

## Section 2: Writing and Language Test

### QUESTION 1

**Choice B is the best answer.** The verb “watch” clearly and concisely indicates that scientists can view underwater volcanic eruptions “via remotely operated vehicles.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they’re repetitive. “Observe,” “see,” and “visually” unnecessarily reiterate the idea that scientists can view underwater volcanic eruptions.

### QUESTION 2

**Choice B is the best answer.** Sentence 5 should be placed after sentence 1. The phrase “at that depth” at the beginning of sentence 5 refers to the statement in sentence 1 that NW Rota-1’s summit is located “more than 1,700 feet under the ocean’s surface.” Furthermore, sentence 5 leads into sentence 2, which explains what scientists were able to determine about the volcano’s growth from remotely operated vehicles.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because placing sentence 5 anywhere in the paragraph other than after sentence 1 would create an illogical, confusing paragraph.

### QUESTION 3

**Choice A is the best answer.** The adverb “nevertheless” correctly indicates that despite the fact that sunlight doesn’t reach NW Rota-1, the bacteria there have adapted to the “perpetually dark environment” and “use hydrogen sulfide instead of sunlight” for energy.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t indicate the true relationship between the two independent clauses. “Afterward” indicates that one event happens after another. “Furthermore” suggests that additional information about what has been said earlier in the sentence will follow. “Similarly” indicates that a comparison is being made.

### QUESTION 4

**Choice C is the best answer.** The plural pronoun “them” agrees in number with the plural antecedent “bacteria.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they’re singular pronouns that don’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “bacteria.”

### QUESTION 5

**Choice D is the best answer.** The conjunction “and” followed by “other chemicals” results in a sentence with a parallel series of nouns.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t maintain the sentence’s parallel structure, and they unnecessarily repeat a form of the verb “remove.”

## QUESTION 6

**Choice C is the best answer.** The dashes after “shrimp” and “Hawaii” are used correctly to set off the nonessential information between them.

Choices A and B are incorrect because neither a comma nor a semicolon can be used with a dash to set off nonessential information. Choice D is incorrect because punctuation, in this case a dash, is needed after “Hawaii” to finish setting off the nonessential information.

## QUESTION 7

**Choice D is the best answer.** This choice’s reference to “predators” most effectively sets up the sentence that follows, which explains that, as adults, the previously unknown species of shrimp feeds on the Loihi shrimp.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t effectively set up the information in the sentence that follows. The following sentence doesn’t discuss the idea that the other species of shrimp is able to adapt to its noxious environment. Additionally, it doesn’t address the idea that scientists don’t yet understand the adaptations of the shrimp or that their unusual ecosystem also includes crabs, limpets, and barnacles.

## QUESTION 8

**Choice A is the best answer.** This choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion by creating a compound predicate using two parallel, singular, present tense verbs (“condenses” and “leaves”) to show that as the steam condenses only “carbon dioxide bubbles and droplets of molten sulfur” are left.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t effectively combine the sentences. The resulting sentences aren’t concise, and the verbs aren’t parallel.

## QUESTION 9

**Choice D is the best answer.** This choice results in a logical comparison between the water near NW Rota-1 and stomach acid.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the demonstrative pronouns “that” and “those” don’t have clear antecedents, leaving unclear what the water near NW Rota-1 is being compared to. Choice C is incorrect because it unnecessarily repeats the word “acid,” resulting in a nonsensical expression (“the acid from stomach acid”).

## QUESTION 10

**Choice C is the best answer.** The singular possessive noun “world’s” is used correctly to indicate that the plural noun “oceans” belongs to one world.

Choice A is incorrect because “worlds” is a plural possessive noun, and there is only one world being referred to. Furthermore, the possessive noun “ocean’s” is incorrect because nothing belongs to the ocean in this sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “oceans” is a possessive noun, and nothing belongs to “oceans” in this sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “worlds” is a plural noun, and this noun needs to be the singular possessive noun “world’s” to show that the oceans belong to one world.

### QUESTION 11

**Choice A is the best answer.** The writer should make the revision because it shows the relevance of the sentence about rising carbon dioxide levels in Earth’s atmosphere to the paragraph’s point about the increasing acidity of the world’s oceans.

Choice B is incorrect because the revision doesn’t help readers to understand why organisms near NW Rota-1 evolved the way they did. Choices C and D are incorrect because the revision should be made. The revision doesn’t repeat information, and it does contribute to the paragraph’s main idea. Furthermore, it doesn’t add an irrelevant detail that interrupts the discussion of oceanic life-forms.

