



ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The Potter’s Kiln

Unbricking a kiln after a firing is like a person
1

uncovering buried treasure. As the potter takes bricks away
2
to create an opening into the oven, an expanding view

of gleaming shapes rewards the artist for months
3
of hard work.

The process of creating ceramics begins in a studio.

My friend Ellen is typical of many more potters in that
4
some pieces she shapes on a spinning potter’s wheel and others she builds on a work table from coils or slabs of clay. Over many weeks, as time goes by, her collection
5
slowly grows: clay bowls, cups, vases, and sculptures fill the studio. She dries them on racks, dips them in glazes, and dries them again.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. someone
C. a potter
D. OMIT the underlined portion.
2. The writer would like to suggest the potter’s cautious pace and sense of anticipation in opening the kiln. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer’s goal?
F. NO CHANGE
G. removes bricks by hand
H. removes one brick at a time
J. experiences great anticipation and removes bricks
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. rewarding
C. reward
D. as a reward for
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. of many
H. mostly of
J. for most
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. with the passing of time,
C. gradually,
D. OMIT the underlined portion.



At last, Ellen will have enough pieces for a firing. She then carries the assortment outside to the wood-fired kiln, it is a brick structure designed to bake pottery to a hardness and transform glazes to glorious colors that drying alone won't achieve. 7 The chamber is just big

enough for her to crouch in as she carefully arranges the pieces inside. When the objects are in place, she backs out gingerly and seals the chamber shut with bricks.

The next morning, using twigs, for kindling she starts a small blaze in the firebox, located directly below the main chamber. The fire grows steadily throughout the day as she feeds it lumber scraps and then logs. By nightfall a controlled inferno roars in the kiln.

Occasionally, the fire chugs like a train engine, hungry for more oxygen. Each time the fire is stoked, sparks

shoot from the chimney into the night sky.

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. the brick structure is
H. a brick structure
J. brick
7. The writer is considering deleting the phrase “and transform glazes to glorious colors” from the preceding sentence. Should the phrase be kept or deleted?
- A. Kept, because it emphasizes that painting pottery is a time-consuming process.
B. Kept, because it is relevant to the essay’s focus on the role of kilns in making pottery.
C. Deleted, because the appearance of the pottery is not as important to the essay’s focus as how kilns function.
D. Deleted, because this level of detail is not consistent with the essay’s description of a kiln firing.
8. F. NO CHANGE
G. stoops to carefully arrange
H. bends over to arrange with care
J. carefully stoops over to arrange
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. morning, using twigs for kindling,
C. morning, using twigs for kindling;
D. morning using twigs, for kindling,
10. The writer would like to indicate that at this point the fire is extremely intense. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer’s goal?
- F. NO CHANGE
G. the fire is stronger than ever
H. there is more heat being produced
J. a kind of intense blaze takes place
11. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. On occasion,
B. Once in a while,
C. Now and then,
D. Time or again,
12. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- F. at the chimney in
G. up the chimney toward
H. through the chimney up into
J. out the chimney into

Periodically, Ellen looks through a porthole in the wall of the kiln to determine the fire's intensity. The clay pieces gleam white-hot amid the flames. At last, when the temperature soars out of sight, she knows the firing is nearing its end.

Having died down, she bricks up the firebox as well, sealing the remaining heat inside. In a few days, when the kiln has cooled, Ellen opens the chamber, revealing the results of her labor and of the fire's magic. Each piece shines as it meets the light of day.

13. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the most specific detail and maintains the style and tone of the essay?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. rises beyond belief,
 - C. soars well above a thousand degrees,
 - D. elevates in increments to the point that a temperature of more than one thousand degrees is reached,
14. F. NO CHANGE
G. Finally it dies
H. With a blaze that dies
J. Once the blaze dies
15. A. NO CHANGE
B. labor, which is the fire's
C. labor, of which the fire is
D. labor, and the fire is

PASSAGE II

A Family Heirloom

I live with my father in the summer, when I'm on vacation from school. Last week, he told me he had to go on a business trip in connection with his work and that I'd be staying with his sister for three days. Although I love my aunt, I wasn't happy about the prospect of three days at her house with nothing to do. It turns out I was in for a surprise.

Soon after I arrived, my

aunt said she had a gift for me. "It belonged to my mother, your grandma. I'm sorry you never had the chance to know her," she told me.

