implies that the Venus flytrap's capacity for retaining information is far from detailed: "something (it doesn't know what) has touched one of its hairs."

QUESTION 47

Choice D is the best answer. The third paragraph explains that touching a single trigger hair results in "a rapid increase in the concentration of calcium ions" in the plant. The fourth paragraph further explains that the calcium concentration produced by this initial touch isn't enough to cause the trap to close, but that a second hair touch will bring the total concentration to the level necessary to close the trap: "a second hair needs to be stimulated to push the calcium concentration over this threshold and spring the trap."

Choices A and B are incorrect because the fourth paragraph explains that the second trigger supplements the action of the first trigger, not that it reverses it (choice A) or stabilizes its effect (choice B). Choice C is incorrect because the third paragraph clearly states that the calcium channels open after the first trigger hair is touched, not the second.

QUESTION 48

Choice B is the best answer. The fourth paragraph explains that the Venus flytrap will close only if a second hair is stimulated to "push the calcium concentration over this threshold and spring the trap." But the last sentence of the paragraph notes that the calcium concentrations "dissipate over time," and if enough time elapses after the first trigger, "the final concentration after the second trigger won't be high enough to close the trap." It can be inferred, then, that if a large insect didn't touch a second trigger hair until after the calcium ion concentrations had diminished appreciably, the Venus flytrap would fail to close.

Choice A is incorrect because the fourth paragraph makes clear that if the calcium concentration goes above the trap's threshold, the plant will close, not remain open. Choice C is incorrect because as the third paragraph explains, the touching of the trigger hair and opening of the calcium ion channels don't act to keep the trap open but are instead a precondition for the closing of the trap (though closing will occur only if a second trigger hair is touched). Choice D is incorrect because the last sentence of the fifth paragraph explains that the threshold for the time that can elapse between the touching of the first and second trigger hairs is twenty seconds, meaning that a large insect touching two hairs within ten seconds would almost certainly make the plant close.

QUESTION 49

Choice B is the best answer. The second sentence of the last paragraph says that Alexander Volkov and his colleagues “first demonstrated that it is indeed electricity that causes the Venus flytrap to close.” In this context, the word “demonstrated” most nearly means established.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of scientists showing what causes the Venus flytrap to close, the word “demonstrated” most nearly means established, not protested (choice A), performed (choice C), or argued (choice D).

QUESTION 50

Choice B is the best answer. As described in the third paragraph, Hodick and Sievers's model emphasizes that the Venus flytrap closes by means of an electrical charge triggered when the plant's hairs are touched. But as explained in the last paragraph, when Alexander Volkov tested this model, the design of his experiment involved the direct application of an electrical charge, which “made the trap close without any direct touch to its trigger hairs.” Therefore, Volkov's work could be criticized because his design omitted, rather than corroborated, a central element of Hodick and Sievers's model—namely, the physical stimulation of the hairs.

Choice A is incorrect because although the last paragraph explains that Volkov omitted an element of Hodick and Sievers's model when designing his own experiment, there is no suggestion that he did so out of a faulty understanding of their model. Choice C is incorrect because it is impossible to know from the passage if Hodick and Sievers would have objected to Volkov's methods. Choice D is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate whether the technology Volkov used had been available to Hodick and Sievers when they formulated their model.

QUESTION 51

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks what potential criticism might be made of Volkov's testing of Hodick and Sievers's model. The answer, that a central element of that model wasn't corroborated by Volkov's measurements, is best supported in the last paragraph: "This made the trap close without any direct touch to its trigger hairs (while they didn't measure calcium levels, the current likely led to increases)." Because the physical touch to the hairs figured in Hodick and Sievers's model, it can be said that Volkov's decision to apply an electrical current directly to the plant means that he failed to corroborate a central element of their model.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they summarize the basic agreement of Volkov's work with Hodick and Sievers's model (choice A) and describe steps in Volkov's experimental design that are related to the application of an electrical current but don't directly address the omission of the central element of the physical touch to the hairs (choices B and D).

