Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

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

DIRECTIONS

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

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

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

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

Compost: Don't Waste This Waste

Over the past generation, people in many parts of the United States have become accustomed to dividing their household waste products into different categories for recycling. 1 Regardless, paper may go in one container, glass and aluminum in another, regular garbage in a third. Recently, some US cities have added a new category: compost, organic matter such as food scraps and yard debris. Like paper or glass recycling, composting demands a certain amount of effort from the

1

A) NO CHANGE
B) However,
C) Furthermore,
D) For example,

public in order to be successful. But the inconveniences of composting are far outweighed by its benefits.

Most people think of banana peels, eggshells, and dead leaves as "waste," but compost is actually a valuable resource with multiple practical uses. When utilized as a garden fertilizer, compost provides nutrients to soil and improves plant growth while deterring or killing pests and preventing some plant diseases. It also enhances soil texture, encouraging healthy roots and minimizing or 2 annihilating the need for chemical fertilizers. Better than soil at holding moisture, compost minimizes water waste and storm runoff, 3 it increases savings on watering costs, and helps reduce erosion on embankments near bodies of water. In large 4 quantities, which one would expect to see when it is collected for an entire municipality), compost can be converted into a natural gas that can be used as fuel for transportation or heating and cooling systems.

2

Which choice best maintains the style and tone of the passage?

A) NO CHANGE
B) eliminating
C) ousting
D) closing the door on

3

A) NO CHANGE
B) savings increase
C) increases savings
D) also it increases savings

4

A) NO CHANGE
B) quantities (which
C) quantities which
D) quantities; (which

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CONTINUE

In spite of all compost's potential uses, however, most of this so-called waste is wasted. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), over 5 13 million tons of metal ended up in US landfills in 2009, along with over 13 million tons of yard debris. Remarkably, 6 less glass was discarded in landfills in that year than any other substance, including plastics or paper. Even 7 worse, then the squandering of this useful resource is the fact that compost in landfills cannot break down due to the lack of necessary air and moisture.

5

The writer wants to include information from the graph that is consistent with the description of compost in the passage. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

A) NO CHANGE
B) 6 million tons of rubber and leather
C) 10 million tons of textiles
D) 33 million tons of food waste

6

The writer wants to support the paragraph's main idea with accurate, relevant information from the graph. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

A) NO CHANGE
B) more metal
C) more food waste
D) more yard waste

7

A) NO CHANGE
B) worse than
C) worse then
D) worse, than

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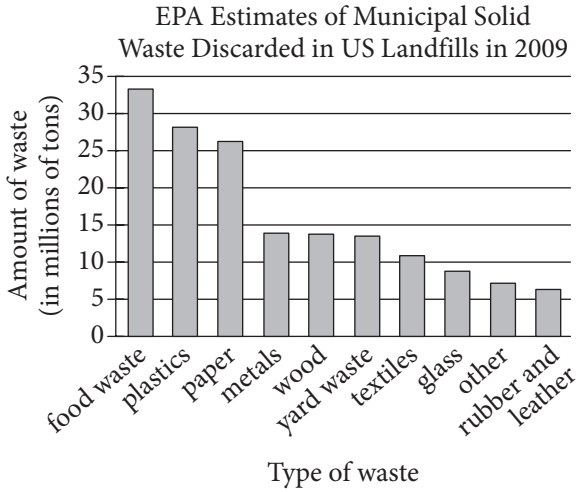
CONTINUE

As a result, organic material that is sent to landfills

8 <u>contribute</u> to the release of methane, a very

9 <u>potent</u> greenhouse gas.



Adapted from Food Waste Disposal. ©n.d. by Food Waste Disposal, LLC.

8

A) NO CHANGE
B) are contributing
C) contributes
D) have contributed

9

A) NO CHANGE
B) sturdy
C) influential
D) commanding

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CONTINUE

10 While composting can sometimes lead to accidental pollution through the release of methane gas, cities such as San Francisco and Seattle have instituted mandatory composting laws requiring individuals and businesses to use separate bins for compostable waste. This strict approach may not work everywhere. However, given the clear benefits of composting and the environmental costs of not composting, all municipalities should encourage their residents either to create their own compost piles for use in backyard gardens **11** or to dispose of compostable materials in bins for collection.

10

Which choice provides the most effective transition from the previous paragraph?