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. having something to do with his job
H. that involved traveling to another city
J. OMIT the underlined portion.
17. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. Not long
 - B. A short time
 - C. As soon
 - D. Shortly
18. F. NO CHANGE
G. aunt, said
H. aunt said,
J. aunt said;

I was expecting my aunt to hand me a ring or a bracelet, or maybe an old book, but instead she led me outside. 19

[1] She pointed to a corner of the yard, where a tortoise was calmly munching a dandelion. [2] Rosie must have heard ²⁰ us talking, because she began to amble over to us. [3] She was over a foot long and about seven inches

high. [4] As soon as my ²¹ aunt assured me that Rosie wouldn't snap or bite, I reached down to stroke her neck,

admiring her brown and tan carapace, or upper shell. 22

Rosie, it turns out is: ²³ a desert tortoise that my

grandmother had started raising ²⁴ over twenty years

ago. My aunt said that she would have checked ²⁵ with my parents, who each agreed that if I wanted to take responsibility for Rosie, I could take her home with me.

19. The writer is considering deleting the first part of the preceding sentence, so that the sentence would read:

She led me outside.

If the writer were to make this change, the essay would primarily lose:

- A. details that indicate to the reader what will eventually happen.
 - B. the contrast between the gift and what the narrator had anticipated receiving.
 - C. examples of the kinds of gifts the narrator normally receives.
 - D. an indication of how close the narrator and her aunt are.
20. F. NO CHANGE
G. have heard of
H. of heard about
J. of heard

21. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. After my
- B. When my
- C. My
- D. Once my

22. Upon reviewing this paragraph and realizing that some information has been left out, the writer composes the following sentence:

"This is Rosie," she announced.

This sentence should most logically be placed after Sentence:

- F. 1.
- G. 2.
- H. 3.
- J. 4.

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. Rosie, it turns out, is
C. Rosie, it turns out is
D. Rosie it turns out, is

24. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. begun to raise
- G. started to raise
- H. started up raising
- J. begun raising

25. A. NO CHANGE
B. had checked
C. would check
D. must check



It's interesting that Rosie is older than I am.

26

Tortoises are land-dwelling, vegetarian turtles. They can

experience the satisfaction of contentment through a diet

27

of grass clippings, lettuce, broccoli, melons, and other

vegetables and fruit. They like to warm themselves in the

28

sun but will burrow into the ground when they want to be

safe and cool. I learned that I should build plywood

enclosures in each of my parents' backyards so that

29

Rosie would be safe year-round.

I learned that tortoises are among the most

endangered families in reptiles. That means having a

30

tortoise is a privilege, and I'm proud that my family has

entrusted me with Rosie's care. By caring for Rosie I'll be

able to share something with the grandma I never knew.

26. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively introduces the information that follows in this paragraph?

F. NO CHANGE

G. I asked my aunt about Rosie's needs and care.

H. Most tortoise species are now found only in Africa.

J. Some giant tortoises weigh as much as 180 kilograms.

27. A. NO CHANGE

B. reap their necessary nutritional requirements from

C. be kept as happy as a clam with

D. be adequately nourished by

28. Which choice provides the most specific and precise information?

F. NO CHANGE

G. things they could eat.

H. edible items.

J. fresh foods.

29. A. NO CHANGE

B. parent's backyards

C. parents backyards

D. parents backyards,

30. F. NO CHANGE

G. families of

H. family in

J. family of

PASSAGE III

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and question 45 will ask you to choose where Paragraph 5 should most logically be placed.

A Thirst for Knowledge

[1]

Benjamin Banneker, African American

inventor and astronomer, grew up on his

family's farm in colonial Maryland. Though

31

31. A. NO CHANGE

B. family's

C. families'

D. families

he had limited access to formal education,³² Banneker nevertheless demonstrated a keen curiosity and a consuming interest in acquiring knowledge.

[2]

Banneker's grandmother was an indentured servant from England whom,³³ after completing the term of her contract, bought some land and then married a freed slave. 34 Their daughter Mary—Benjamin's mother—also married a freed slave. Benjamin's grandmother taught

him to read,³⁵ and he attended a one-room Quaker school when the farmwork slowed down during the winter.

