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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. On our vacation at Clearwater Beach, our family rented snorkeling gear, parasailing for hours and even a bit of deep sea fishing.
 - A. rented snorkeling gear, parasailing for hours and even a bit of deep sea fishing.
 - B. renting snorkeling gear, parasailing for hours and even a bit of deep sea fishing.
 - C. rented snorkeling gear; parasailed for hours and even a bit of deep sea fishing.
 - D. rented snorkeling gear, went parasailing for hours, and even did a bit of deep sea fishing.
 - E. rented snorkeling gear, parasailing for hours and even did a bit of deep sea fishing.
2. Although Barbara claimed she really liked sweets and never worried about calories or her sugar intake, she ate hardly none of the fruit tarts or brownies that was placed before her.
 - A. ate hardly none of the fruit tarts or brownies that was
 - B. hadn't eaten none of the fruit tarts nor brownies that were
 - C. had eaten not of the fruit tarts nor brownies that was
 - D. had eaten not any of the fruit tarts or hardly no brownies that were
 - E. had eaten hardly any of the fruit tarts nor brownies that were
3. Either my brother Jason or Levan wanted to be a pro baseball player when they grew up.
 - A. wanted to be a pro baseball player when they grew up.
 - B. wants to be a pro baseball player when he grows up.
 - C. wanted to be a pro baseball player when they will grow up.
 - D. wanted when they grew up to be a pro baseball player.
 - E. wants to be a pro baseball player when they will grow up.
4. That many people to believe the incumbent governor to be the most competent and best-informed candidate for the position.
 - A. That many people to believe the incumbent governor to be
 - B. That many people believe the governor is
 - C. Many people believe the incumbent governor to be
 - D. Because many people believe the incumbent governor to be
 - E. Many people, believing the incumbent governor to be

5. A program was cancelled by the producer of the local station that was considered too sensational by members of the community.
- A. A program was cancelled by the producer of the local station that was considered too sensational by members of the community.
 - B. The producer of the local station cancelled a program that was considered too sensational by members of the community.
 - C. Members of the community, considered too sensational, had a local station producer cancel the program.
 - D. A program by members of the community was cancelled by the producer of the local station for being too sensational.
 - E. A program was cancelled by the local station producer considered too sensational by the community.
6. Once a college attended primarily by privileged white males, the admission directors at The University of Notre Dame now have a totally open policy for attendance, and they encourage anyone who is qualified to attend their school.
- A. Once a college attended primarily by privileged white males, the admission directors at The University of Notre Dame now have
 - B. Once a college attended primarily by while male admission directors, The University of Notre Dame has now
 - C. Primarily attended by privileged white male admission directors, The University of Notre Dame now has
 - D. Once a college attended primarily by privileged white males; the admission directors at The University of Notre Dame now have
 - E. A university once attended primarily by privileged white males, The University of Notre Dame admissions directors now have
7. There are several qualifications to be met and rules which must be followed by whomever is asked to join the National Honor Society.
- A. which must be followed by whomever is asked
 - B. that must be followed by whomever is asked
 - C. that they who are asked must follow
 - D. that whomever is asked must follow
 - E. that must be followed by whoever is asked
8. Proponents of the Senator's campaign fund are often accused by others of making such donations to politicians solely to be rewarded with special favors or to gain easy access to power.
- A. of making such donations to politicians solely to be rewarded with special favors or to gain easy access to power.
 - B. to make such donations to politicians solely to be rewarded with special favors or to gain easy access to power.
 - C. of making donations to politicians to be rewarded solely by special favors or by easy access to power.
 - D. of making such sole donations to politicians for rewarding special favors or gaining easy access to power.
 - E. to make such sole donations to politicians for the rewards or for the access to power.

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16. According_A to the real estate agent, neither_B the empty building next to the strip mall nor_C the vacant lot next to the park provide_D a good location for my new shop. No error._E
17. Tomas and Jose went on their annual biking trip even though he_A was suffering from_B a sprained ankle and they_C had to stop often to rest._D No error._E
18. Abraham and Ruth Ann offered_A their old roller blades to my sister and I_B, but we politely refused their charity, and we_C decided to earn_D money to buy new ones. No error._E
19. Worried over_A getting his research paper done on time, in addition to_B studying for his AP Exam, and having to_C memorize his lines for the school play, Ernesto nearly had_D a nervous breakdown. No error._E
20. After having failed_A her driver's test three times, Marti learned the hard way_B that both_C steady concentration on her driving or_D paying attention to the road are critical to passing. No error._E
21. Whoever_A is responsible for the accident is not important; what is important is_B that everyone has learned_C a lesson from_D this experience. No error._E
22. When she was little_A, Sara loved to go to sleep away camp mostly because she would be able to_B experience horseback riding, hiking_C nature trails, and swim_D in the lake. No error._E
23. Her favorite activities_A, however_B, was at the day's end, after dinner, when she and her friends were allowed to find_C long sticks and to toast marshmallows over_D the fire. No error._E
24. Now that the end-of-season sale is_A over, I could_B kick myself; I should of_C bought the sundress when it was half price and kept_D it for next year. No error._E
25. Because an entirely new world opens up_A to you, SCUBA diving is a fantastic sport, but you must always remain conscience_B of your air supply, the position of_C your diving buddy_D, and your diving time and depth. No error._E
26. Despite the principal consistent_A responding "No" to the requests from_B the Student Council, the students were still expected_C to carry on_D their duties successfully. No error._E
27. Having performed well_A on the PSAT, Henri was confident that with a bit of studying and refreshing_B his writing skills, he would perform strongly_C on the SAT as well._D No error._E