A) NO CHANGE
B) Though government regulations vary,
C) Armed with these facts,
D) Mindful of this setback,

11

A) NO CHANGE
B) nor
C) but
D) and

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CONTINUE

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

A Lion's Share of Luck

It's the beginning of February, and as they do every year, thousands of people line H Street, the heart of Chinatown in Washington, DC. The crowd has gathered to celebrate Lunar New Year. The street is a sea of **12** red. Red is the traditional Chinese color of luck and happiness. Buildings are **13** draped with festive, red, banners, and garlands. Lampposts are strung with crimson paper lanterns, which bob in the crisp winter breeze. The eager spectators await the highlight of the New Year parade: the lion dance.

Experts agree that the lion dance originated in the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE); however, there is little agreement about the dance's original purpose. Some evidence suggests that the earliest version of the dance was an attempt to ward off an evil spirit; **14** lions are obviously very fierce. Another theory is that an emperor, upon waking from a dream about a lion, hired an artist to

12

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

A) red,
B) red; in addition, red is
C) red; in other words, red is
D) red, the color; that is

13

A) NO CHANGE
B) draped, with festive red banners,
C) draped with festive red banners—
D) draped with festive red banners

14

Which choice most effectively completes the explanation of a possible origin of the lion dance?

A) NO CHANGE
B) the evil spirit was called Nian.
C) villagers dressed in lion costumes to scare the spirit away.
D) the precise location of the village remains lost to history.

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CONTINUE

choreograph the dance. **15** The current function of the dance is celebration.

The lion dance requires the strength, grace, and coordination of two dancers, **16** both of whom are almost completely hidden by the elaborate bamboo and papier-mâché lion costume that they maneuver. One person operates the lion's head as the other guides the torso and tail. Many of the moves in the dance, such as jumps, rolls, and kicks, are similar to **17** martial arts and acrobatics. The dancers must be synchronized with the music accompanying the dance—drums, cymbals, and gongs that supply the lion's roar—as well as with each other.

15

Which choice most effectively concludes the paragraph?

A) NO CHANGE
B) It turns out that the origins of the lion dance are irrelevant.
C) Whatever its origins, today the lion dance is a joyous spectacle, a celebration of the promise of the New Year.
D) Things are different these days, of course.

16

A) NO CHANGE
B) of which both
C) both of them
D) both

17

A) NO CHANGE
B) the disciplines of martial arts and acrobatics.
C) martial artists and acrobats.
D) those in martial arts and acrobatics.

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CONTINUE

[1] While there are many regional variations of the lion dance costume, all make extensive use of symbols and colors. [2] The lion's head is often adorned with a phoenix **18** (a mythical bird) or a tortoise (for longevity). [3] Green lions encourage friendliness. [4] Golden and red lions represent liveliness and bravery, respectively. [5] Their older counterparts, yellow and white lions, dance more slowly and deliberately. [6] In some variations, lions of different colors are different ages, and they move accordingly. [7] Black lions are the youngest; therefore, they dance quickly and playfully. [8] The appearance of the lions varies, but their message is consistent: Happy New Year. **19**

18

Which choice provides information that is most consistent in style and content with the information about the symbolism of the tortoise?

A) NO CHANGE
B) (for new beginnings)
C) (from Chinese mythology)
D) (for symbolic reasons)

19

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

A) where it is now.
B) after sentence 1.
C) after sentence 3.
D) after sentence 7.

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CONTINUE

As the parade winds its way through Chinatown, the music crescendos, and the lion dance reaches **20** it's climax with the "plucking of the greens." Approaching a doorway in which dangles a red envelope filled with green paper money, the **21** lion's teeth snare the envelope. It then chews up the bills and spits out the **22** money-filled envelope instead of chewing it up. The crowd cheers for the lion dancers and for the prosperity and good fortune their dance foretells.

20

A) NO CHANGE
B) its
C) there
D) their

21

A) NO CHANGE
B) lion snares the envelope with its teeth.
C) envelope is snared by the lion with its teeth.
D) teeth of the lion snare the envelope.

22

A) NO CHANGE
B) envelope that had been dangling from the doorway.
C) envelope that had the money in it.
D) envelope.

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CONTINUE

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

Court Reporting: Humans v. Machines

Court reporters for years have been the record keepers of the court, taking **23** scrupulous notes during **24** hearings; depositions, and other legal proceedings. Despite the increasing use of digital recording technologies, court reporters still play a vital role in

23

Which choice best fits with the tone of the rest of the passage?