QUESTION 52

Choice C is the best answer. The second sentence of the last paragraph says that the focus of Volkov's work was the role of electricity in the Venus flytrap's closing mechanism. The paragraph goes on to explain that by applying electricity directly to the plant and "altering the amount of electrical current, Volkov could determine the exact electrical charge needed for the trap to close." It is therefore accurate to say that Volkov and his colleagues made the most extensive use of information obtained from measuring the plant's response to varying amounts of electrical current.

Choice A is incorrect because although the last paragraph explains that Volkov's work was based on Hodick and Sievers's mathematical model in which an electrical charge is required to close the Venus flytrap, that model isn't described as predicting the precise amount of charge required; moreover, although Volkov made use of this earlier model, it served as a starting point, and his work made greater use of the findings generated by his experiment. Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn't describe Volkov's work as having involved analysis of data from earlier studies on the plant's response to electricity. Choice D is incorrect because although the last paragraph explains that Volkov based his work on Hodick and Sievers's earlier model, this was the sole model that Volkov relied on, and there is no suggestion that he made use of multiple "published theories" or "earlier models"; moreover, he made more extensive use of data generated by his own experiment than of Hodick and Sievers's model.

Section 2: Writing and Language Test

QUESTION 1

Choice D is the best answer. The prepositional phrase “for example” logically connects the two sentences and correctly indicates that what follows in the second sentence will be examples of household waste products: paper, glass, aluminum, and garbage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t indicate the true relationship between the two sentences. “Regardless” (choice A) means in spite of something, “however” (choice B) indicates a contrast, and “furthermore” (choice C) means in addition. None of these transitions indicates that an example will follow.

QUESTION 2

Choice B is the best answer. The verb “eliminate” means to remove, and it makes the most sense in the sentence because the object of the verb is “need.” “Eliminating the need” is an idiomatic expression for “removing the need.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect. Although all the choices mean “to get rid of,” their connotations are different. “Annihilating” (choice A) is usually used to refer to the act of completely destroying, which is too intense in this context. “Ousting” (choice C) is generally used when referring to the act of forcibly removing a person from a position. “Closing the door on” (choice D) is a colloquial expression that usually means shutting out the possibility of something happening or not being willing to consider an idea. This expression doesn’t fit the tone of the passage and is not idiomatic when used with “need.”

QUESTION 3

Choice C is the best answer. The singular present tense verb “increases” agrees in number with the singular noun “compost” and maintains the parallel structure of the other two compound verbs in the sentence, “minimizes” and “helps.”

Choices A and D are incorrect because the use of the pronoun “it” (choice A) and “also it” (choice D) to begin new independent clauses creates comma splices. Choice B is incorrect because “savings increase” doesn’t maintain the parallel structure of the verbs in the sentence: “minimizes water waste and storm runoff” and “helps reduce erosion.”

QUESTION 4

Choice B is the best answer. When setting off nonessential information, a pair of parentheses needs to be used. This choice provides the initial parenthesis that the parenthesis after “municipality” requires.

Choice A is incorrect because the initial parenthesis is missing and no comma is needed between the noun “quantities” and the modifying information. Choice C is incorrect because the initial parenthesis is missing. Choice D is incorrect because no semicolon is needed before the parenthetical information.

QUESTION 5

Choice D is the best answer. According to the information from the graph, 33 million tons of food waste were discarded in US landfills in 2009, which is consistent with the discussion of food waste in the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the passage thus far has focused on compost. Metal, rubber, leather, and textiles are not materials that are composted.

QUESTION 6

Choice C is the best answer. According to the graph, this is the only choice that makes the sentence true. More food waste was discarded in landfills in 2009 “than any other substance, including plastics or paper.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they are not true, according to the graph. The graph indicates that less glass, metal, and yard waste were discarded in the landfills than plastics and paper.

QUESTION 7

Choice B is the best answer. No comma is needed between the comparative adjective “worse” and the comparative conjunction “than.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the word “then” indicates “when” and is not used in comparisons (choices A and C), and no comma is needed after worse (choice D).

QUESTION 8

Choice C is the best answer. The present tense singular verb “contributes” agrees in number with the singular noun “material,” and the present tense verb is consistent with the other present tense verbs in the passage.

