

CHAPTER 13

Sample Writing and Language Test Questions

This chapter presents two Writing and Language Test sample passages and associated test questions. Following each question is an explanation of the best answer and some comments about the incorrect answer choices.

These instructions will precede the SAT Writing and Language Test.



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Carefully read the test directions now so that you won't have to spend much time on them on test day.

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.

Sample 1:

Careers Passage with Informational Graphic

**REMEMBER**

Note how the words, phrases, and sentences tested on the Writing and Language Test are embedded within a fairly lengthy passage (400–450 words). This is because many of the questions require you to consider paragraph- or passage-level context when choosing your answer.

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Read the passage as a whole carefully, analyzing such features as the writer's purpose, the organization of the passage, and the writer's style and tone, much as you would on the Reading Test.

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

A Life in Traffic

A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. **1** To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated. When any one of these changes **2** occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

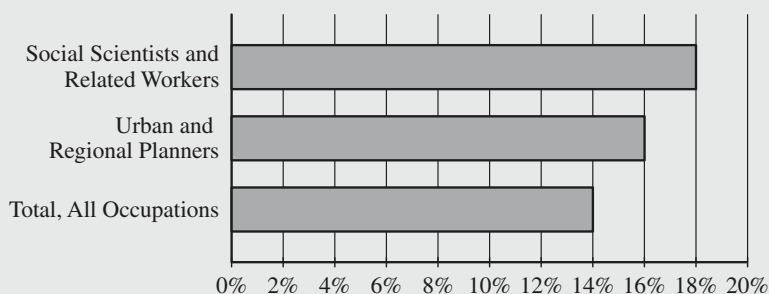
The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or **3** they design new ones. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, **4** but some are employed in rural areas. Say, for example, a large factory is built on the outskirts of a small town. Traffic to and from that location would increase at the beginning and end of work shifts. The transportation **5** planner's job, might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the **6** current road as it is designed at this time can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.

Transportation planners work closely with a number of community stakeholders, such as government officials and other interested organizations and individuals. **7** Next, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more. **8** According to the American Heart Association, walking provides numerous benefits related to health and well-being. Members of the Chamber of Commerce might share suggestions about designing transportation and parking facilities to support local businesses.

9 People who pursue careers in transportation planning have a wide variety of educational backgrounds. A two-year degree in transportation technology may be sufficient for some entry-level jobs in the field. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor's degree; majors of transportation planners are **10** varied, including fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics. For many positions in the field, a master's degree is required.

Transportation planners perform critical work within the broader field of urban and regional planning. As of 2010, there were approximately 40,300 urban and regional planners employed in the United States. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, **11** projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning. Population growth and concerns about environmental sustainability are expected to spur the need for transportation planning professionals.

Urban and Regional Planners
Percent Increase in Employment, Projected 2010–2020



Adapted from United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program.
"All occupations" includes all occupations in the United States economy.

1

Which choice best maintains the sentence pattern already established in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Coordinating stoplight timing can help alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
- C) Stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
- D) In a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams.



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To answer this question correctly, you'll want to read the two preceding sentences, determine the pattern that's been established, and choose the answer that's most consistent with that pattern.

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: C

Objective: You must ensure consistency of style within a series of sentences.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it most closely maintains the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences, which begin with noun and passive verb phrases (“A subway system is expanded,” “A bike-sharing program is adopted”).

Choice A is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with an infinitive phrase.

Choice B is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with a gerund phrase.

Choice D is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it places a prepositional phrase, “in a congested downtown area,” at the beginning of the sentence.



REMEMBER

When a question has no additional directions, such as Question 2, assume that you’re to choose the option that’s the most effective or correct.



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This question tests your understanding of both subject-verb agreement and pronoun-antecedent agreement. The key to this question is correctly identifying the subject of the sentence; is it “any one” or “changes”?

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) occur, they are
- C) occurs, they are
- D) occurs, it is

Content: Conventions of Usage

Key: D

Objective: You must maintain grammatical agreement between pronoun and antecedent and between subject and verb.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because it maintains agreement between the pronoun (“it”) and the antecedent (“any one”) and between the subject (“any one”) and the verb (“occurs”).