[3]

In 1753, at the age of twenty-two, Banneker constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts,³⁶ displayed his mechanical skills, and displaying his interest³⁶ in learning. He had dismantled a pocket watch borrowed³⁶

from a traveling merchant, made detailed drawings of it's³⁷ components, and returned it—fully functioning—to the merchant. Based on those drawings, Banneker designed the works for his own clock and carved the gears, wheels,

32. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. limiting his access to formal education,
- G. his access to formal education was limited,
- H. it was difficult for him to acquire formal education,
- J. having limited access to formal education,

33. A. NO CHANGE

- B. who,
- C. which,
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

34. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Indentured servants needed a master's permission to leave their place of work, to perform work for others, or to keep money for personal use.

Should the writer add this sentence here?

- F. Yes, because it shows the extent of control that masters held over indentured servants.
- G. Yes, because it is necessary to understanding the essay as a whole.
- H. No, because it provides information that is included elsewhere in the essay.
- J. No, because it would distract readers from the main topic of the essay.

35. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. read; he
- B. read, and he also
- C. read he
- D. read. He

36. Which choice provides the most logical arrangement of the parts of this sentence?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. displayed his skills when he constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts and displayed his interest in mechanical skills.
- H. displayed his interest in learning and his mechanical skills when he constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts.
- J. displayed his interest in mechanical skills by constructing a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts and his interest in learning.

37. A. NO CHANGE

- B. its'
- C. its
- D. their



and other moving parts. The clock keeps precise time

38

for—can you believe it?—over forty years.

39

[4]

Banneker lived and worked on the family farm.

After his father died in 1759, Banneker took over the responsibility of the farm and the care of his mother and younger sisters. In addition, he pursued scientific studies

40

and taught himself to play the flute and violin. 41

[5]

In 1788, a neighbor loaned Banneker some astronomical instruments and four books on mathematics and astronomy. Banneker quickly became engrossed in his studies and began to calculate the paths of the Sun, Moon, and other celestial bodies. Using them, he predicted a solar eclipse that occurred the next year. He also began to

42

calculate annual tables of yearly sets of astronomical data, which became the basis for almanacs published under his name from 1792 through 1797.

43

[6]

Grandson of an indentured servant, Benjamin

44

Banneker liked to study music and astronomy.

44

38. F. NO CHANGE

G. has kept

H. kept

J. still keeps

39. A. NO CHANGE

B. for over forty years. Amazing!

C. for over forty unbelievable years.

D. for over forty years.

40. F. NO CHANGE

G. sisters. Therefore,

H. sisters, in addition,

J. sisters, therefore,

41. If the writer were to delete the last part of the preceding sentence (ending the sentence with a period after the word *studies*), the paragraph would primarily lose:

A. support for the essay's point about Banneker's love of learning.

B. a direct link to the previous paragraph.

C. a humorous description of Banneker's other interests.

D. an extensive digression about music.

42. F. NO CHANGE

G. these calculations,

H. those,

J. these things,

43. A. NO CHANGE

B. covering a year's worth

C. about twelve months

D. OMIT the underlined portion.

44. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively concludes and summarizes this essay?

F. NO CHANGE

G. Calculator of the paths of the Sun and Moon, Benjamin Banneker became interested in how things work when he took apart a pocket watch and made some drawings.

H. Clock designer and farmer, Benjamin Banneker acquired responsibility for the farm at a young age but retained an interest in learning.

J. Farmer, inventor, and self-taught mathematician and astronomer, Benjamin Banneker took advantage of every opportunity to learn and contribute to the society of his time.

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this essay, Paragraph 5 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
 - B. after Paragraph 1.
 - C. after Paragraph 2.
 - D. after Paragraph 3.

PASSAGE IV

Kayaks and Kayaking

Kayaks are lightweight canoes originally used for hunting and fishing by the Inuit peoples of the northern coasts of North America. Today, many people use kayaks recreationally for white-water sports and for touring wilderness areas that are extremely wild.

46

Most kayaks are made of rubberized cloth, molded plastic, or fiberglass. It is covered except for the opening

47

in which the paddler or paddlers sit. [48] The two principal

types of kayaks are; the easily maneuverable white-water

49

kayak and the largest sea kayak.

50

[1] Kayaking in white

water the tumultuous rapids of swift-moving rivers

51

appeals to people seeking adventure and excitement.