Choices A and B are incorrect because “contribute” (choice A) and “are contributing” (choice B) are plural present tense verbs. Choice D is incorrect because “have contributed” is a plural past tense verb.

QUESTION 9

Choice A is the best answer. “Potent” means strong or powerful, which makes sense in the context of discussing greenhouse gas.

Choice B is incorrect because “sturdy” is usually used to refer to the physical strength or solidity of something. Choice C is incorrect because “influential” refers to the power of a person to affect or sway others or events without any apparent effort. Choice D is incorrect because “commanding” indicates that the inanimate greenhouse gas is actually commanding something.

QUESTION 10

Choice C is the best answer. “Armed with these facts” is the most effective transition from the previous paragraph, which discusses the amounts of various substances that end up in landfills and the resulting methane gas that is released from the organic matter. The paragraph that this transition introduces goes on to discuss laws that some cities have instituted to control the handling of compost in landfills to reduce the release of methane gas.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not offer transitions that indicate a connection between the problem identified in the previous paragraph—the release of dangerous methane gas from the compost in landfills—and the concluding paragraph that identifies what some cities have done to help alleviate the problem.

QUESTION 11

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because the correlative conjunctions “either” and “or” are used together to indicate that one choice or another should be considered. In this sentence, residents are encouraged to choose the option to create their own compost piles or to dispose of compostable materials in bins for collection.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the correlating conjunction for “either” used earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 12

Choice A is the best answer. The sentences are effectively combined by placing a comma after “red” and making the second sentence an appositive that explains the significance of the color red.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they all contain excessive words that add no meaning to the resulting sentence.

QUESTION 13

Choice D is the best answer. Punctuation is not necessary in the underlined portion of the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because no commas are needed after “festive” and “red” because the adjectives don’t equally modify “banners.” No comma is needed after “banners” because there is no reason to put one between “banners” and “and garlands,” the two objects of the preposition “with.” Choice B is incorrect because placing commas around the prepositional phrase “with festive red banners” wrongly indicates that the information is nonessential and could be eliminated without changing the meaning of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because there should not be a dash or any other kind of punctuation between “banners” and “and garlands.”

QUESTION 14

Choice C is the best answer. This choice expands on the idea that the lion dance may have originated to ward off an evil spirit and that dressing in a lion costume was part of the effort to scare the spirit away.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't make a connection between the fierce quality of a lion and scaring away spirits. Choices B and D are incorrect because the name of the spirit (choice B) and the location of the village where the dance originated (choice D) are not as important as why a lion was incorporated into the dance.

QUESTION 15

Choice C is the best answer. It ties the information about the possible origins and historical purpose of the lion dance to its present purpose as a New Year's celebration of hope.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don't effectively bring the paragraph to a conclusion. Each of these options is vague and calls for elaboration: choice A lacks specific information, choice B lacks proof for the idea of irrelevance, and choice D lacks a connection to the subject of the paragraph.

QUESTION 16

Choice A is the best answer. The pronoun "both" and prepositional phrase "of whom" refer to "dancers" and are used correctly to introduce a clause that describes how the dancers are hidden by the lion costume. "Whom" is used correctly as the object of the preposition "of."

Choice B is incorrect because the word order doesn't make grammatical sense and the pronoun "which" can't be used to refer to people. Choices C and D are incorrect because they create comma splices.

QUESTION 17

Choice D is the best answer. The pronoun "those" correctly indicates that the moves in dance are being compared to the moves in martial arts. "Those" takes the place of the noun "moves" in the comparison.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not compare similar things. "Moves" can't be compared to "martial arts," "acrobatics," "disciplines," "martial artists," or "acrobats."

QUESTION 18

Choice B is the best answer. This choice indicates that the phoenix represents new beginnings, which is consistent in content with the information explaining that the tortoise represents longevity. Additionally, this choice is presented as a parenthetical prepositional phrase beginning with the preposition "for," which is consistent in structure with the parenthetical prepositional phrase "for longevity."

Choice A is incorrect because the parenthetical information indicates what a phoenix is, not what it represents. Furthermore, the information is not presented in a prepositional phrase. Choice C is incorrect because this choice indicates the source of the phoenix, not what it represents. Choice D is incorrect because it is vague and doesn't identify what the phoenix symbolizes.

