

The Essay

The purpose of this portion of the test is to give you an opportunity to show how well you can write. Express yourself clearly, concisely, and effectively. Your grade is based on the overall quality of your writing, not necessarily on the length of your essay. Nevertheless, it is important to express yourself in a well-developed and well-organized manner; this naturally will require more than one paragraph.

Do you agree or disagree that friends react on one another and can lead us into wrongdoing? Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from readings, experiences, or observations.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a vertical margin line on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard sheet of stationery.

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Lined area for writing or drawing.

Multiple-Choice Questions, Set 1

(Questions 1–35, 25 minutes)

Improving Sentences

The following sentences are questioning you about sentence correctness and expression of information. Part, or all, of each sentence is underlined. Following the sentence, five versions of the underlined portion are presented. Choice **A** repeats the original; the other choices are different. If you think a better sentence can be found in Choices **B–E**, then choose one of them. If the sentence is correct as stated, your answer will be **A**.

1. Behind most successful high schools stand a strong administration, a good staff and, of course, a outstanding student body that is proud of its school and willing to do what it takes to make it the best.
 - A. and, of course, a outstanding student body that is proud
 - B. and, of course, a proud student body that is outstanding
 - C. and, of course, an outstanding student body that is proud
 - D. and of course a outstanding and proud student body
 - E. and of course, an outstandingly proud student body

2. The book is filled with black and white photographs that offer vivid reminders both to the shrinking WWII veteran population, as well as historians and the general public, of the horrors of World War II.
 - A. photographs that offer vivid reminders both to the shrinking WWII veteran population, as well as historians
 - B. photographs, which offers vivid reminders to both the shrinking WWII veteran population, as well as historians
 - C. photographs, which offer both vivid reminder to shrinking veterans as well as historians
 - D. photographs; the pictures offer vivid reminders to both WWII veterans, whose numbers are shrinking, as well as to historians
 - E. photographs; this offering vivid reminders both to WWII veterans and to historians

3. In his efforts to make a realistic movie, the director studied the language of the Irish, and the dialogue was made to sound authentic.
 - A. Irish, and the dialogue was made to sound authentic.
 - B. Irish and making the dialogue sound authentic
 - C. Irish and made the dialogue sound authentic
 - D. Irish, with the result being that the dialogue is authentic-sounding
 - E. Irish in where the dialogue sounds authentic

4. The detective chose not to arrest the suspect at the pawnshop that morning, but instead he arrested him at the airport before he is boarding a flight to LA.
 - A. him at the airport before he is boarding a flight to LA.
 - B. him at the airport before he boarded a flight to LA.
 - C. him before boarding a flight to LA at the airport.
 - D. him before he was caught boarding a flight to LA.
 - E. him as he attempted boarding a flight to LA at the airport.

5. Although it appears cold and forbidding at first, the state of Alaska, which boasts the largest national park in the U.S., teems with adventure and promise.
- A. ,which boasts the largest national park in the U.S.,
 - B. ,that boasts the largest national park in the U.S.,
 - C. ,where the largest national park in the U.S. resides
 - D. whose national park is the largest in the U.S.,
 - E. ,who's national park is the largest in the U.S.,
6. Already more runners than usual are expected registering for the city-wide Susan Komen Breast Cancer *Run for the Cure* than for the local 10-K, which has not been as heavily advertised.
- A. are expected registering for the city-wide
 - B. will register for the city-wide
 - C. have registered for the
 - D. will have registered for the city-wide
 - E. are city-wide registered for the
7. After practicing for months, the auditions went much more smoothly for the young protégé.
- A. After practicing for months, the auditions went much more smoothly for the young protégé.
 - B. Auditions, after practicing for months, went much more smoothly for the young protégé.
 - C. The young protégé having practiced for auditions for months, the auditions went much more smoothly for her.
 - D. The young protégé presenting auditions after months of practice, they went much more smoothly.
 - E. The young protégé presented auditions much more smoothly after practicing for months.
8. To ensure that a movie will sell well, it must be in touch with popular tastes.
- A. it must be in touch with popular tastes.
 - B. a movie should be in touch with popular tastes.
 - C. a producer should be in touch with popular tastes.
 - D. popular tastes should be appealed to.
 - E. popular tastes should be appealing.
9. Hoping to receive a positive recommendation from his teacher, instead the teacher informed the college that the student would not be a good candidate for their college.
- A. instead the teacher informed the college that the student would not be a good candidate for their college.
 - B. the information having been received from the teacher, instead, informing the college about the student.
 - C. the student instead received information from the college that he was not recommended by the teacher.
 - D. the student, instead, not being a good candidate for the college, would not be recommended by the teacher.
 - E. recommendation for the student instead would not be forthcoming from the teacher.
10. Most students would probably receive better grades if reading were done by them.
- A. reading were done by them.
 - B. if they studied reading.
 - C. reading were being done by them.
 - D. they would read more.
 - E. they were to have read more.