46. F. NO CHANGE
G. of great remoteness.
H. that are uncivilized.
J. OMIT the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
47. A. NO CHANGE
B. One is
C. They are
D. Which are
48. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
F. Kept, because the reader needs to understand the different types of kayaks.
G. Kept, because it helps the reader visualize the kayak's construction.
H. Deleted, because it is not relevant to the preceding sentence.
J. Deleted, because it is unnecessarily wordy.
49. A. NO CHANGE
B. kayaks, are
C. kayaks are
D. kayaks—are
50. F. NO CHANGE
G. very biggest
H. more large
J. larger
51. A. NO CHANGE
B. water; the tumultuous rapids of swift-moving rivers,
C. water, the tumultuous rapids of swift-moving rivers,
D. water the tumultuous rapids of swift-moving rivers,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



[2] Designed to maneuver through rapids and around treacherous rocks, many white-water kayaks are only six to nine feet long. [3] Because the center of gravity of the paddler rides low in the water, kayaks are stable boats not easily capsized. [4] White-water kayakers are, at last,⁵² advised to wear helmets and flotation vests to prevent injury. [5] The longer sea kayaks are designed for distance and speed rather than maneuverability.

[6] Some models have two or three seats. [7] Sea or coastal kayaking offers easy access to wetlands, marshes, and wildlife habitats along shores.

[8] Kayaks can float in less than a foot of water, so⁵³

a nature watcher⁵⁴ can quietly paddle through shallows

frequented by shorebirds and other wildlife. 55

Equipment for both types of kayaks are⁵⁶ similar, and

fairly simple. Kayakers use a short, double-bladed paddle,⁵⁷ an elasticized sprayskirt fits snugly around the waist of the seated paddler to keep water out of the boat. In fact, a kayak can roll over and be brought back upright without taking on water.

52. F. NO CHANGE
G. for example,
H. therefore,
J. nevertheless,

53. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

- A. water. Thus,
B. water. Consequently,
C. water, and, as a result,
D. water. Yet

54. Which choice fits most specifically with the information at the end of this sentence?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. person
H. paddler
J. fun seeker

55. If the writer were to divide the preceding paragraph into two shorter paragraphs in order to differentiate between the two types of kayaks discussed in the essay, the new paragraph should begin with Sentence:

- A. 3.
B. 4.
C. 5.
D. 6.

56. F. NO CHANGE
G. is
H. were
J. was

57. A. NO CHANGE
B. paddle, and
C. paddle, so
D. paddle

Propelling a kayak works the upper-body muscles.

The paddler pulls one end through the water⁵⁸ of the paddle on alternating sides of the boat. Skilled kayakers sense the nuances of water movement by means of the kayak hull and adjust their stroke force and pace to keep the kayak on course. But all kayakers can appreciate the nuances of nature as they travel on water in this simple, but⁵⁹

versatile boat. 60

58. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:

- F. where it is now.
- G. after the word *paddler*.
- H. after the word *pulls*.
- J. after the word *paddle*.

59. A. NO CHANGE

- B. simple
- C. simple—
- D. simple;

60. If the writer were to delete this final paragraph from the essay, which of the following would be lost?

- F. A detailed description of the muscles involved in kayaking
- G. A comment on the relationships among kayakers, kayaks, and water
- H. A scientific explanation of how water moves around the hull of a kayak
- J. A plea to kayakers to be careful of the environment

PASSAGE V

Extremophiles: Amazing Microbial Survivors

[1]

Some live in airless seams of burning rock⁶¹; miles beneath Earth's surface and around the hydrothermal vents of deep-sea volcanoes. Others, salt-encrusted, "sleep" in ancient caverns, waking⁶² after centuries

to feed and to be bred⁶³. Radioactive pools of toxic

waste are okay for others to live in⁶⁴; even acid cannot kill them. In lightless vacuums and locales once

thought to hot, to cold or to poisonous⁶⁵, to sustain life, there exists a wealth of microbial organisms.

61. A. NO CHANGE

- B. seams, of burning rock
- C. seams of burning rock
- D. seams, of burning rock,

62. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. caverns. Then they wake
- G. caverns and then wake
- H. caverns, only to wake
- J. caverns. Waking

63. A. NO CHANGE

- B. for breeding.
- C. to breed.
- D. breeding.