Choice A is not the best answer because the plural verb “occur” does not agree with the singular subject “any one.”

Choice B is not the best answer because the plural verb “occur” does not agree with the singular subject “any one” and because the plural pronoun “they” does not agree with the singular antecedent “any one.”

Choice C is not the best answer because the plural pronoun “they” does not agree with the singular antecedent “any one.”

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to design
- C) designing
- D) design

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: C

Objective: You must maintain parallel structure.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because “designing” maintains parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice A is not the best answer because “they design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice B is not the best answer because “to design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice D is not the best answer because “design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

4

Which choice results in the most effective transition to the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) where job opportunities are more plentiful.
- C) and the majority are employed by government agencies.
- D) DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

Content: Organization

Key: A

Objective: You must determine the most effective transition between ideas.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it effectively signals the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area and asked to consider the effects of a new factory built “on the outskirts of a small town.”

Choice B is not the best answer because noting that job opportunities are more plentiful in cities does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Choice C is not the best answer because noting that most transportation planners work for government agencies does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.



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Don't assume that the best answer will always involve a change to the text in the passage. Sometimes the passage text as originally presented is the best option, in which case you'll choose choice A, “NO CHANGE.”

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As on Question 2, this question tests two topics—here, possessive nouns and unnecessary punctuation. Be sure the answer you choose is the best option overall. Some answer choices may correct one problem but not the other or may correct one problem but introduce an alternate error.

**REMEMBER**

Economy of expression, or conveying meaning as concisely as possible, may be tested on some questions.

Choice D is not the best answer because the proposed deletion would create a jarring shift from the statement “Most transportation planners work in or near cities” to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) planner’s job
- C) planners job,
- D) planners job

Content: Conventions of Punctuation**Key:** B

Objective: You must differentiate between possessive and plural nouns. You must also recognize and eliminate unnecessary punctuation.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because it correctly uses an apostrophe to indicate possession and does not introduce any unnecessary punctuation.

Choice A is not the best answer because while it correctly indicates the possessive relationship between “transportation planner” and “job,” it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word “job.”

Choice C is not the best answer because it does not indicate the possessive relationship between “transportation planner” and “job,” and because it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word “job.”

Choice D is not the best answer because it does not indicate the possessive relationship between “transportation planner” and “job.”

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) current design of the road right now
- C) road as it is now currently designed
- D) current design of the road

Content: Effective Language Use**Key:** D

Objective: You must achieve economy of expression.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because it offers a clear and concise wording without redundancy or wordiness.

Choice A is not the best answer because “current” is redundant with “at this time” and because “as it is designed” is unnecessarily wordy.

Choice B is not the best answer because “current” is redundant with “right now.”

Choice C is not the best answer because “now” is redundant with “currently.”

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For instance,
- C) Furthermore,
- D) Similarly,

Content: Organization

Key: B

Objective: You must determine the most logical transitional word or phrase.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because the transitional phrase “For instance” logically indicates that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence. “Representatives from the local public health department” is an example of the kinds of people with whom transportation planners work.

Choice A is not the best answer because the transitional word “Next” indicates sequence, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because the transitional word “Furthermore” indicates addition, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because the transitional word “Similarly” indicates comparison or likeness, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

8

The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it provides supporting evidence about the benefits of walking.
- B) Kept, because it provides an additional example of a community stakeholder with whom transportation planners work.
- C) Deleted, because it blurs the paragraph’s focus on the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.
- D) Deleted, because it doesn’t provide specific examples of what the numerous benefits of walking are.



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If a question asks you to choose the most appropriate transitional word or phrase at the beginning of a sentence, carefully consider how that sentence relates to the previous sentence. Does it function as a contradiction, an example, a comparison?



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Information should be kept only if it's clearly relevant and effectively connected to the writer's purpose.