11. Gymnastics for younger children helps to strengthen concentration, to tone muscles and to provide an opportunity for camaraderie.
- A. and to provide an opportunity for camaraderie.
B. thereby providing an opportunity for camaraderie.
C. and to provide camaraderie.
D. and attempts to provide that which we refer to as camaraderie.
E. so that a sense of camaraderie is provided.

Identifying Sentence Errors

These sentences will test your ability to recognize grammar and usage errors. Some are basic; a very few are obscure. Each sentence contains an error or no error at all (Choice E). Remember, your correct answer is actually identifying what is wrong with the sentence. If there is nothing wrong, then the answer will be E, No error.

12. While looking around the clinic waiting room, I observed many other patients which happened to be suffering from the same flu-like symptoms as I. No error.
- A B C D E
13. Thousands of lakes, untamed wilderness, exceptional weather are all cited as reasons of why Minnesota is selected as a prime summer vacation spot by folks from all over the country. No error.
- A B C D E
14. The other team members and him unanimously decided to go to the *Tastee Cream* for the ice cream sundae specials that were being advertised that week. No error.
- A B C D E
15. Yer, a sophomore at Purdue, has a schedule in the fall that includes Advanced Calculus, Physics II, Engineering 101, and a class in creative writing. No error.
- A B C D E
16. The master teacher was such a success in the classroom that he was always seen accompanied with a student observer from the local university. No error.
- A B C D E
17. Forget Kinsey Milhone and Kay Scarpetta or VI Warshawski, for Miss Marple is considerable, by avid who-done-it fans, the prototype of quintessential female sleuths. No error.
- A B C D E
18. Plays such as Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* which raise dramatic production to a psychologically compelling level and force the audience into retrospection. No error.
- A B C D E
19. The chairman of the three departments is overworked and is understandably stressed due to all his responsibilities at the University. No error.
- A B C D E

20. The new candidate's speech was filled with empty promises instead of worthwhile content, the incumbent's presentation, on the other hand, came across as crafted commentary; although she, too, was duplicitous and not to be trusted. No error.
21. Less people from the United States will be visiting Europe as the exchange rate on the Euro continues to decline and prices rise in several European countries. No error.
22. Despite the cities historical society's efforts at saving the old barn, the overwhelming majority of city council members voted to tear it down. No error.
23. The new County Courthouse building is beautiful, but fully 100 residents were forced to relocate from their apartment building that had to be tore down to make room for the new construction. No error.
24. There is no sense in continuing my research paper, now that I have dropped the course on which the paper was required as a part of the mandated curriculum. No error.
25. Disposable DVDs that disappear two days after being unwrapped are beginning to appear in the United States market. No error.
26. Before the governor spoke to the assembled crowd, he quietly called the sole bodyguards' attention to a man whom might have been carrying a weapon. No error.
27. Written by Aldous Huxley, the novel *Brave New World* tells what happens in a futuristic society when everyone is lulled into complacency in a futuristic world that relies upon the programming of human beings. No error.
28. In his early adolescent desire to augment his good looks, the eighth grader uses a copious supply of mousse on his hair each morning before school leaving an ominous residue of green goop in the bathroom sink. No error.
29. Reading is not about words, like raindrops running over your head; instead, its about absorbing the words and letting them make an impact on as you read. No error.

Improving Paragraphs

The following is an early draft of a short essay. Some parts need to be revised. Read the passage, paragraph by paragraph and choose the best answers for the questions that follow. In choosing answers, follow the rules of standard written English.

1) The last decade of the 20th Century will be known for many fads and unusual trends. 2) The collecting of Beanie Babies were just one of these crazes. 3) Ty Toy Company manufactured and sold millions of these small, bean-bag-like stuffed animals, mostly bears, and sold them worldwide.

4) Reasons for the popularity of Beanie Babies are numerous, and many people are still hoarding their stuffed menageries, waiting for enough time to pass for the collectors' fad to pay off. 5) There's always room for one more furry creature in the a collector's growing family 6) The average price for a Beanie Baby was about \$6.00, well within the price of many collectors. 7) Few realized, however, the 400 percent mark-they were shelling out. 8) Also, most Beanie Babies were small, and picking up one or two more for one's collection "wouldn't take up that much room." 9) Some collectors are anticipating that their fuzzy treasures will bring in \$25–\$50 a piece when they reach their vintage value.

10) In addition, we have to wonder just where all these creatures are hiding right now.

11) Are they forming Beanie battalions to take over the world, or are they simply languishing in retirement at the bottom of a closet? 12) Will grandkids take them out to play with some day, or will they just throw them away with so many other novelties that have come and gone in the United States?