A) NO CHANGE
B) super-rigorous
C) spot-on
D) intense

24

A) NO CHANGE
B) hearings; depositions;
C) hearings, depositions,
D) hearings, depositions;

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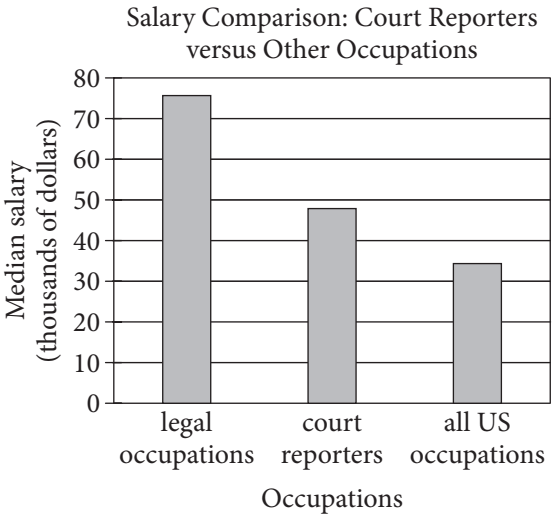
CONTINUE

courtrooms. 25 Although machines can easily make digital audio recordings of court events, they lack the nuance of human court reporters in providing a precise record.

[1] Court reporters record the spoken word in real time, most commonly using the technique of stenography. [2] A stenotype machine allows a person to type about 200 words per minute (the speed of speech is about 180 words per minute). [3] The typed words are instantaneously translated onto a computer screen for the judge to view, and the transcript is used later by people who want to review the case, such as journalists and lawyers. [4] Digital audio recording is becoming increasingly popular in courtrooms across the United States, with six states using solely audio recordings for

25

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



Adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014–15 Edition*.

Should the writer make this addition here?

A) Yes, because it supports the claim that court reporting is an important part of a trial.

B) Yes, because it offers a relevant counterpoint to the argument that the use of digital recorders is on the rise.

C) No, because it presents information that is not directly related to the paragraph's discussion of the role of court reporters.

D) No, because it does not provide information about the pay scale for more experienced court reporters.

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CONTINUE

general jurisdiction sessions. [5] Proponents of going digital say that technology is the easiest way to get the most accurate record of the proceedings, as the machine records everything faithfully as it occurs and is not **26** subject to human errors such as mishearing or mistyping. [6] However, with the rise of high-quality recording technology, reliance on court reporters **27** as a record keeper is decreasing. **28**

26

A) NO CHANGE
B) subjected to
C) subjected from
D) subject for

27

A) NO CHANGE
B) each as record keepers
C) as record keepers
D) to be a record keeper

28

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 6 should be placed

A) where it is now.
B) after sentence 1.
C) after sentence 3.
D) after sentence 4.

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CONTINUE

Champions of court reporting, though, argue the 29 opposite. They argue that with the increased reliance on technology, errors actually increase. Because digital systems record 30 indiscriminately; they cannot discern important parts of the proceedings from other noises in the courtroom. 31 Despite this, a digital device does indeed record everything, but that includes loud noises, such as a book dropping, that can make the actual words spoken impossible to hear. A court reporter, however,

29

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

A) opposite, such
B) opposite—
C) opposite, which is
D) opposite; their opinion is

30

A) NO CHANGE
B) indiscriminately, they
C) indiscriminately. They
D) indiscriminately, therefore they

31

A) NO CHANGE
B) In other words,
C) Therefore,
D) Consequently,

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CONTINUE

can distinguish between the words 32 and distinguish between the extrinsic noises that need not be recorded. Also, if a witness mumbles, a human court reporter can pause court proceedings to ask the witness to repeat what he or she said. In some cases, digital recording 33 makes it necessary for the judge to make additional announcements at the beginning of a trial. Increasing use of technology is "a transition from accurate records to adequate records," says Bob Tate, president of the Certified Court Reporters Association of New Jersey.

Despite the apparent benefits of using digital recording systems in courtrooms, there is still a need for the human touch in legal proceedings. At least for the foreseeable future, machines simply cannot replicate the invaluable clarification skills and adaptability of human court reporters.

32

A) NO CHANGE
B) also between the
C) and when there are
D) and the

33

Which choice provides the best supporting example for the main idea of the paragraph?