Content: Development

Key: C

Objective: You must delete information because it blurs the focus of the paragraph and weakens cohesion.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it identifies the best reason the underlined sentence should not be kept. At this point in the passage and paragraph, a general statement about the benefits of walking only serves to interrupt the discussion of the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice A is not the best answer because the underlined sentence should not be kept. Although the sentence theoretically provides supporting evidence about the benefits of walking, the passage has not made a claim that needs to be supported in this way, and including such a statement only serves to interrupt the discussion of the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice B is not the best answer because the underlined sentence should not be kept. Although the American Heart Association could theoretically be an example of “other interested organizations” with which transportation planners work, the sentence does not suggest that this is the case. Instead, the association is merely the source for the general statement about the benefits of walking, a statement that only serves to interrupt the discussion of the actual community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice D is not the best answer because although the underlined sentence should be deleted, it is not because the sentence lacks specific examples of the numerous benefits of walking. Adding such examples would only serve to blur the focus of the paragraph further with general factual information, as the paragraph's main purpose is to discuss the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) People, who pursue careers in transportation planning,
- C) People who pursue careers, in transportation planning,
- D) People who pursue careers in transportation planning,

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Key: A

Objective: You must distinguish between restrictive/essential and nonrestrictive/nonessential sentence elements and avoid inappropriate punctuation.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because “who pursue careers in transportation planning” is, in context, a restrictive clause that should not be set off with punctuation. “Who pursue careers in transportation planning” is essential information defining who the “people” are.

Choice B is not the best answer because it incorrectly sets off the restrictive clause “who pursue careers in transportation planning” with commas as though the clause were nonrestrictive or not essential to defining who the “people” are.

Choice C is not the best answer because it incorrectly sets off the essential sentence element “in transportation planning” with commas as though the phrase were not essential to the meaning of the sentence. “In transportation planning” is essential information defining what the “careers” are.

Choice D is not the best answer because it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word “planning,” incorrectly setting off the subject of the sentence (“people who pursue careers in transportation planning”) from the predicate (“have a wide variety of educational backgrounds”).

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) varied, and including
- C) varied and which include
- D) varied, which include

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: A

Objective: You must identify the proper connection between sentence elements.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it effectively uses a comma and “including” to set off the list of varied fields in which transportation planners major.

Choice B is not the best answer because “and including” results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because “and which include” results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because it is unclear from this construction to what exactly the relative pronoun “which” refers.

11

Which choice completes the sentence with accurate data based on the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) warning, however, that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.
- C) predicting that employment of urban and regional planners will increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- D) indicating that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.



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When examining the underlined portion of the passage being tested, it may be helpful to think about how (if at all) the underlined portion can be improved *before* you look at the answer choices. Doing so may help you more quickly and accurately choose your answer.



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In Question 11, you must integrate information from the text with data presented in the graph. Make sure that the data cited are both accurate and align with the content of the sentence.

Content: Development

Key: C

Objective: You must evaluate text based on data presented graphically.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it completes the sentence with an accurate interpretation of data in the graph. The graph displays projections of how much growth in employment there is expected to be between 2010 and 2020 for “social scientists and related workers,” for “urban and regional planners,” and in “all occupations” in the U.S. economy. According to the graph, the employment of urban and regional planners is expected to increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Choice A is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.

Choice B is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.

Choice D is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

Sample 2:

Humanities Passage

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Dong Kingman: Painter of Cities

A 1954 documentary about renowned watercolor painter Dong Kingman shows the artist sitting on a stool on Mott Street in New York City’s Chinatown. A crowd of admiring spectators **12** watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor **13** box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel. Each stroke of the brush and dab of the sponge transforms thinly sketched outlines into buildings, shop signs, and streetlamps. The street scene Kingman begins composing in this short film is very much in keeping with the urban landscapes for which he is best known.

[1] Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. [2] In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling,

teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” [3] His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. [4] The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. [5] The name Kingman was selected for its two **14** parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” [6] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to **15** paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. [7] Kingman, however, **16** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. **17**

18 His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire **19** hydrant, an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and **20** delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park. To art critics and fans alike, these city scenes represent the innovative spirit of twentieth-century urban Modernism.

During his career, Kingman exhibited his work **21** internationally. He garnered much acclaim. In 1936, a critic described one of Kingman’s solo exhibits as “twenty of the freshest, most satisfying watercolors that have been seen hereabouts in many a day.” **22**

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had watched
- C) would watch
- D) watches

Content: Sentence Structure**Key:** D**Objective:** You must recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and mood.