QUESTION 19

Choice D is the best answer. Sentence 5 most logically should follow sentence 7. The pronoun "their" in sentence 5 refers to the "black lions" (which are the youngest lions and dance quickly) in sentence 7. Sentence 5 indicates that the "older counterparts" to the young lions don't move as quickly.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because placing sentence 5 after any other sentence in the paragraph would not be logical and would interrupt the flow of the passage.

QUESTION 20

Choice B is the best answer. The singular possessive pronoun "its" agrees in number with the singular antecedent "dance" and correctly indicates that the "climax" belongs to the dance.

Choice A is incorrect because "it's" is the contraction for "it is" and doesn't make sense in the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because "there" is not a possessive pronoun. Choice D is incorrect because "their" is a plural possessive pronoun that doesn't agree with the singular antecedent "dance."

QUESTION 21

Choice B is the best answer. This choice correctly indicates that the lion is doing the approaching and the snaring, not the teeth.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the teeth don't do the approaching or the snaring; only an animate object can do either. Choice C is incorrect because it is written in the passive voice, which changes the subject of the sentence from "lion" to "envelope." Furthermore, an "envelope" cannot approach a doorway.

QUESTION 22

Choice D is the best answer. The single word "envelope" is concise and clearly refers to the envelope that has been described earlier in the paragraph.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they are wordy and contain information that has been given previously in the paragraph. Additionally, choice A contains inaccurate information because once the money has been chewed up, the envelope is no longer "money-filled."

QUESTION 23

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because “scrupulous” fits the formal tone of the passage. “Scrupulous” means exact and conscientious, and it is appropriate when discussing notes taken during a court proceeding.

Choices B and C are incorrect because they are too informal and therefore do not fit the tone of the passage. Choice D is incorrect because “intense” is an adjective that is used to describe something that is done to an extreme degree, such as putting forth effort or performing a physical act.

QUESTION 24

Choice C is the best answer. Commas after “hearings” and “depositions” are correct because they separate the first two items in a series of three.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they all contain semicolons either after “hearings,” “depositions,” or both of the words. Semicolons can be used to separate items in a series that already contains commas, but not to separate individual items in a simple series of words or phrases.

QUESTION 25

Choice C is the best answer. The graph should not be added because it doesn’t support the information in the paragraph. The paragraph describes what a court reporter does. The graph provides information that compares the median salary of court reporters to that of other jobs.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the graph should not be added. It neither supports the claim that court reporting is an important part of a trial nor offers a relevant counterpoint to the argument that the use of digital recorders is on the rise. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn’t matter that there is no information provided in the graph about the pay scale for more experienced court reporters. The paragraph doesn’t deal with the subject of pay, so therefore the graph doesn’t support the paragraph.

QUESTION 26

Choice A is the best answer. No change needs to be made because the word “to” is the idiomatic preposition to connect “subject” with the phrase “human errors” to show that technology such as a digital recorder doesn’t make the same mistakes that people make, such as “mishearing or mistyping.”

Choices B and C are incorrect because the verb “subjected” is a transitive verb that requires a direct object, which is not present in the sentence. Furthermore, “subjected from” is not idiomatic. Choice D is incorrect because “subject for human errors” doesn’t make sense.

QUESTION 27

Choice C is the best answer. The preposition “as” means “functioning in the same way” or “in the capacity of.” The plural noun “record keepers” agrees in number with the plural noun “court reporters.” The sentence indicates that court reporters are functioning as record keepers.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the singular “record keeper” can’t be used to refer to plural “court reporters.” Additionally, in choice D the infinitive verb phrase “to be” can’t be used in place of a preposition. Choice B is incorrect because the word “each” is unnecessary and makes the sentence confusing.

QUESTION 28

Choice C is the best answer. To make the paragraph most logical, sentence 6 should be placed after sentence 3. Sentence 3 explains that the words the recorder types are “instantaneously” available to a judge to view on a computer screen. Sentence 6 explains, by using the transition “however,” that even though words are available instantly, recording technology continues to improve and therefore the need for court reporters is decreasing.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because placing sentence 6 after any other sentence would not be logical and would interrupt the flow of the paragraph.

