

Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Every passage comes with a set of questions. Some questions will ask you to consider how the writer might revise the passage to improve the expression of ideas. Other questions will ask you to consider correcting potential errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. There may be one or more graphics that you will need to consult as you revise and edit the passage.

Some questions will refer to a portion of the passage that has been underlined. Other questions will refer to a particular spot in a passage or ask that you consider the passage in full.

After you read the passage, select the answers to questions that most effectively improve the passage's writing quality or that adjust the passage to follow the conventions of standard written English. Many questions give you the option to select "NO CHANGE." Select that option in cases where you think the relevant part of the passage should remain as it currently is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

The (Appropriately Named) Supremes

In 1958, three junior high school girls from Detroit started **1** singing together and performing at sockhops and talent shows. Within ten years, Diana Ross, Florence Ballard, and Mary Wilson would become The Supremes. Producing more number one Billboard hits than any other vocal group to date, they were the most successful American vocal group of the twentieth century.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to sing together and were performing
- C) singing together and were performing
- D) to sing and performing

CONTINUE 

Originally **2** called themselves The Primettes, Ross, Ballard, and Wilson performed popular songs at small venues in the Detroit area throughout junior high and high school. They developed a local fan base and wanted to break into the recording **3** industry. Ross had been the neighbor of Smokey Robinson, the lead singer of The Miracles, when she was young. She asked him if he could try to get The Primettes an audition with Berry Gordy, the head executive at Motown Records. **4** Gordy attributes his success to the lessons he learned about the importance of grit and determination while training as a boxer in his youth. When the girls auditioned, Gordy gave them positive feedback but said that they should come back when they had finished high school. **5** Refusing, to back down. The Primettes went to his recording studio every day after school and convinced him to let them sing back up vocals and clap on other artists' tracks. Eventually, he signed them with the label, although under the condition that they change their group name. Thus, they became The Supremes.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) calling
- C) had called
- D) being called

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) industry. Ross
- C) industry ... Ross
- D) industry? Ross

4

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

- A) Kept, because it provides background information about Berry Gordy
- B) Kept, because it sheds light on qualities that can lead to success
- C) Deleted, because it does not provide enough details about Gordy's youth
- D) Deleted, because it does not relate to The Supremes

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Refusing to back, down,
- C) Refusing to back down,
- D) Refusing, to back, down,

After finding minimal success during their first two **6** years: The Supremes began to work with the songwriting team Holland-Dozier-Holland and Gordy decided that Ross would sing lead vocals for the group. **7** These changes had a major impact: in 1964, the group skyrocketed to the top of the Billboard charts with four consecutive number one hits. Touring domestically and around the world, Diana Ross and the Supremes were an international **8** impression by 1965. They sang on the soundtracks of movies and were frequently asked to endorse products—they even had a brand of bread named after **9** them. Can you believe it?

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) years,
- C) years:
- D) years

7

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

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Then it turned out that
- C) Despite their initial challenges,
- D) Thus,

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sensation
- C) experience
- D) feeling

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) them, for goodness' sake.
- C) their name!
- D) them.

The achievements of Ross, Ballard, and Wilson were **10** historically and socially significant. They were also musically significant. The Supremes were one of the first African-American female groups to gain widespread popularity with both African-American and white audiences. Their complete crossover success led the way for other groups like Martha Reeves and The Vandellas to achieve enormous mainstream popularity.

Eventually, Ross went on to have her own solo career, and there was some changeover between the other members of the group. In 1977, The Supremes formally disbanded after nearly twenty years of music-making. **11**

10

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

- A) significant historically, significant socially, and significant musically.
- B) historically and socially significant and significantly musical.
- C) historically and socially significant, and musically significant.
- D) historically, socially, and musically significant.

11

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

- A) Motown Records made major contributions to American music and is still operating today.
- B) Diana Ross's successful solo career solidified her reputation as a formidable performer in her own right.
- C) However, their songs remain widely played, and their influence on generations of musicians can still be heard today.
- D) When Holland-Dozier-Holland left Motown Records because of a financial dispute, The Supremes produced fewer high-ranking songs.