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28. The homeless, shabby^A dressed man shuffled along^B with his frowzy^C dog, both of them looking hungry and dispirited^D. No error^E.
29. Sasha and Suzie, the fourth-graders who^A love to work with^B clay, dream of becoming a famous sculptor^C one day and having their work displayed at the Museum of Art, which^D they recently visited on a school field trip. No error^E.

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) Many parents cringe whenever Disney or other filmmakers release a new child-oriented movie.
- 2) Some even get queasy about certain children's TV programs. 3) These parents have some very real issues with the commercialism that is spawned by some of the movies and TV characters. 4) It isn't that they necessarily object to their children watching "The Barney TV Show," or "Sesame Street," or taking them to see the movie *The Lion King* or *Shrek*.
- 5) What becomes problematic, however, is the masses of consumer goods their kids are bombarded with.
- 6) Every one of these TV programs and movies is accompanied by a retinue of costly accessories.
- 7) Children who are such victims of the media blitz are overwhelmed by their supposed need for such items. 8) No child's toy box is complete without a stuffed Simba or the action figures from *Shrek* or *Star Wars*. 9) In addition, this commercialism finds its way into décor as well. 10) For instance, the toy department of any WalMart will display toys and action figures connected to the particular cult figure. 11) Every eight-year-old male needs Spiderman sheets and pajamas, and little girls are determined that Cinderella, Snow White or the Little Mermaid should decorate their lamps and bedspreads. 12) Finally, this same commercialization finds its way into children's clothing.
- 13) One look at the breakfast cereal aisle in the grocery store will attest to this. 14) A second grader's day just cannot begin without a bowl of toasted Shrek Flakes. 15) What in the world are Shrek Flakes? 16) This influence is not only found in breakfast cereals, but in juice boxes and several other foods as well; most of them, interestingly enough, are of the snack food variety. 17) Many of our fast food restaurants sponsor these screen characters as well. 18) Buy a kids meal and you are bound to be rewarded by some gimmick related to a recent children's movie or TV show. 19) What power these children's cult figures have in our nation. 20) Moreover, it is not just the parents who should be concerned. 21) All of us need to pay more attention. 22) Several significant historical dictators were very aware of how they could control a nation by controlling its children.

- 30.** Sentence 5 can BEST be written:
- A. as it is now.
 - B. Problems arise, however, with the masses of consumer goods their kids are bombarded with.
 - C. What they see as problematic, however, are the masses of consumer goods with which their children are bombarded.
 - D. What they see as a problem is the consumer goods which bombard their children.
 - E. Problems arise because of consumer goods amassing their bombarded children.
- 31.** In paragraph two, sentence 10 would be best placed:
- A. where it is now.
 - B. after the first sentence, sentence 6.
 - C. as the last sentence of the paragraph.
 - D. after sentence 11.
 - E. after sentence 7.
- 32.** The BEST final sentence to paragraph two is:
- A. No final sentence needed.
 - B. One must have Harry Potter glasses, or a Star Wars sweatshirt or even yellow rain boots that look like Big Bird.
 - C. Every child needs some clothes with a picture on them.
 - D. The commercialization is a very bad situation.
 - E. T-shirts, ball caps and sweatshirts with logos on them are very common with young children.
- 33.** The best opening sentence for the third paragraph is:
- A. Sentence 13 is acceptable.
 - B. Food is one other area where these movie and TV characters show up.
 - C. Food that our children eat are also affected by these cult characters.
 - D. Children's food preferences are also effected by the cult figures of TV and movies.
 - E. Most importantly, however, is how this cult blitz has affected even the food that children eat.
- 34.** A sentence needs to be added after sentence 16. Considering the concerned tone of this paragraph in particular, the best choice is:
- A. Not to add another sentence.
 - B. Who knows, this is probably just another media ploy.
 - C. It figures, children love snack foods.
 - D. This is not a healthy trend.
 - E. These market people really know how to sell their products.
- 35.** You've been instructed to combine sentences 20 and 21. You decide the best way is:
- A. Parents are concerned so we should be concerned also.
 - B. Moreover, just because parents are concerned, not everyone needs to pay attention.
 - C. Moreover, it is not just the parents who should be concerned; all of us need to pay more attention.
 - D. Moreover, all of us needs to pay attention, not just the concerned parents.
 - E. In addition to parental concern, we need to be concerned also.