QUESTION 29

Choice B is the best answer. The dash most effectively combines the two sentences. It correctly indicates that what follows is explanatory information. In this case, the information after the dash could be inferred from what has already been stated because the opposite of making fewer mistakes is making more mistakes. The information after the dash in this sentence makes the conclusion overt.

Choice A is incorrect because the word “such” indicates incorrectly that an example of something will follow it. Choices C and D are incorrect because they are wordy and not as succinct as using a dash.

QUESTION 30

Choice B is the best answer. The comma is used correctly to separate the introductory dependent clause from the main independent clause that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used to separate a dependent and an independent clause. Choice C is incorrect because a period can’t be used at the end of a dependent clause. Choice D is incorrect because the adverb “therefore” doesn’t make sense in this context; what follows does not result from something said earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 31

Choice B is the best answer. “In other words” indicates correctly that what follows will be an elaboration of the idea that digital recorders can’t distinguish “important parts of the proceedings from other noises in the courtroom,” “such as a book dropping.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t show the true relationship between the two sentences. “Despite this” means that in spite of something already said, what follows will be the case. “Therefore” and “consequently” indicate that what follows will be the result of something said earlier. None of these offers a further explanation of what was previously said.

QUESTION 32

Choice D is the best answer. The prepositional phrase “between the words and the extrinsic noises” clearly and concisely identifies what a court reporter is able to distinguish. It is also the only parallel option, using two noun phrases after “between,” which are joined by “and.”

Choice A is incorrect because it needlessly repeats “distinguish between.” Choice B is incorrect because it is not parallel or grammatical. Choice C is incorrect because it is wordy and wrongly suggests that court reporters distinguish between words and a time period (when).

QUESTION 33

Choice D is the best answer. The main idea of the paragraph is that court reporters can distinguish between words and extraneous noises in the courtroom, which digital recorders can’t always do. This choice offers an example of what can go wrong in a courtroom because digital recorders can’t always pick up “indistinct testimony”: the need for retrial because of indistinct testimony from witnesses.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t support the main idea of the paragraph. Making additional announcements at the beginning of a trial (choice A), monitoring to ensure equipment is functioning properly (choice B), and changing roles and duties of several members of the courtroom staff (choice C) are not examples of what can happen as a result of using digital recorders that can’t distinguish words from other courtroom noises.

QUESTION 34

Choice B is the best answer. The adverb “however” indicates that regardless of the conditions that affect “combustion and the resulting fire” on Earth, their behavior in space is different.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not show the true relationship between the information that comes before and what follows the linking adverb. “Moreover” means that additional information will follow; “accordingly” means that what follows corresponds to

what has already been said or that what follows is a consequence; and “subsequently” means that what follows happens after what was previously stated. None of these choices indicates the difference between the behaviors of combustion and fire on Earth and in space.

QUESTION 35

Choice D is the best answer. The past tense verb “sought” clearly and concisely conveys the idea that the students were trying to find a method to study combustion of biofuels. Additionally, the word “biofuels” is correctly placed immediately in front of the parenthetical information that defines it to prevent confusion.

Choices A and B are incorrect because they are wordy and the word “biofuel” is not placed immediately in front of the parenthetical information that defines it. Choice C is incorrect because it uses the verb “looked,” which is not preferable to “sought” in this science context.

QUESTION 36

Choice A is the best answer. No change needs to be made because the word “deformation” provides the most precise description of what results when fuel droplets lose their symmetrical form while burning. A droplet that is deformed loses some good attribute due to the influence of some external condition.

Choices B and D are incorrect because “alteration” and “modification” imply that something is changed on purpose. Choice C is incorrect because “transformation” means that one thing is changed into another. None of these choices is accurate when discussing the effect of “gravitational influence” and the “movement of molecules” on droplets of fuel.

QUESTION 37

Choice B is the best answer. The plural verbs “cause” and “limit” agree in number with the plural pronoun “both,” which refers to the plural noun “variations.”