CONTINUE

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

In Defense of Termites

When many people think about termites, **12** you think about having to call the exterminator. It's true that termites cause serious structural damage to homes and crops—they cost the United States \$2 billion annually in **13** repairs. However, to say that termites are just pests that cause more harm than good would be entirely inaccurate. Out of the three thousand or so species of termites, only a few cause problems for people. The rest are crucial to the health of many ecosystems and are largely responsible for the successful growth of vegetation, upon which all animal life depends. Furthermore, they are capable of astonishing feats of construction and participate in sophisticated social structures.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they think
- C) we think
- D) one thinks

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) repairs? However,
- C) repairs, however
- D) repairs however



CONTINUE

14 From woodlands to a desert to rainforests, termites **15** augment entire ecosystems. As they dig through the dirt, they create holes called *macropores*, which allow rain to soak deeply into the ground instead of evaporating or running off. The **16** termite's excretions provide the soil with additional structural integrity, helping to prevent erosion. **17** Furthermore as termites dig, they mix organic matter like leaves, dead insects, and the remains of other organisms with inorganic clay and sand, helping the soil **18** preserve and retain its nutrients.

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) From woodlands to deserts to rainforests,
- C) From woodlands to a desert to a rainforest,
- D) From woodlands to deserts to a rainforest,

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) benefit
- C) promote
- D) bless

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) termites
- C) termite
- D) termites'

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Furthermore as termites dig
- C) Furthermore, as termites dig,
- D) Furthermore, as termites dig

18

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) in the preservation of its nutrients.
- C) in the retention of its nutrients.
- D) preserve its nutrients.


 CONTINUE

19 [1] Termite mounds can reach up to thirty feet high. [2] To provide some perspective: termites are a quarter of an inch long and build structures that are approximately 1,500 times their height. [3] The human-scale equivalent would be building a skyscraper over 8,000 feet tall, but the tallest skyscraper in the world is not even 3,000 feet tall. [4] The enormous mounds support local ecosystems, allowing water to penetrate deep into the ground and creating moist oases where plants can flourish in arid terrain. [5] Animals also benefit from the presence of the mounds. [6] Many animals, including lizards, aardvarks, and mongooses, burrow into these mounds and use them as homes. **20**

19

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

- A) Termites are able to survive in many different climates.
- B) Termites have engineered more complicated structures than those designed by humans.
- C) Some termites build immense mounds that are structural marvels and that benefit a multitude of other organisms.
- D) Tourists visiting countries where termites build mounds are often in awe of these extraordinary structures.

20

To make the paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

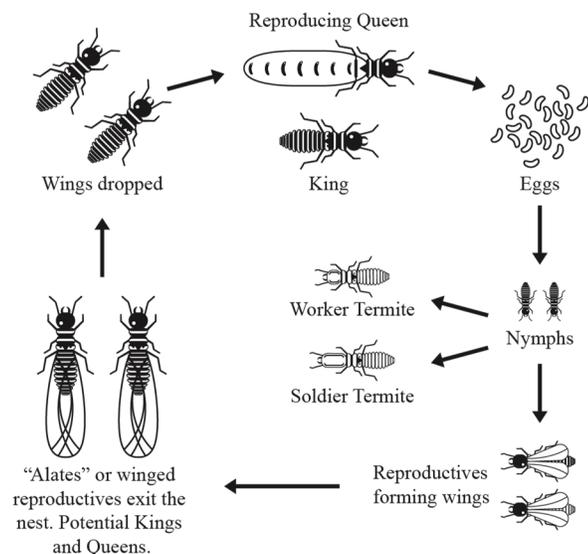
- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 1.
- C) before sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 5.

CONTINUE

Termites were among the first animal species to organize socially, and for the last two hundred million years have developed a sophisticated system of labor distribution. The queen **21** gives birth to nymphs, sometimes 20,000-30,000 per day. After hatching, the nymphs differentiate into classes with distinct tasks. Soldiers protect the mound from ant invasions. Reproductives fly off to form new colonies. Workers build mounds, care for nymphs, and tend fungal gardens that feed the colony. When termites need to evacuate the mound, they do not panic, trample each other, and get stuck in exits as humans often do. **22** Instead, they form orderly lines and wait their turn to leave. If one termite falls, the rest wait for it to stand back up and then they all continue on together.

Having termites in your house is a problem, but they are remarkable, accomplished creatures that make the world habitable for us all.