A) NO CHANGE
B) requires a courtroom monitor to ensure the equipment is functioning properly.
C) leads to changes in the roles and duties of several members of the courtroom staff.
D) has led to the need for retrial because of indistinct testimony from key witnesses.

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CONTINUE

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

Fire in Space

On Earth, fire provides light, heat, and comfort. Its creation, by a process called combustion, requires a chemical reaction between a fuel source and oxygen. The shape that fire assumes on Earth is a result of gravitational influence and the movement of molecules. In the microgravity environment of space, 34 moreover, combustion and the resulting fire behave in fundamentally different ways than they do on Earth—differences that have important implications for researchers.

A group of engineering students from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), for example, 35 tried to find a method to make their biofuel combustion study (fuels derived from once-living material) free of the drawbacks researchers face on Earth. The standard method involves burning droplets of fuel, but Earth's gravitational influence causes the droplets to lose

34

A) NO CHANGE
B) however,
C) accordingly,
D) subsequently,

35

A) NO CHANGE
B) strove for a method to make their study of biofuel combustion
C) looked for a method to study biofuel combustion
D) sought a method to study combustion of biofuels

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CONTINUE

spherical symmetry while burning. This **36** deformation results in subtle variations in density that both **37** causes uneven heat flow and limits the size of the droplets that can be tested. Specially designed "drop towers" **38** built for this purpose reduce these problems, but they provide no more than 10 seconds of microgravity, and droplet size is still too small to produce accurate models of combustion rates. **39** The UCSD students understood that these limitations had to be surmounted. As part of the program, researchers fly their experiments aboard aircraft that simulate the microgravity environment of space. The aircraft accomplish this feat by flying in parabolic paths instead of horizontal ones. On the plane's ascent, passengers feel twice Earth's gravitational pull, but for brief periods at the peak of the trajectory,

36

Which choice provides the most precise description of the phenomenon depicted in the previous sentence?

A) NO CHANGE
B) alteration
C) transformation
D) modification

37

A) NO CHANGE
B) cause uneven heat flow and limit
C) cause uneven heat flow and limits
D) has caused uneven heat flow and has limited

38

A) NO CHANGE
B) intended for this use
C) constructed for this function
D) DELETE the underlined portion.

39

Which choice provides the most effective transition between ideas in the paragraph?

A) NO CHANGE
B) The UCSD group sought to overcome these difficulties by participating in NASA's Microgravity University program.
C) The engineering group realized that aircraft might be the tools they were looking for.
D) Thus, for the UCSD group, drop towers were not an adequate solution.

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CONTINUE

40 "weightlessness" or microgravity similar to what is experienced in space, is achieved.

These flights allowed the UCSD students to experience microgravity 41 . Specifically, they 42 investigated the combustion of biofuel droplets in microgravity for twice as long as could be accomplished

40

A) NO CHANGE
B) "weightlessness" or microgravity, similar to what is experienced, in space
C) "weightlessness" or, microgravity, similar to what is experienced in space
D) "weightlessness," or microgravity similar to what is experienced in space,

41

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

and perform their experiment without traveling into space

Should the writer make this addition here?

A) Yes, because it elaborates on the advantage the students gained from the flights.
B) Yes, because it reveals that the students did not actually go into space, a point that the previous paragraph does not address.
C) No, because it shifts focus away from the students' experiences while on the flights.
D) No, because it restates what has already been said in the sentence.

42

A) NO CHANGE
B) could investigate
C) were investigating
D) were able to investigate

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CONTINUE

in drop towers and to perform tests with larger droplets. The larger, **43** spherically symmetric droplets burned longer and gave the students more reliable data on combustion rates of biofuels because the droplets' uniform shape reduced the variations in density that hinder tests performed in normal gravity. The students hope the new data will aid future research by improving theoretical models of biofuel combustion. Better combustion-rate models may even lead to the production of more fuel-efficient engines and improved **44** techniques, for fighting fires in space or at future outposts on the Moon and Mars.

43

Which choice most effectively establishes that the UCSD students' approach had solved a problem, mentioned earlier in the passage, relating to burning fuel on Earth?

A) NO CHANGE
B) combustible
C) microgravity-influenced
D) biofuel-derived

44

A) NO CHANGE
B) techniques for fighting fires, in space or at future outposts
C) techniques for fighting fires in space or at future outposts
D) techniques for fighting fires in space, or at future outposts,

STOP

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

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