

Section 2: Writing and Language Test

QUESTION 1

Choice A is the best answer. The conjunction “and” appropriately separates the last two nouns in the series, “radio” and “other media.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because “and with,” “and also,” and “and competing with” disrupt the parallel structure of the series of three nouns (“television,” “radio,” “[other] media”) introduced by “competing with.”

QUESTION 2

Choice D is the best answer. The topic of the passage is the creation of *The Cat in the Hat* as a means of getting children more interested in learning to read. Hersey’s suggestion that one way of making children’s books more interesting was to use “drawings like those of the wonderfully imaginative geniuses among children’s illustrators” best supports the topic of the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t support the topic of the passage. A sense of wholeness and accomplishment, the value of failure, and a difference between journalism and fiction don’t support the idea of making children’s literature more interesting.

QUESTION 3

Choice A is the best answer. The comma after “Spaulding” is paired correctly with the comma after “Mifflin” to set off grammatically nonessential information.

Choice B is incorrect because a comma is needed after “Spaulding” to set off the nonessential phrase that ends with “Mifflin.” Choice C is incorrect because placing a comma after “Spaulding” and after “director” wrongly indicates that “the director” could be deleted without changing the meaning of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a dash can’t be paired with a comma to set off grammatically nonessential information.

QUESTION 4

Choice A is the best answer. This choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion because it’s concise and correctly indicates that Spaulding saw a need for appealing books for beginning readers at the same time that he thought he knew who should write one.

Choice B is incorrect because “namely” indicates that a more specific restatement of an earlier point or an example will follow. In this case, what follows the idea that Spaulding saw a need for appealing books is his thought about who should write one. Choice C is incorrect because the repetition of Spaulding’s name is unnecessary.

Choice D is incorrect because the adverb “meanwhile” is redundant; the conjunction “and” is sufficient to indicate that Spaulding had two thoughts simultaneously.

QUESTION 5

Choice D is the best answer. This choice, which indicates that Geisel published nine children’s books and received three nominations for the prestigious Caldecott Medal, supports the information that follows in the sentence about Geisel being an experienced writer and illustrator.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect. Geisel’s long relationship with Spaulding, Geisel’s reputation for perfectionism and for setting high standards, and his interest in politics don’t support the idea that Geisel was an experienced writer and illustrator.

QUESTION 6

Choice A is the best answer; “however” correctly indicates that even though Geisel was an experienced writer and illustrator, the new project presented him with an obstacle.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none of these transitional words or phrases shows the true relationship between the challenging nature of the new project and Geisel’s experience. “For example,” “furthermore,” and “at any rate” indicate that what follows is an instance of, additional to, or unrelated to what was stated in the previous sentence.

QUESTION 7

Choice C is the best answer. The introductory phrase “on the verge of giving up” doesn’t have its own subject. Instead, the subject appears at the beginning of the sentence’s main clause and makes clear what is being described in the introductory phrase. “Geisel” is the logical subject of the sentence because he can be described as being “on the verge of giving up.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because “Geisel’s story,” “an image,” and “the story” can’t be described as being “on the verge of giving up.”

QUESTION 8

Choice D is the best answer. This choice concisely indicates that it took Geisel nine months to complete *The Cat in the Hat*.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they’re repetitive. “Duration” and “long” (choice A), “thirty-six weeks” (choice B), and “length” (choice C) unnecessarily repeat the idea that nine months had passed.

QUESTION 9

Choice D is the best answer. The underlined portion should be deleted because it isn't necessary. Since "were entertained" appears earlier in the sentence, the past participle "captivated" is sufficient without the repetition of "were."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because "is captivated," "was captivated," and "has been captivated" are singular verbs that don't agree in number with the plural subject "children."

QUESTION 10

Choice C is the best answer. The comma after "followed" is used correctly to separate the dependent phrase "in the years that followed" from the independent clause that begins with "many."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because a period, a semicolon, or a dash can't be used in this way to separate an introductory dependent phrase from an independent clause.

QUESTION 11

Choice C is the best answer. This choice indicates that *The Cat in the Hat's* success is attributable to its enduring ability to delight children and engage them in learning how to read. This idea restates the main themes of the passage, which are the need to make books appealing to beginning readers and the importance of engaging those readers through interesting plots and illustrations.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect. The idea that the best proof of *The Cat in the Hat's* success is its limited vocabulary and appealing word choices, its impressive worldwide sales, or its important role in the history of twentieth-century illustration doesn't restate the main themes of the passage.