Termite Life Cycle



21

Which choice best completes the sentence with accurate information based on the graphic?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) develops wings
- C) lays eggs
- D) differentiates into workers, soldiers, and reproductives

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Instead, they do form orderly lines
- C) Instead, they form lines that are orderly
- D) They are forming, instead, orderly lines

CONTINUE

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

Bringing it to a Boil

A river dam needs reinforcement. A nuclear reactor dome at a power plant needs to be repositioned. **23** Steel tubes are being cut by a gas torch as needed by a construction company. What do these tasks have in common? They are all responsibilities of boilermakers.

Boilers are large containers for liquids such as water, chemicals, and oil, or for gases such as steam and methane, and are used to create power and heat. Boilermakers build, install, and fix boilers, as well as forging and welding other metal products. The work of boilermakers can be found just about everywhere in industrialized countries: furnaces provide heat during cold weather to many homes and businesses, power plant facilities generate energy for cities and towns, and **24** other technical sites are responsible for additional services. Many of these structures require continual repairs to address **25** stress fractures, leaks, and a corroded part.

23

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

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Steel tubes cut with a gas torch are necessary for a construction company.
- C) Steel tubes need to be cut with a gas torch for a construction company.
- D) Cutting steel tubes with a gas torch meets a construction company's needs.

24

The writer wants to complete the sentence with a third example of the work of boilermakers in industrialized countries. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) groups of boilermakers gather at refineries and other field sites.
- C) wrenches, pliers, bull pins, and chisels are used to treat boiler metal.
- D) water treatment facilities retain and prepare water for community use.

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) stress fractures, leak, and corroded parts.
- C) stress fracture, leaks, and corroded parts.
- D) stress fractures, leaks, and corroded parts.

CONTINUE

26 [1] Most students learn the trade through a four-year apprenticeship with experienced boilermakers. [2] Compared to liberal arts universities or colleges, **27** boilermakers receive more specialized, vocational training. [3] Students gain practical experience and hands-on knowledge through working on projects with advanced professionals, as well as putting in a minimum of 144 classroom hours per year. [4] In class, students learn about the physical and chemical properties of the liquids and gases with which they will be working. [5] Once they are prepared to join the workforce, they can join the boilermakers' union, which **28** create supportive local communities and advocates for the rights and welfare of all its members. [6] Local unions foster the development of young boilermakers by sponsoring many of the aforementioned apprenticeships. **29**

26

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

- A) Boilermakers embarking on their careers can look forward both to learning the trade and to developing strong community ties.
- B) Unions have historical and contemporary significance in the lives of technical workers.
- C) Many trades require apprenticeship programs so that students can learn by doing.
- D) Boilermaking bears similarities to blacksmithing and forging.

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) these programs provide
- C) these students receive
- D) practical experience necessitates

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) are creating
- C) creates
- D) are in charge of creating

29

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 5.
- D) after sentence 6.

30 Thus, boilermaking is not for those **31** adverse to physical activity. Boilermakers work with their hands just about every day and are often outside.

32 As large as 750,000 gallons and requiring tall ladders to access, at times boilermakers construct and repair structures at extreme heights. Physical strength is **33** super important for boilermakers, as they load and unload heavy materials, assemble scaffolding, and erect steel support beams. They must be comfortable enough working in these environments to calmly and critically assess the conditions of their structures, discern what must be done in each individual circumstance, and make a plan to accomplish their goals. For people who like to move around and use their hands as well as their intellect, boilermaking can present an excellent opportunity for active, thoughtful work.

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Boilermaking
- C) Subsequently, boilermaking
- D) In fact, boilermaking

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) avert
- C) averse
- D) overt

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) At times boilermakers work at extreme heights; the structures they construct and repair can be as large as 750,000 gallons and require tall ladders to access.
- C) The structures boilermakers construct and repair can be at extreme heights; they can be as large as 750,000 gallons and require tall ladders to access.
- D) Boilermakers construct and repair structures at extreme heights; they can be as large as 750,000 gallons and require tall ladders to access.

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a big deal for
- C) of markedly high value for
- D) an important characteristic of



Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

The King's Flight

After weeks of **34** convert planning and indecisive delays, on June 20, 1791, the royal family was ready. In the middle of the night, King Louis XVI, his wife Marie Antoinette, their children, and a few other close relations huddled into a small carriage and fled the city of Paris.

The king left behind a letter to his political rivals, outlining his **35** injustices with the new Constitution that diminished the power of the monarchy and of the Catholic Church. Now disguised as a middle-class family and their servants, the family headed toward the Belgium border to join Loyalist troops and other nobles in the hopes of initiating a counter-revolution.