Choices A and C are incorrect because “causes” and “limits” are singular verbs that don’t agree in number with the plural pronoun “both.” Choice D is incorrect because “has caused” and “has limited” are also singular verbs. Additionally, they are present perfect tense verbs that are used to describe a past event that has an influence on the present, which is not the case in this context.

QUESTION 38

Choice D is the best answer. The underlined portion should be deleted because “built for this purpose” repeats the idea of being “specially designed” used previously in the sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they are redundant. There is no reason to repeat the idea of “specially designed.”

QUESTION 39

Choice B is the best answer. This choice offers the most effective transition because it links the previously mentioned problems of conducting the biofuel experiment to the UCSD students' solution: participating in NASA's Microgravity University program.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don't link the previously identified problems with the specific solution: a program that could help the students overcome too little microgravity time and too small droplets.

QUESTION 40

Choice D is the best answer. The commas after "weightlessness" and "space" are used correctly to set off the nonessential information between them. The information between the commas could be removed and the sentence would still make sense.

Choice A is incorrect because it is missing the comma after "weightlessness." In this context, choices B and C are incorrect because the commas are misplaced. In each of these choices, if the information between the commas were removed, the sentence would not make sense.

QUESTION 41

Choice A is the best answer. The addition should be made because the information specifically identifies an advantage the students gained by working with NASA's Microgravity University program: not traveling to space.

Choice B is incorrect because it isn't accurate. The previous paragraph does suggest that the students didn't actually go into space by stating that researchers fly their experiments aboard aircraft that simulate the microgravity environment. Choices C and D are incorrect because the addition should be made. The addition neither shifts focus away from the students' experiences while on the flight nor restates what has already been said in the sentence.

QUESTION 42

Choice D is the best answer. This choice, "were able to investigate," focuses on what the flights enabled the UCSD students to do that they were not able to do previously using the drop towers. It is consistent with the previous sentence, which states what the flights allowed the students to do.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because their focus is on "investigating" and not on allowing or enabling the students to investigate combustion in an environment that provided larger droplets and microgravity similar to that experienced in space.

QUESTION 43

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because the larger “spherically symmetric” droplets indicate that the flights remedied the problem of smaller deformed droplets mentioned earlier in the passage.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none of these choices refers to the size or shape of the biofuel droplets, which is what made the investigation of combustion and fire on Earth problematic.

QUESTION 44

Choice C is the best answer. No comma is needed in the underlined phrase, which clearly and concisely expresses the improved techniques for fighting fires in space or at future outposts on the Moon and Mars that may result from better combustion-rate models.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the commas are incorrectly separating the prepositional phrases from the noun “techniques.”

Choice D is incorrect because the pair of commas indicate that the information contained between them is nonessential, which isn’t accurate.

Section 3: Math Test – No Calculator

QUESTION 1

Choice D is correct. Combining like terms on each side of the given equation yields $6x - 5 = 7 + 2x$. Adding 5 to both sides of $6x - 5 = 7 + 2x$ and subtracting $2x$ from both sides yields $4x = 12$. Dividing both sides of $4x = 12$ by 4 yields $x = 3$.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because substituting those values into the equation $3x + x + x + x - 3 - 2 = 7 + x + x$ will result in a false statement. For example, in choice B, substituting 1 for x in the equation would give $3(1) + 1 + 1 + 1 - 3 - 2 = 7 + 1 + 1$, which yields the false statement $1 = 9$; therefore, x cannot equal 1.

QUESTION 2

Choice A is correct. The line passes through the origin. Therefore, this is a relationship of the form $d = km$, where k is a constant representing the slope of the graph. To find the value of k , choose a point (m, d) on the graph of the line other than the origin and substitute the values of m and d into the equation. For example, if the point $(2, 4)$ is chosen, then $4 = k(2)$, and $k = 2$. Therefore, the equation of the line is $d = 2m$.

Choice B is incorrect and may result from calculating the slope of the line as the change in time over the change in distance traveled instead of the change in distance traveled over the change in time. Choices C and D are incorrect because each of these equations represents a line with a d -intercept of 2. However, the graph shows a line with a d -intercept of 0.