### QUESTION 12

**Choice C is the best answer.** The comma after “ridership” is used correctly to separate the dependent clause that begins with the word “while” from the independent clause that follows “ridership.”

Choice A is incorrect because the conjunction “but” can’t join a dependent clause to an independent clause. Choice B is incorrect because the conjunctions “and while” create a second dependent clause, but an independent clause is needed to make the sentence complete. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to separate an introductory dependent clause from an independent clause.

### QUESTION 13

**Choice B is the best answer.** This choice is the most effective because it doesn’t repeat the word “people.” Furthermore, this choice’s use of the active voice, which indicates that “more people” (the subject of the sentence) use public transportation, eliminates unnecessary wording.

Choices A and C are incorrect because they unnecessarily repeat the noun “people.” Choice D is incorrect because the use of the passive voice, which changes the subject of the sentence from “more people” to “using public transportation,” creates a wordy sentence.

## QUESTION 14

**Choice B is the best answer.** The colon correctly introduces information that illustrates what has come before it. The independent clause that follows the colon indicates that “car traffic in Tallinn was down less than 3 percent,” which supports the statement before the colon that “car use in Tallinn has only slightly declined.”

Choice A is incorrect because the semicolon awkwardly joins an independent clause with the dependent clause that follows. Choice C is incorrect because it creates a comma splice. Choice D is incorrect because it creates a sentence fragment after the period.

## QUESTION 15

**Choice D is the best answer.** “The policy” clearly indicates what was enacted. The passage indicates that “car traffic in Tallinn was down less than 3 percent” since the policy of fare-free rides was enacted.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the pronouns in these choices don’t have clear antecedents.

## QUESTION 16

**Choice A is the best answer.** This choice best introduces the paragraph; the phrase “devastating effect” sets up the paragraph’s discussion of how fare-free systems can negatively impact a city’s transportation budget.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t introduce the paragraph’s topic, which is the devastating effects of a fare-free system on a city’s budget. The paragraph doesn’t focus on changes in service, negative environmental impact, or increased crowding on public transportation.

## QUESTION 17

**Choice C is the best answer.** The comma after “savings” and the conjunction “but” are used correctly to connect the two independent clauses.

Choices A and B are incorrect because they each create a comma splice. Choice D is incorrect because the conjunction “and” signals additional information rather than the needed contrast.

## QUESTION 18

**Choice D is the best answer.** The expression “overly optimistic” is consistent with the formal tone of the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect. While “way too sunny,” “looking too much on the bright side,” and “pretty upbeat” all convey optimism, they’re colloquial expressions that don’t fit the formal tone of the passage.

### QUESTION 19

**Choice C is the best answer.** This choice provides an accurate interpretation because the chart indicates that the projected total additional operating costs for implementing a fare-free policy in San Francisco, CA, would be \$184 million per year.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don't accurately interpret the information provided in the chart for San Francisco, CA. The chart projects a cost of \$112 million in lost fares, not a deficit of \$72 million per year in lost fares (choice A) or a savings of \$112 million from lost fares (choice B). The chart projects a cost of \$72 million per year to add fare-free service, not a savings of \$72 million (choice D).

### QUESTION 20

**Choice C is the best answer.** The sentence shouldn't be added because the fact that Eugene, OR, "would lose only \$5 million" doesn't support the writer's argument that fare-free systems cause large financial losses to governments.

Choices A and B are incorrect. The sentence shouldn't be added because the fact that Eugene, OR, would lose only \$5 million in fares doesn't support the writer's argument against fare-free systems. Furthermore, it doesn't reinforce any claim made earlier in the paragraph by advocates of fare-free policies. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence doesn't contradict any point made earlier in the paragraph about fare collection.

### QUESTION 21

**Choice B is the best answer.** The present indicative verb "do [not] have" is consistent in tense and mood with the present indicative verb "can go" earlier in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "would [not] have had" is a perfect conditional verb. Choice C is incorrect because "did [not] have" is a past indicative verb. Choice D is incorrect because "will [not] have" is a future indicative verb.

### QUESTION 22

**Choice D is the best answer.** This choice provides the best conclusion to the passage, which argues that fare-free transportation policies "have not been found to be an effective way to address traffic problems" and "may result in serious budget shortfalls."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don't provide the best conclusion to the passage. Choice A is too narrowly focused, and choices B and C make claims that aren't supported by information in the passage.