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) covert
- C) covet
- D) convent

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hardships
- C) resentments
- D) grievances

CONTINUE 

[1] The carriage was cramped as they drove through forests and past small towns. [2] In the small town of Sainte-Menehould, the postmaster was outside after dinner and saw the carriage driving by. [3] They traveled for about one hundred miles over the course of the day, only stopping occasionally so that the horses could rest. [4] He had seen the queen before and thought that he recognized her, and observed that the man next to her looked very much like the image of the king on the coins in his pocket. [5] Suspicious **36** for not wanting to cause a false alarm, he did not say anything to the coachmen. [6] However, he quickly took a back road with the intention of **37** beating the coach and surpassing it before it got to the next town, Varennes. [7] He succeeded, and there he told men at a local inn that he thought the king would be arriving soon and that something strange was going on. [8] They blocked off the bridge on the other side of town so that **38** it would not be able to proceed, gathered some men from the national guard, and awaited the king's arrival. **39**

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) nor
- C) but
- D) so

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) beating the coach
- C) surpassing and beating the coach
- D) beating the coach before it got

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the bridge
- C) the coach
- D) the national guard

39

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 2 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.

40 Just before midnight, the coach arrived, and the men questioned 41 its inhabitants. The queen said that she was the Baroness de Korff, and that she was on her way to Frankfurt, Germany. She said that she was in a hurry and hoped to be allowed to pass shortly. The soldiers took the family to the district attorney's house for the night, where the king revealed his identity. The next day the family was forced back to Paris by the national guard, accompanied by hundreds of angry villagers.

40

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

- A) The royal family would not make it much farther on their journey before being forced back to the capital.
- B) The royal family demonstrated an inability to understand the priorities and needs of the majority of their subjects.
- C) The king overestimated the peasant farmers' loyalty to the monarchy.
- D) With her lavish wardrobe and jewels, the queen had alienated the peasants during their struggles with poor crops and perpetual hunger.

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it's
- C) its'
- D) its's

CONTINUE

Before this attempted escape, many French people had been open **42** with the idea of creating a constitutional monarchy, which would allow Louis to retain the throne but seriously limit his power. However, this perceived betrayal destroyed whatever credibility the king still had. **43** Moreover, the Legislative Assembly suspended the king's powers in favor of the creation of a republic. In December of 1792, the royal family was convicted of treason, and in January of 1793, the king was sent to the guillotine.

44**42**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for
- C) to
- D) on

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) On the other hand,
- C) Not to mention,
- D) Shortly thereafter,

44

The writer is considering deleting the final paragraph. Should the paragraph be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it provides insight about the views of the French people, thus offering an alternative interpretation of the events of the passage
- B) Kept, because it helps to place the episode in a broader historical context and provides information about its consequences
- C) Deleted, because the events depicted in the final paragraph took place after the king's flight to Varennes, which is the main focus of the passage
- D) Deleted, because it brings up the previously-unmentioned Legislative Assembly, which may be distracting for the reader

STOP

If you complete this section before the end of your allotted time, check your work on this section only. Do NOT use the time to work on another section.

ANSWERS

PART 1

SECTION 1

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 13. C | 25. A | 37. D |
| 2. C | 14. C | 26. B | 38. A |
| 3. A | 15. B | 27. D | 39. B |
| 4. D | 16. D | 28. B | 40. C |
| 5. C | 17. D | 29. D | 41. C |
| 6. A | 18. B | 30. A | 42. D |
| 7. C | 19. A | 31. B | 43. B |
| 8. D | 20. C | 32. B | 44. B |
| 9. D | 21. C | 33. D | 45. D |
| 10. A | 22. B | 34. D | 46. C |
| 11. B | 23. D | 35. C | 47. A |
| 12. A | 24. B | 36. A | |

SECTION 2

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 12. B | 23. C | 34. B |
| 2. B | 13. A | 24. D | 35. D |
| 3. B | 14. B | 25. D | 36. C |
| 4. D | 15. B | 26. A | 37. B |
| 5. C | 16. D | 27. B | 38. C |
| 6. B | 17. C | 28. C | 39. C |
| 7. A | 18. D | 29. A | 40. A |
| 8. B | 19. C | 30. B | 41. A |
| 9. D | 20. A | 31. C | 42. C |
| 10. D | 21. C | 32. B | 43. D |
| 11. C | 22. A | 33. D | 44. B |