30. Of the following, which is the best version of sentence 2: "The collecting of Beanie Babies were just one of these."

- A. As it is now.
- B. It is said that the collecting of Beanie Babies was one.
- C. One trend of collecting was Beanie Babies
- D. Collecting Beanie Babies were such a craze.
- E. Collecting Beanie Babies was one of these crazes.

31. The overall purpose of this passage is to:

- A. discuss the fads and trends of the 90s.
- B. explore a particular collecting craze.
- C. promote the Ty Toy Company.
- D. ridicule so-called collectors for wasting their money.
- E. suggest that collecting fads can sometimes turn out to be lucrative.

- 32.** Sentence 5 in the second paragraph is best placed:
- A. where it is now.
 - B. at the end, after sentence # 9
 - C. after sentence #6.
 - D. at beginning, before sentence #4.
 - E. after sentence #8.
- 33.** In the context of the passage, which revision is BEST for sentence 10?
- A. Moreover, we ask ourselves, “Just where are all these creatures hiding right now?”
 - B. Leave as it is.
 - C. However, we have to wonder, “Just where are all these creatures hiding right now?”
 - D. Finally, we have to wonder just where all these creatures are hiding right now.
 - E. Finally, in conclusion, we wonder where are all these creatures are.
- 34.** You want to add one more sentence to the last paragraph, and given the context of the entire passage, which of the following will work best?
- A. Only time will tell.
 - B. It’s amazing what dumb things people will collect.
 - C. So many people wasted a lot of money on a fad.
 - D. Only in the United States are people so stupid.
 - E. I never could see the attraction of Beanie Babies.
- 35.** You are being asked to put a title on this short essay that captures the essence and tone of the passage. The BEST choice would be:
- A. Not Another Furry Creature
 - B. Beanie Babies Then and Now
 - C. The Rise and Fall of a Toy
 - D. Another Example of American Silliness
 - E. Crazy Collectors and their Fuzzy Friends

Multiple Choice Questions, Set 2

(Questions 1–14, 10 minutes)

Improving Sentences

The following sentences are questioning you about sentence correctness and expression of information. Part, or all, of each sentence is underlined. Following the sentence, five versions of the underlined portion are presented. Choice **A** repeats the original; the other choices are different. If you think a better sentence can be found in Choices **B–E**, then choose one of them. If the sentence is correct as stated, your answer will be **A**.

1. Columbia is an undergraduate and graduate college whose principle commitment is to provide comprehensive educational opportunity in the arts, communications, and public information within a content of enlightened liberal education.
 - A. whose principle commitment is to provide comprehensive educational opportunity
 - B. whose principle commitment is providing comprehensive educational opportunity
 - C. who's principal commitment is to provide comprehensive educational opportunity
 - D. who principally is committed to provide comprehensive educational opportunity
 - E. whose principal commitment is to provide comprehensive educational opportunity
2. Eager to increase the reputation of her in-home quilting company, Lori distributing flyers and set up a website about her business.
 - A. Lori distributing flyers and set up a website about her business.
 - B. Lori distributing flyers and setting up a website about her business.
 - C. Lori distributed flyers and set up a web site about her business.
 - D. flyers were distributed and a website was set up by Lori about her business.
 - E. flyers and a website were what Lori did for her business.
3. In addition to basic enamel and metal preparation, students in our jewelry class are encouraged to experiment and explore their own ideas.
 - A. In addition to basic enamel and metal preparation, students
 - B. Additionally, basic enamel and metal preparation by students
 - C. Students in addition to basic enamel and metal preparation,
 - D. Additionally, basic enamel and metal preparation by students
 - E. Basic enamel and metal are prepared in addition to students
4. Located on the lower level of the home, the guest quarters were not only spacious but cozy; they were roomy but decorated in a manner that felt snug and comfortable at the same time.
 - A. the guest quarters were not only spacious but cozy;
 - B. the guest quarters were not only spacious but also cozy,
 - C. spacious and cozy guest quarters
 - D. the guest quarters were not only spacious but also cozy;
 - E. the quarters for guests were spacious but at the same time cozy;