## QUESTION 23

**Choice B is the best answer.** The singular third person pronoun “it” correctly refers to the singular antecedent “digital camera.”

Choice A is incorrect because the plural pronoun “they” doesn’t agree in number with the singular antecedent “digital camera.” (It wouldn’t make sense here to assume that “they” refers to “professional photographers,” as there’s no clear indication that the photographers referred to used the earliest digital cameras.) Choice C is incorrect because the indefinite pronoun “one” doesn’t refer to a specific noun. Choice D is incorrect because the personal pronouns “he or she” refer to people, not things.

## QUESTION 24

**Choice B is the best answer.** To make the paragraph most logical, the new sentence “Why wouldn’t they?” should be placed after sentence 2. The pronoun “they” in the new sentence refers to the “vast majority” of professional photographers mentioned in sentence 2. Furthermore, the two sentences that follow the new sentence answer the question of why photographers would trade film for digital cameras by stating that the latest digital cameras take pictures that are “crisp,” “bright,” and “sharp.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because placing the new sentence anywhere in the paragraph other than after sentence 2 would create an illogical and confusing paragraph.

## QUESTION 25

**Choice B is the best answer.** The new sentence should be added because its reference to “several intricate steps” sets up the process of wet plate photography discussed in the rest of the paragraph.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence should be added, but it doesn’t reiterate the previous paragraph’s main idea. Choices C and D are incorrect because the sentence should be added. The new sentence doesn’t blur the paragraph’s focus on the dangers of developing wet plate photographs. It also doesn’t offer an opinion: while “labor-intensive” can be interpreted as an opinion, the description of the steps is factual.

## QUESTION 26

**Choice D is the best answer.** The plural possessive pronoun “their” agrees in number with the plural antecedent “photographers” and correctly indicates that the subjects belong to the photographers.

Choice A is incorrect because “it’s” is a contraction for “it is” and doesn’t make sense in the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “its” is a singular possessive pronoun and doesn’t agree in number with the plural antecedent “photographers.” Choice C is incorrect because “there” isn’t a possessive pronoun.

## QUESTION 27

**Choice A is the best answer.** The coordinating conjunction “so” is used correctly to indicate that because dried collodion is unusable, a photographer has to work quickly to develop the film once the photo is taken.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t convey the intended cause-and-effect relationship between the two independent clauses. “But” (choice B) indicates that an exception or contrast to what was said previously will follow. “And” (choice C) suggests that the two clauses indicate separate ideas instead of a cause-and-effect relationship. “For” (choice D), used as a conjunction, means “because.” If used in this sentence, “for” would indicate that dried collodion is unusable because the photographer must quickly develop the photograph.

## QUESTION 28

**Choice D is the best answer.** The word “mere” most effectively suggests that the photographer has only a very brief time to develop wet plate photographs.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they don’t accomplish the writer’s goal of emphasizing how quickly wet plate photographers must work. “Nominal” isn’t idiomatic when referring to a short amount of time. “A few” and “a matter of” can be used to describe time, but neither choice emphasizes how quickly wet plate photographers have to work.

## QUESTION 29

**Choice B is the best answer.** The adverb “finally” correctly indicates that the last step in the process of wet plate photography is to coat the photo with a protective finish.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t indicate that the final step in a process will follow. “In conclusion” is used to introduce a summary of what has previously been said. “Thus” indicates that a result of what has been previously stated will follow. “Nevertheless” is used to introduce a contrast to what has been stated earlier.

## QUESTION 30

**Choice D is the best answer.** No punctuation is needed in the sentence except for a period.

Choice A is incorrect because the parentheses indicate that the information between them could be deleted without changing the meaning of the sentence. In this sentence, the information in the parentheses contains the direct object of the verb “give” and is essential. Choice B is incorrect because the dash wrongly indicates that the information following is being emphasized. Choice C is incorrect because the commas indicate that the information between them is nonessential and could be deleted.

### QUESTION 31

**Choice A is the best answer.** The present tense verb “swirl” is consistent with the other present tense verbs in the paragraph’s description of wet plate photographs.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the tenses of these choices are inconsistent with the present tense verbs in the paragraph’s description of wet plate photographs. “Will have swirled” (choice B) is a future perfect tense verb. “Have swirled” (choice C) is a present perfect tense verb. “Swirled” (choice D) is a simple past tense verb.

### QUESTION 32

**Choice D is the best answer.** This choice is clear and concise and doesn’t unnecessarily repeat the idea that long exposure time can cause parts of a subject to disappear in a photo.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they’re repetitive. The previous sentence already mentions the “long exposures,” and this noun phrase doesn’t need to be repeated.