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When a question asks you to choose the tense and mood of a verb, look for consistency with the surrounding text to help determine your answer. Note that while no shift is warranted here, sometimes shifts are necessary.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because the simple present tense verb “watches” is consistent with the tense of the verbs in the rest of the sentence and paragraph.

Choice A is not the best answer because “watched” creates an inappropriate shift to the past tense.

Choice B is not the best answer because “had watched” creates an inappropriate shift to the past perfect tense.

Choice C is not the best answer because “would watch” creates an inappropriate shift that suggests a habitual or hypothetical aspect when other verbs in the sentence and paragraph indicate that a specific, actual instance is being narrated.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) box. From just a few primary colors,
- C) box from just a few primary colors,
- D) box, from just a few primary colors

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: B

Objective: You must create two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

Choice A is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase “from just a few primary colors” modifies.

Choice C is not the best answer because it results in a run-on sentence as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase “from just a few primary colors” modifies.

Choice D is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice.

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) parts: “king” and “man,”
- C) parts “king” and “man”;
- D) parts; “king” and “man”

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Key: B

Objective: You must both signal a strong within-sentence break and properly set off a nonessential sentence element.



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A colon is used to signal a break in a sentence; what follows the colon further defines the concept that precedes the colon. A semicolon can be used to connect two closely related independent clauses (as in the preceding sentence).

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because the colon after “parts” effectively signals that what follows in the sentence further defines what the “two parts” of Kingman’s name are and because the comma after “man” properly indicates that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice A is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase. Moreover, the comma after “parts” is arguably a weak form of punctuation to be signaling the strong break in the sentence indicated here.

Choice C is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase and because the absence of appropriate punctuation after “parts” fails to indicate that “two parts” and “‘king’ and ‘man’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice D is not the best answer because the semicolon after “parts” incorrectly joins an independent clause and two phrases and because the absence of appropriate punctuation after “man” fails to indicate that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Chinese landscape artists
- C) painters of Chinese landscapes
- D) artists

Content: Conventions of Usage

Key: A

Objective: You must ensure that like terms are being compared.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it creates a comparison between like terms: “works” by Kingman and “paintings by Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice B is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice C is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “painters of Chinese landscapes.”

Choice D is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “artists.”

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) evacuated
- C) departed
- D) retired



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Comparisons must be logical; that is, the items compared must be of a similar nature. What are Kingman’s “works” most logically compared to in sentence 6 of the paragraph?



REMEMBER

Question 16 is very similar to a Words in Context question from the SAT Reading Test. You’re asked to determine the most appropriate word given the context of the sentence.

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: C

Objective: You must determine the most contextually appropriate word.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because “departed” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways.

Choice A is not the best answer because while “vacated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was vacating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice B is not the best answer because while “evacuated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was evacuating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice D is not the best answer because while “retired” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was retiring from a tradition in a number of ways.



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Consider the overall meaning of the paragraph when deciding the most logical placement of sentence 3. Also, look for words or concepts found in sentence 3 in other sentences in the paragraph, as these may signal a continuation of ideas.

17

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

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

Content: Organization

Key: C

Objective: You must ensure the cohesion of a paragraph.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 1 makes the paragraph most cohesive. Sentence 3 refers to Kingman’s “interest” being “so keen,” a continuation of the idea in sentence 1, which says that “Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age.”

Choice A is not the best answer because leaving sentence 3 where it is now creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Keeping sentence 3 in its current location disrupts the link between sentence 2 (which describes the concept of “school names” in Hong Kong) and sentence 4 (which reveals that Dong Kingman was the school name of Dong Moy Shu).

Choice B is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 before sentence 1 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 at the beginning of the paragraph would offer a poor introduction to the paragraph, in large part because sentence 3 builds directly on a point made in sentence 1.

Choice D is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 4 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 after sentence 4 would disrupt the link between sentence 4 (which mentions that Dong Moy Shu was given the school name Dong Kingman) and sentence 5 (which explains what the two parts composing the name Kingman mean in Cantonese).

18

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A) Kingman is considered a pioneer of the California Style school of painting.
- B) Although cities were his main subject, Kingman did occasionally paint natural landscapes.
- C) In his urban landscapes, Kingman captures the vibrancy of crowded cities.
- D) In 1929 Kingman moved to Oakland, California, where he attended the Fox Art School.