5. Not two weeks following Juliana's retirement from teaching for thirty-three years but the doctors diagnosed her with cancer.
- A. but the doctors diagnosed her with cancer.
 - B. but the doctors had her diagnosed with cancer.
 - C. than she has been diagnosed by the doctors that she had cancer.
 - D. but cancer had been diagnosed in her by doctors.
 - E. than doctors diagnosed her cancer.
6. Kiosks that dispense DVD's are popular in Europe and are coming to the United States they're already in New York City, and soon they will start appearing in other major cities.
- A. are coming to the United States they're already in New York City,
 - B. are coming to the United States; they're already in New York City,
 - C. in New York City already, and will come to the United States soon,
 - D. are coming to the United States; they're already in New York City;
 - E. coming to New York City and in the United States already
7. The workshop will be providing knowledge on the various means of digital inputs and outputs available to the visual artist using Adobe Photoshop, the industry standard for digital still image manipulation.
- A. The workshop will be providing knowledge on the various means of digital inputs and outputs available
 - B. Digital inputs and outputs will be available to provide knowledge at the workshop
 - C. Various means of digital inputs and outputs will be available to provide knowledge at the workshop
 - D. The workshop will provide knowledge on the various means of digital inputs and outputs available
 - E. Providing knowledge, the workshop will have the various means of digital inputs and outputs available
8. Even after becoming paralyzed, the actor Christopher Reeve's wife and family helped him in his crusade for more research into paralysis.
- A. the actor Christopher Reeve's wife and family helped him in his crusade for more research into paralysis.
 - B. The actor Christopher Reeve's wife and family helping him, in his crusade for more research into paralysis.
 - C. The wife and family of Christopher Reeve helped him in his crusade for more research into paralysis.
 - D. The crusade for more research into paralysis was helped by Christopher Reeve's wife and family.
 - E. Christopher Reeve crusaded for more research into paralysis with the help of his wife and family.
9. Her ambition is not only to study but also master the craft of acting.
- A. not only to study but also master
 - B. not only studying but to try to master
 - C. not only to study but also to master
 - D. to study, and, as well, to master
 - E. only studying to master
10. Successful critical readers of any selection gets an edge on a passage by familiarizing themselves with the meanings and distinctions of the vocabulary of tone and mood.
- A. Successful critical readers of any selection gets an edge
 - B. Successful critical readers get an edge on any selection
 - C. Getting an edge on any selection by successful critical readers
 - D. Any selection can get an edge by critical readers
 - E. Successful critical readers of any selection get an edge

11. When we witness any deep emotion, our sympathy is so strongly excited that close observation is forgotten or rendered almost impossible.
- A. that close observation is forgotten or rendered almost impossible.
 - B. that observation that is close in nature is rendered almost impossible.
 - C. that observation is almost forgotten up close or rendered impossible.
 - D. that rendering close observation is almost impossibly forgotten.
 - E. that forgotten or impossible observation is closely rendered.
12. Recent events will be valuable as a criticism toward the administration of justice in our midst, or, rather, as showing what are the true resources of justice in any community.
- A. Recent events will be valuable as a criticism toward the administration of justice in our midst,
 - B. Events that happened recently will be a valuable criticism in the midst of the administration,
 - C. Recent events will be valuable as a criticism on the administration of justice in our midst,
 - D. Recent critical events in the administration of justice in our midst,
 - E. Recently events that happened will be valuable as criticism in the administration of justice in our midst,
13. Upon entering the airport security area, passenger's personal belongings such as purses, bags, shoes and packages are all surrendered to the scrutiny of X-ray.
- A. Upon entering the airport security area, passenger's personal belongings such as purses, bags, shoes and packages are all surrendered to the scrutiny of X-ray.
 - B. Upon entering the airport security area, passengers surrender their personal belongings such as purses, bags, shoes and packages to X-ray scrutiny.
 - C. Upon entering the area called security at the airport, passengers personal belongings such as purses, bags, shoes and packages are all surrendered to the scrutiny of X-ray.
 - D. The scrutiny of X-ray is what passengers surrender their personal belongings to such as purses, bags, shoes and packages in the airport security area.
 - E. Passenger's personal belongings such as purses, bags, shoes and packages, are surrendered to the scrutiny of X-ray at the airport security area.
14. One of the most prolific popular writers of the late twentieth century has been Stephen King, known not only for his tales of horror, but he also wrote an outstanding text on the art of writing.
- A. tales of horror, but he also wrote an outstanding text on the art of writing.
 - B. tales filled with horror but a text about writing was outstanding.
 - C. horror-filled tales but writing an outstanding text on the art of writing.
 - D. tales of horror; but he also wrote a text on the outstanding art of writing.
 - E. tales of horror, but he wrote an outstanding text on the art of writing.

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY. DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.



Answer Key

Set 1

Improving Sentences

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. C
10. D
11. C

Identifying Sentence Errors

12. B
13. B
14. A
15. D
16. D
17. B
18. B
19. E
20. A
21. A
22. B
23. C
24. C
25. E
26. B
27. C
28. D
29. C

Improving Paragraphs

30. E
31. B
32. E
33. D
34. C
35. C

Set 2

Improving Sentences

1. E
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. E
6. B
7. D
8. E
9. C
10. E
11. A
12. C
13. B
14. A