QUESTION 12

Choice D is the best answer. The gerund "picking up" is parallel in structure to the other gerunds in the sentence, "helping" and "working."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don't maintain parallelism in the sentence. "When they pick up litter," "to pick up litter," and "litter collection" don't contain gerunds.

QUESTION 13

Choice A is the best answer. The transitional phrase "by its very definition" points to the criticism in the previous paragraph that when volunteering is compulsory, it's no longer volunteerism.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the reference to general work, students, or communities in need doesn't highlight the criticism of compulsory volunteering mentioned in the previous paragraph.

QUESTION 14

Choice D is the best answer. The plural noun "officials" correctly refers to the people who require students to give up time for nonprofit activities. Additionally, the plural possessive noun "students'" indicates that the choice to give up personal time is supposed to belong to multiple students.

Choice A is incorrect because "officials'" is a plural possessive noun, but nothing belongs to the officials in this sentence. Choice B is incorrect because "students" is a plural noun, but the plural possessive noun "students'" is needed to indicate that the choice is supposed to belong to students. Choice C is incorrect because "student's" is a singular possessive noun, but the plural possessive noun "students'" is needed to show that the choice is supposed to belong to multiple students.

QUESTION 15

Choice C is the best answer. This choice is clear and concise and doesn't repeat the idea of proponents that begins the sentence.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they're repetitive. Since proponents are people who support a cause, describing proponents of compulsory volunteering as being in favor of it, advocating it, or being advocates creates redundancy.

QUESTION 16

Choice B is the best answer. This choice, a closer connection with their community, is a benefit of volunteering and provides a supporting example that is most similar to the other examples of benefits offered in the sentence: increased self-esteem and better relationship-building skills.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don't provide supporting examples that are similar to the examples in the sentence. Increasingly busy schedules, less time spent engaging in social activities, and little increase in academic achievement aren't benefits of volunteering.

QUESTION 17

Choice B is the best answer. The infinitive "[to] affect" parallels the earlier infinitive "[to] volunteer" ("are more likely to volunteer," "[are more likely to] affect"). Moreover, "affect," meaning "to influence," is used correctly to indicate that students who do community service positively influence society.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the verb “effect” generally means “to bring about” and the noun “effect” means “result,” neither of which makes sense in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the singular verb “affects” doesn’t work here, where the infinitive “affect” is required.

QUESTION 18

Choice A is the best answer; “mandatory” is the most precise word to use when describing the volunteering that students are required to do.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the meanings of these words don’t fit the context of the sentence. “Coercive” and “forcible” suggest that threats or force are used to make someone do something. “Imperative” suggests that something is very important or necessary. None of these words is appropriate to use when describing the volunteering that students are required to do.

QUESTION 19

Choice D is the best answer. The semicolon is used correctly to separate the independent clause that begins with “she” from the independent clause that begins with “they.” In addition, this choice contains no unnecessary punctuation.

Choice A is incorrect because a comma can’t be used by itself to join two independent clauses. Choice B is incorrect because it’s unnecessary to place a comma between the adverb “then” and the verb “did,” which the adverb describes. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed to separate the subject “they” from the adverb “then.”

QUESTION 20

Choice B is the best answer because “than did students who were” results in a logical comparison between two types of students: those who were required to volunteer (“they then did”) and those who weren’t (“than did those”).

Choices A and C are incorrect because each illogically compares “hours” to students (“they”). Choice D is incorrect because it results in a nonstandard expression; “less” is already comparative, meaning that “compared with” isn’t appropriate.

QUESTION 21

Choice C is the best answer. The idea that schools should focus on offering arrangements that make volunteering an easy and attractive choice most effectively sets up the point made in the next sentence: more students willingly volunteer when schools tell them about volunteering opportunities and connect them with organizations.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don't effectively set up the point made in the next sentence. The ideas that schools have to recognize that not all students are equally well suited to the same activities, should allow students to spend their time participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities, and are advised to recognize the limits of their ability to influence their students don't set up the point that students willingly volunteer when schools connect them to volunteer opportunities and organizations.

QUESTION 22

Choice B is the best answer. This choice provides a conclusion that states the main claim of the passage: schools that don't make volunteering compulsory will produce more engaged, enthusiastic volunteers than will schools that require volunteer work.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect. The idea that schools should find volunteers for organizations in the United States, that psychological and economic studies have revolutionized understandings of volunteerism, or that students should choose charitable work that suits their interests and values doesn't state the passage's main claim that schools that don't require volunteering produce more engaged, enthusiastic volunteers.