Content: Development

Key: C

Objective: You must determine which sentence best signals the main topic of a paragraph.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it clearly establishes the main topic of the paragraph: Kingman’s urban landscapes.

Choice A is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman’s painting style and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

Choice B is not the best answer because it would suggest that the main topic of the paragraph is the natural landscapes Kingman occasionally painted, which is incorrect given the focus of the rest of the sentences in the paragraph.

Choice D is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman’s life and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hydrant—
- C) hydrant:
- D) hydrant

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Key: A

Objective: You must effectively separate items in a series.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because a comma after the word “hydrant” separates the phrase “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” from the phrase “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.” A comma is also consistent with the punctuation choice made to separate the first two phrases in the asyndetic series following the colon in the sentence.

Choice B is not the best answer because a dash is not a conventional choice for punctuating items in a series.

Choice C is not the best answer because although a colon can be used to introduce a series, it is not a conventional choice for separating items within a series.

Choice D is not the best answer because it fuses together two items in the series. Separating the phrases “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” and “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway” requires punctuation (and could also involve a coordinating conjunction).



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Consider which answer choice is most consistent with the theme of “majestic city skylines” established by the first two examples in the sentence.

20

The writer wants to complete the sentence with a third example of a detail Kingman uses to create his majestic city skylines. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs.
- C) other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes.
- D) enormous ships docking at busy urban ports.

Content: Development

Key: D

Objective: You must use the appropriate supporting information to accomplish a writing goal.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because the phrase “enormous ships docking at busy urban ports” effectively continues the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”) conveying the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman.

Choice A is not the best answer because the phrase “delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

Choice B is not the best answer because the phrase “exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

Choice C is not the best answer because the phrase “other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes” is too vague and general to constitute a third example that conveys a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

21

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

- A) internationally, and Kingman also garnered
- B) internationally; from exhibiting, he garnered
- C) internationally but garnered
- D) internationally, garnering

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: D

Objective: You must combine sentences effectively.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because it combines the sentences logically and efficiently, with the original second sentence becoming a participial phrase describing Kingman.

Choice A is not the best answer because it creates a wordy and awkward construction and because it fails to link the acclaim Kingman received with the exhibition of his work.

Choice B is not the best answer because it creates a repetitive and awkward construction.

Choice C is not the best answer because “but” suggests contrast or exception, neither of which makes sense in the context of the sentence.

22

The writer wants to conclude the passage with a sentence that emphasizes an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work. Which choice would best accomplish this goal?

- A) Although Kingman’s work might not be as famous as that of some other watercolor painters, such as Georgia O’Keeffe and Edward Hopper, it is well regarded by many people.
- B) Since Kingman’s death in 2000, museums across the United States and in China have continued to ensure that his now-iconic landscapes remain available for the public to enjoy.
- C) The urban landscapes depicted in Kingman’s body of work are a testament to aptness of the name chosen for Kingman when he was just a boy.
- D) Kingman’s work was but one example of a long-lasting tradition refreshed by an innovative artist with a new perspective.



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You’ll want to choose the answer that combines the sentences in the most efficient manner possible without altering the original meaning.



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Always read the question carefully, as it may contain keywords to help you in choosing your answer. The keywords in this question are “an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work.”

Content: Organization

Key: B

Objective: You must determine the most effective ending of a text given a particular writing goal.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that emphasizes the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work by indicating that museums continue to make Kingman’s iconic paintings accessible to the public.

Choice A is not the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that acknowledges that the works of other painters are more famous than Kingman’s (which downplays, rather than emphasizes, the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work) and offers only a general assertion that Kingman’s work is “well regarded by many people.”

Choice C is not the best answer because instead of referring to the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work, it concludes the passage with a sentence that recalls a detail the passage provides about Kingman’s early life.

Choice D is not the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that is too vague and general to emphasize effectively an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work. It is not clear what the idea of refreshing a long-lasting tradition is intended to mean or how (or even whether) this represents an enduring legacy. Moreover, referring to Kingman’s work as “but one example” downplays the significance of any potential legacy that might be suggested.