64. F. NO CHANGE

- G. are all right for others to live in;
- H. are home to still others;
- J. suit others to a tee;

65. A. NO CHANGE

- B. too hot, too cold, or too poisonous
- C. too hot, too cold, or too poisonous,
- D. to hot, to cold, or to poisonous



These single-celled survivors called extremophiles,
66
don't merely endure environments too severe for

other life forms; they thrive in them.
67

[2]

Heat-loving extremophiles, or
thermophiles, flourished in temperatures over
68
150 degrees Celsius. Scientists have collected
them from the Yellowstone National Park's thermal
pools, the park abounding with geysers like Old Faithful,
69
and from radioactive rock deep within South African
gold mines.

[3]

In the hot waters surrounding Juan de
Fuca Ridge in the Pacific Ocean, thermophiles
ensure the survival of other marine life. 70

Here, the ocean floor is scarred by
71
earthquakes and underwater volcanoes.
71

66. F. NO CHANGE
G. survivors, called extremophiles,
H. survivors, called extremophiles
J. survivors called extremophiles;
67. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. forms; rather, they
B. forms—they
C. forms. They
D. forms they
68. F. NO CHANGE
G. were flourishing
H. had flourished
J. flourish
69. A. NO CHANGE
B. pools, in contrast to the cool depths of Scandinavian fjords,
C. pools, natural wonders formed by geologic magic,
D. pools
70. The writer is considering deleting the following phrase from the preceding sentence (and revising the capitalization accordingly):
In the hot waters surrounding Juan de Fuca Ridge in the Pacific Ocean,
Should this phrase be kept or deleted?
F. Kept, because it clarifies that thermophiles live in both the Pacific Ocean and Juan de Fuca Ridge.
G. Kept, because it provides specific details about the "Here" referred to in the next sentence.
H. Deleted, because it contradicts the preceding paragraph, which makes it clear that thermophiles do not live in water only.
J. Deleted, because this information is provided later in this paragraph.
71. Given that all the choices are true, which one most specifically and vividly describes the underwater terrain?
A. NO CHANGE
B. there are signs of both seismic and volcanic activity.
C. the results of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are evident.
D. the effect of earthquake and volcanic activity is apparent.



Poisonous waters from cracks⁷² at temperatures up to 360 degrees Celsius gush in the ocean floor, and thermophiles convert the toxic chemicals into food for crabs, giant worms, and other deep-sea life.

[4]

Psychrophiles live in harsh and inhospitable places on our planet.⁷³ One ancient breed of psychrophile lives in million-year-old ice miles below an Antarctic glacier. In the ice of the South Pole, psychrophiles survive not only darkness and subzero temperatures but also ultraviolet radiation.

[5]

If life can persist in extreme environments on Earth, scientists speculate that life may endure under similar conditions elsewhere, perhaps in the frozen seas or the exploding volcanoes of Jupiter's moons, or beneath the barren landscape of Mars. 74

Nevertheless,⁷⁵ findings suggest that life—at least on the microbial level—may flourish throughout the universe in places we have yet to look.

72. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:

- F. where it is now.
- G. after the word *temperatures*.
- H. after the word *Celsius*.
- J. after the word *gush*.

73. Given that all the choices are true, which one would LEAST effectively introduce the subject of Paragraph 4?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. According to researchers, the environment of a cold-loving extremophile, or psychrophile, is as extreme as that of a heat-loving thermophile.
- C. Certain extremophiles, called psychrophiles, thrive in cold environments rather than hot ones.
- D. Other types of extremophiles—cold-loving psychrophiles—have been found in temperatures as low as −17 degrees Celsius.

74. The writer is considering deleting the following clause from the preceding sentence (revising the capitalization accordingly):

If life can persist in extreme environments on Earth,

Should this clause be kept or deleted?

- F. Kept, because it clarifies for readers that life in extreme environments on Earth may not exist.
- G. Kept, because it makes the connection between life on Earth and the possibility of life on other planets.
- H. Deleted, because it contradicts the essay's main point by implying that life may not exist in extreme environments.
- J. Deleted, because it misleads readers into thinking the paragraph is about life on Earth rather than life on other planets.

75. A. NO CHANGE

- B. On the other hand,
- C. However,
- D. Indeed,

END OF TEST 1

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.