QUESTION 23

Choice C is the best answer. The present perfect tense verb "have believed" correctly indicates that scientists in the past believed that the corpus callosum enables complex tasks and that scientists continue to hold this belief in the present.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don't describe a belief that originated in the past and continues in the present. The present progressive tense verb "are believing," the future progressive tense verb "will be believing," and the simple present tense verb "believe" aren't appropriate to use in a case that requires a present perfect tense verb.

QUESTION 24

Choice A is the best answer. This choice concisely defines handedness without unnecessarily repeating the ideas of preference or consistency.

Choices B and C are incorrect because "favor the use of" and "could be chosen," respectively, repeat the idea of "prefer," which appears earlier in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because "on a regular basis" is synonymous with "consistently," which also appears earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 25

Choice A is the best answer. No punctuation is necessary between the noun “trait” and the preposition “other than.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because neither a comma, a semicolon, nor a colon is necessary to separate the noun “trait” from the phrase that follows.

QUESTION 26

Choice B is the best answer. The phrase “correlates with” is idiomatic when indicating that two things are directly related to each other. In the passage, handedness in marsupials is believed to be related to the trait of bipedalism in those mammals.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because “links as,” “correlates from,” and “links on” aren’t idiomatic when indicating that two things are directly related to each other.

QUESTION 27

Choice D is the best answer. According to the graph, positive mean handedness index scores indicated a left-forelimb preference and negative scores indicated a right-forelimb preference.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t accurately reflect the information in the graph.

QUESTION 28

Choice B is the best answer. The comma after “kangaroo” and before the conjunction “and” is used correctly to separate the last two items, “red kangaroo” and “brush-tailed bettong,” in the list of bipedal marsupials.

Choice A is incorrect because the comma needs to be placed immediately before the conjunction “and,” not after it. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon isn’t used to separate individual items in a simple list. Choice D is incorrect because a dash isn’t used to separate items in a list, and the comma after “and” is unnecessary.

QUESTION 29

Choice C is the best answer. According to the graph, the four bipedal marsupials had positive mean handedness index values between 0.4 and 0.6, which revealed their preference for using their left forelimbs.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don’t accurately reflect the data in the graph. The four bipedal marsupials didn’t have positive mean handedness index values less than 0.2 or greater than 0.6, and they didn’t have mean handedness index values of 0.

QUESTION 30

Choice C is the best answer. The transitional phrase “in contrast to” provides the best transition from the previous paragraph, which illustrates bipedal marsupials’ forelimb preference, to this paragraph, which discusses how quadrupedal marsupials differ from their bipedal counterparts by not showing a strong forelimb preference.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don’t provide a transition from the previous paragraph. The introductory phrases “having four feet,” “like most other mammals,” and “while using their forelimbs for eating” don’t establish a connection between the discussion of bipedal marsupials’ forelimb preference in the previous paragraph and quadrupedal marsupials’ forelimb preference in this paragraph.

QUESTION 31

Choice B is the best answer. A main claim of the passage is that scientists now believe there’s a correlation between bipedalism and handedness in marsupials. Choice B, by mentioning that bipedal marsupials in the study demonstrated handedness, references this main claim.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t present a main claim of the passage. The passage isn’t about how kangaroos still don’t exhibit handedness to the extent that humans do, the many things scientists don’t understand about the marsupial brain, or additional studies on the phenomenon of handedness that will need to be performed with other mammals.

QUESTION 32

Choice B is the best answer. “Which” is a standard relative pronoun in reference to a concept such as a task.

Choice A is incorrect because “whom” is used to refer to people, not concepts. Choice C is incorrect because “what” isn’t a typical relative pronoun and isn’t idiomatic in context (“tasks in what handedness may confer an evolutionary advantage”). Choice D is incorrect because “whose” nonsensically suggests that tasks have handedness.

QUESTION 33

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because this choice concludes the passage by recalling a topic from the first paragraph that requires additional research: scientists’ enduring question about how the left and right hemispheres of marsupials’ brains communicate since these mammals lack a corpus callosum.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none of these choices concludes the passage by recalling a topic from the first paragraph that requires additional research. The first paragraph doesn't refer to the minority of humans who are left handed, the fact that studies like this one may someday yield insights into the causes of neurological disorders, or an additional study to examine handedness in other animals that sometimes stand upright.

QUESTION 34

Choice C is the best answer. “Although these levels are impressive” provides the most effective transition from the previous sentence, which indicates the percent of surveyed companies that provide employees with tuition assistance, to the information that follows in this sentence, that even more companies should consider providing such assistance.

Choice A is incorrect because “despite these findings” suggests that regardless of the percentages, more companies should consider providing tuition assistance, which is illogical. Choice B is incorrect because the information that follows in the sentence isn't additional to the 2014 study. Choice D is incorrect because the issue of whether companies want or don't want to provide tuition assistance isn't mentioned in the previous sentence.