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. She arranged the eyeglass frames on the counter, the salesclerk proceeded to explain the differences in styles and durability of each frame.
 - A. She arranged the eyeglass frames
 - B. The eyeglass frames, which were arranged by her
 - C. The eyeglass frames were first arranged by her
 - D. After arranging the eyeglass frames
 - E. She, after arranging the eyeglass frames,
2. Minnesota is famous for its beautiful lakes and its natural wilderness, while Iowa is known for rolling fields and prolific farmland.
 - A. Iowa is known for rolling fields and prolific farmland.
 - B. Iowa is known for its rolling fields and prolific farmland.
 - C. rolling fields and prolific farmland make Iowa famous.
 - D. Iowa's rolling fields and prolific farmland make it well-known.
 - E. Iowa is known for rolling fields and farmland that is prolific.
3. The movie was memorable not for being entertaining but because it was thought-provoking.
 - A. because it was thought-provoking.
 - B. because it was one that made you think.
 - C. because it was one that provoked thinking.
 - D. for being thought-provoking.
 - E. for being one that make you provoke your thinking.
4. The jewelry markets in Florence, Italy are filled with mosaics, which are the choicest mosaics in the world.
 - A. which are the choicest mosaics in the world.
 - B. that are the choicest mosaics in the world.
 - C. that represent the choicest mosaics in the world.
 - D. witch are the choicest mosaics in the world.
 - E. which the world looks to for the choicest mosaics.
5. The human skin is layered as fine as baklava: it upholsters the bone and muscle underneath; perforating with the most marvelous of openings, and it protects all the rest of us, keeping us together.
 - A. perforating with the most marvelous of openings,
 - B. the most marvelous perforated of openings,
 - C. perforated marvelously with openings,
 - D. marvelously perforated with openings,
 - E. it is perforated with the most marvelous of openings,

6. Few people realize that it was late in the nineteenth century before childbirth came under the protection of the medical world, and doctors took on the delivery room.
- A. doctors took on the delivery room.
 - B. doctors took over the delivery world.
 - C. the delivery room was took over by doctors.
 - D. the delivery room was taken on by doctors.
 - E. the doctors on the delivery room took over.
7. Bone is the keepsake of the earth, all that remains of a man when the rest has long since melted and seeped and crumbles away.
- A. melted and seeped and crumbles away.
 - B. Melting and seeping and crumbling away.
 - C. Melted and seeping and crumbed away.
 - D. Melting and seeped by crumbling away.
 - E. Melted and seeped and crumbled away.
8. Not only do some people object to teaching fairy tales to children because of their make-believe nature, it's because some involve the use of magic.
- A. it's because some involve the use of magic.
 - B. they also involve the use of magic.
 - C. but because they also involve the use of magic.
 - D. the use of magic is also present.
 - E. but because magic is used.
9. The magic, that is often present in fairy tales, can give children a false sense of reality.
- A. The magic, that is often present in fairy tales,
 - B. The magic like that present in fairy tales
 - C. The magic which is often present in fairy tales
 - D. The magic that is often present in fairly tales
 - E. The magic which is often present in fairy tales,
10. Children's television shows, despite their repetitive songs and jingles, teach important social issues, help children with their early education, and stress the importance of fair play and loving one another.
- A. teach important social issues, help children with their early education, and stress the importance of fair play and loving one another.
 - B. teaches important social issues, helps children with their early education, and stresses the importance of fair play and loving one another.
 - C. teach important social issues, early lessons, fair play and loving one another.
 - D. teach important social issues helping children with their early education and stressing the importance of fair play and loving one another.
 - E. teach important social issues and early education by stressing the importance of fair play and loving one another.

11. Bones can be grafted from one place to another to span the gap between two unhealed fragments or fusing an unstable joint.
- A. or fusing an unstable joint.
 - B. or unstable joints can be fused
 - C. or for the fusing of unstable joints
 - D. or to fuse joints that are unstable.
 - E. or to fuse an unstable joint.
12. The Stan Kubrick movie, *A Clockwork Orange*, based on a disturbing novel by Anthony Burgess, still raises controversy and objections because of the horrible images of sex and violence, nevertheless, these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about parenting, the government and the true meaning of freedom.
- A. nevertheless, these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about
 - B. nevertheless; these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about
 - C. however, these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about
 - D. but these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about
 - E. therefore, these critics fail to see that this is a dark satire about
13. After entering into a friendly contest between her husband and another friend, Mary Shelley began writing her immortal classic, *Frankenstein*.
- A. After entering into a friendly contest between her husband and another friend,
 - B. Upon entering into a friendly contest among herself her husband and another friend,
 - C. After entering into a friendly contest with her husband and another friend,
 - D. A contest between her and her husband and another friend being established,
 - E. Once she entered into a friendly contest among her husband and another friend,
14. Director Steven Spielberg has commented that when he looks up to the heavens and realizes there are galaxies millions of light-years away, its natural for him to wonder if there is life out there.
- A. its natural for him to wonder if there is life out there.
 - B. he naturally wonders about life for him out there.
 - C. it's a natural wonder that life might be out there for him.
 - D. it's natural for him to wonder if there is life out there.
 - E. he wonders about natural life out there, if it exists.