### QUESTION 33

**Choice A is the best answer.** The reference to “nineteenth-century wave riders” accomplishes the writer’s goal of highlighting the contrast between present-day photographer Joni Sternbach’s nineteenth-century techniques and her contemporary subjects.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t highlight a contrast between Sternbach’s techniques and her subjects. The descriptions “ordinary people,” “surfers,” and people “from all walks of life” don’t clearly allude to the old style of her photographic techniques and, therefore, don’t offer a contrast to her subjects who wear “modern board shorts and bikinis.”

### QUESTION 34

**Choice A is the best answer.** The revision should be made because the passage is about how a team of urban archaeologists uncovered the history of New York City’s South Street Seaport, and this revision helps explain the job of urban archaeologists.

Choice B is incorrect because, although the revision should be made, it doesn’t identify the characteristics that make “cities worthy of archaeological study.” Choices C and D are incorrect because the revision should be made. Neither the kinds of artifacts that urban archaeologists find nor how excavation benefits historical study explains what urban archaeologists do.

### QUESTION 35

**Choice C is the best answer.** The singular verb “is required” agrees in number with the singular subject “project.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the plural verbs “are required,” “have been required,” and “were required” don’t agree in number with the singular subject “project.”

### QUESTION 36

**Choice D is the best answer.** This choice is clear and concise and doesn’t repeat the idea of “possibility” already mentioned in the sentence.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the words “possible” and “potentially” repeat the idea of “possibility” mentioned earlier in the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because “it is necessary that” repeats the idea mentioned later in the sentence that “an urban archaeologist must be consulted.”

### QUESTION 37

**Choice B is the best answer.** The adverb “though” correctly conveys a contrast between the facts that the work continued and the team faced obstacles.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t indicate the true relationship between the progression of the team’s work and the obstacles. “Therefore” suggests that because the work continued, the team faced obstacles. “Meanwhile” is redundant: the dependent clause “as the work continued” already implies that the work was happening when obstacles emerged. “Similarly” suggests that a comparison is being made.

### QUESTION 38

**Choice D is the best answer.** No punctuation is needed between the verb “halted” and the prepositional phrase “by stormy weather and the discovery of toxic materials underground” that follows it.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each introduces unnecessary punctuation between the verb and the prepositional phrase.

### QUESTION 39

**Choice C is the best answer.** The noun “pedestrians” is parallel in form to the nouns “vehicles” and “car horns.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the repetition of “noise” in choices A and B and the inclusion of the pronoun “that” (which stands in for “noise”) in choice D violate the parallel structure of the series of nouns (“construction vehicles,” “car horns,” “pedestrians”) serving as the objects of the preposition “of.”

### QUESTION 40

**Choice C is the best answer.** The comma is used correctly to separate the independent clause from the participial phrase that begins with “including.”

Choice A is incorrect because the period after “site” results in a rhetorically poor fragment. Choice B is incorrect because the comma after “site” creates a comma splice. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used in this way to connect an independent clause to a participial phrase.

### QUESTION 41

**Choice C is the best answer.** This idea of “public utility planning and infrastructure development” best sets up the example that follows about how colonial-era New Yorkers secured fresh drinking water.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don’t set up the discussion of colonial-era New Yorkers’ public utility planning and infrastructure development. The example that follows doesn’t deal with construction materials, hospitality rituals, or the financing of construction projects.

### QUESTION 42

**Choice A is the best answer.** The word “effort” is consistent with the formal style and tone of the passage.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t maintain the formal style and tone of the passage. Choices B and C are colloquial, and choices B and D are exaggerations that are inconsistent with the passage’s informative style.

### QUESTION 43

**Choice D is the best answer.** The subject of the sentence, “urban archaeologists,” clearly identifies who makes discoveries and tells the story of a city’s history.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the pronouns “they” and “we” don’t have clear antecedents. Choice C is incorrect because it isn’t true. “Colonial-era New Yorkers” don’t make the discoveries or tell the stories to which the sentence refers.

### QUESTION 44

**Choice C is the best answer.** This choice accomplishes the goal of identifying the broad impact of the urban archaeological team’s work by mentioning that excavation “makes New York City’s history real.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don’t illustrate the broad impact of the team’s work. Loorya’s references to one of her favorite things about her work (choice A), New York City construction (choice B), and the archaeological technique of monitoring (choice D) don’t provide an effective concluding statement about her team’s impact.