QUESTION 35

Choice D is the best answer. This choice most effectively establishes the main idea of the passage, which is that companies should offer tuition assistance because doing so helps attract and retain employees. This main idea is supported in the second paragraph, which argues that tuition assistance appeals to highly motivated and disciplined individuals, and in the third paragraph, which claims that employees receiving tuition assistance often stay with their employers even after they complete their degrees.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don't establish the passage's main idea. The passage isn't about increasing customer satisfaction, solving the problem of rising tuition costs, or strengthening the US economy.

QUESTION 36

Choice C is the best answer. The plural noun “workers” correctly indicates that companies have more than one worker. The plural noun “opportunities” indicates that employers offer workers multiple chances for personal and professional development.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the plural possessive nouns “workers'” and “opportunities'” should be the plural nouns “workers” and “opportunities,” since nothing belongs to the workers

or opportunities in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the singular nouns “worker” and “opportunity” should be plural, and the apostrophes indicating possession aren’t needed.

QUESTION 37

Choice B is the best answer. The main verb “stressed” provides a simple predicate for the subject “John Fox” to create a grammatically complete sentence.

Choices A and C are incorrect because “who stressed” and “stressing” leave the sentence without an independent clause. Choice D is incorrect because although “he stressed” gives the sentence an independent clause, that clause is improperly joined by “and” to the phrases “John Fox” and “the director of dealer training at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in the United States.”

QUESTION 38

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion because the pronoun “which” creates a relative clause (“which . . . workers”) that clearly and concisely describes “retain.”

Choice A is incorrect because “retention” repeats the idea of “retain,” which is already mentioned in the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “retaining” repeats the idea of “retain,” and the pronoun “whom” repeats the idea of “employees.” Choice D is incorrect because the pronoun “that” doesn’t have a clear antecedent and therefore creates a vague sentence.

QUESTION 39

Choice C is the best answer. The subordinate conjunction “because” begins the dependent clause “because their new qualifications give them opportunities for advancement within the company.” No punctuation is needed to separate this dependent clause from the independent clause that directly precedes it.

Choices A and D are incorrect because placing a period or a semicolon after “degrees” results in a rhetorically ineffective sentence fragment. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed between the noun and subordinate conjunction. (Although colons can be used to introduce additional explanatory information in a sentence, they’re not typically used between a main clause and a dependent clause beginning with a subordinate conjunction such as “because.”)

QUESTION 40

Choice D is the best answer. The comma after “(UTC)” is paired correctly with the comma after “Lincoln” to set off grammatically nonessential information. The information between the commas, which describes who Valerie Lincoln is, could be removed and the sentence would still make sense.

Choice A is incorrect because a comma is needed after “(UTC)” to set off the grammatically nonessential phrase. Choices B and C are incorrect because neither a dash nor a colon can be paired with a comma to set off grammatically nonessential information.

QUESTION 41

Choice A is the best answer. The adjective “deep” is used idiomatically with “knowledge” to indicate that Lincoln possessed extensive, in-depth information about her industry.

Choice B is incorrect because “hidden” doesn’t make sense within the context of the sentence. A person whose knowledge is hidden wouldn’t be an asset to a company. Choices C and D are incorrect because “large” and “spacious” aren’t idiomatic when describing the extent of a person’s knowledge.

QUESTION 42

Choice D is the best answer. “Keeping down costs” clearly and concisely identifies what businesses have succeeded in doing.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they’re redundant. In choice A, the verbs “minimizing” and “keeping down” are synonyms, so only one is needed in the sentence. In choice B, “employees’ coursework” isn’t needed because this phrase already appears in the sentence. In choice C, “being effective” repeats the idea of “succeeded,” which appears earlier in the sentence.

QUESTION 43

Choice A is the best answer. The infinitive “[to] divert” is grammatically correct when preceded by “are likely,” indicating that classes can redirect employees’ time and energy away from their jobs.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because “diverted,” “in diverting,” and “diversions for” create ungrammatical sentences.

QUESTION 44

Choice D is the best answer. To make the passage most logical, the sentence should be placed after the last sentence of paragraph 4. The use of “still” in the inserted sentence indicates that a contrast to what was stated previously will follow. Paragraph 4 ends by stating that tuition reimbursement may not be appropriate in all cases, and the inserted sentence indicates that despite this fact, employers should give serious thought to investing in reimbursement programs. Moreover, the inserted sentence restates the passage’s main claim and, therefore, effectively concludes the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because placing the sentence at the end of paragraph 1, 2, or 3 would result in an illogical passage.