

# 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.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

### How a Cat in a Hat Changed Children’s Education

In a 1954 *Life* magazine article, author John Hersey expressed concern that children in the United States were disengaged from learning how to read. Among other problems, Hersey noted, the reading material available to grade-schoolers had a hard time competing with television, radio, **1** and other media for children’s attention. One solution he proposed was to make

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and with
- C) and also
- D) and competing with

children’s books more **2** interesting, since “an individual’s sense of wholeness . . . follows, and cannot precede, a sense of accomplishment.”

The story of *The Cat in the Hat*’s publication began when William **3** Spaulding, the director of the education division at the publishing company Houghton Mifflin, read Hersey’s article and had an idea. Spaulding agreed that there was a need for appealing books for beginning **4** readers. He thought he knew who should write one. He arranged to have dinner with Theodor Geisel, who wrote and illustrated children’s books under the name “Dr. Seuss,” and issued him a challenge: “Write me a story that first graders can’t put down!”

2

The writer wants to include a quotation by Hersey that supports the topic of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) interesting, since “learning starts with failure; the first failure is the beginning of education.”
- C) interesting because “journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.”
- D) interesting with “drawings like those of the wonderfully imaginative geniuses among children’s illustrators.”

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Spaulding the director
- C) Spaulding, the director,
- D) Spaulding—the director

4

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

- A) readers, and he
- B) readers—namely, he
- C) readers; and Spaulding
- D) readers, and meanwhile he

Having **5** known Spaulding for many years and having maintained a professional relationship with him,

Geisel was an experienced writer and illustrator.

**6** However, this new project presented him with an obstacle. Spaulding told Geisel to write his entire book using a restricted vocabulary from an elementary school list of 348 words. Geisel started two stories, only to abandon them when he found that he needed to use words that were not on the list. On the verge of giving up,

**7** Geisel's story finally hit upon an image that became its basis: a cat wearing a battered stovepipe hat. His main character established, Geisel commenced the difficult task of writing a book with a limited vocabulary. **8** At the end of a duration nine months long, *The Cat in the Hat* was complete.

5

Which choice best supports the information that follows in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) acquired a reputation for perfectionism and for setting high standards for his work,
- C) been interested in politics before breaking into the genre of children's literature,
- D) published nine children's books and having received three nominations for the prestigious Caldecott Medal,

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For example,
- C) Furthermore,
- D) At any rate,

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) an image that Geisel finally hit upon became the basis of his story:
- C) Geisel finally hit upon the image that became the basis for his story:
- D) the story was finally based on an image that Geisel hit upon:

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) After thirty-six weeks—or nine months—had passed,
- C) After a length of nine months had elapsed,
- D) Nine months later,

The book was a hit. Children were entertained by its plot about the antics of a mischievous cat and **9** is captivated by its eye-catching illustrations and memorable rhythms and rhymes. Its sales inspired another publishing company, Random House, to establish a series for early readers called Beginner Books, which featured works by Geisel and other writers, and other publishers quickly followed suit. In the years that **10** followed. Many talented writers and illustrators of children's books imitated Geisel's formula of restricted vocabulary and whimsical artwork. But perhaps the best proof of *The Cat in the Hat's* success is not its influence on other books but its **11** limited vocabulary and appealing word choices.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) was
- C) has been
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) followed; many
- C) followed, many
- D) followed—many

11

The writer wants a conclusion that restates the main themes of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) impressive worldwide sales that continue to remain high to this day.
- C) enduring ability to delight children and engage them in learning how to read.
- D) important role in the history of illustration in the twentieth century.

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

### Keep Student Volunteering Voluntary

A growing number of public schools in the United States require students to complete community service hours to graduate. Such volunteering, be it helping at a local animal shelter, **12** when they pick up litter, or working at a health-care facility, has obvious benefits for the community it serves and teaches students important life skills. But critics say that making volunteerism compulsory misses the point of the act.

**13** By its very definition, volunteer work is done willingly. By requiring students to do community service in order to graduate, school **14** officials' are taking away students' choice to give up their time for nonprofit activities, making volunteerism less meaningful and pleasurable. According to a psychological concept called the reactance theory, the loss of freedom in choosing an activity can cause a negative reaction. For instance, instead of focusing on the good they are doing, students may become resentful of the demands that compulsory volunteering places on their schedules.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to pick up litter,
- C) litter collection,
- D) picking up litter,

13

The writer wants a transition from the previous paragraph that highlights the criticism of compulsory volunteering mentioned in the previous paragraph. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Whatever the work may be,
- C) For many students,
- D) Fortunately for communities in need,

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) officials are taking away students
- C) officials are taking away student's
- D) officials are taking away students'

Proponents of compulsory **15** volunteering who are in favor of it point out that it allows young people to garner the benefits that volunteering offers. Students who volunteer report increased self-esteem, better relationship-building skills, and **16** increasingly busy schedules. Some studies have also found that students who do community service are more likely to volunteer as adults, and thus **17** effect society positively over the course of many years.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) volunteering, advocating it,
- C) volunteering
- D) volunteering and its advocates

16

Which choice provides a supporting example that is most similar to the examples already in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a closer connection with their community.
- C) less time spent engaging in social activities.
- D) little increase in academic achievement.

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) affect
- C) effecting
- D) affects

However, most research looks at students who volunteer in general, not making a distinction between students who are required to volunteer by their schools and those who volunteer willingly. One recent study by Sara E. Helms, assistant professor of economics at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, did focus specifically on **18** mandatory volunteering. She found that students who were required to volunteer rushed to complete their service hours in early high **19** school, they then did significantly less regular volunteer work in the twelfth grade **20** than the service hours of those not required to volunteer. Helms concluded that compulsory volunteering does not necessarily create lifelong volunteers.

18

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) coercive
- C) forcible
- D) imperative

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) school; they then,
- C) school. They, then
- D) school; they then

20

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) than did students who were
- C) than hours worked by students
- D) compared with students

Instead of requiring students to volunteer, schools

**21** have to recognize that not all students are equally well suited to the same activities. Many studies show that when schools simply tell students about opportunities for community service and connect them with organizations that need help, more students volunteer of their own free will. **22**

21

Which choice most effectively sets up the point made in the next sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) should allow students to spend their time participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities.
- C) should focus on offering arrangements that make volunteering an easy and attractive choice.
- D) are advised to recognize the limits of their ability to influence their students.

22

The writer wants a conclusion that states the main claim of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) It is imperative that schools do their part to find volunteers for the many worthwhile organizations in the United States.
- B) Schools that do this will produce more engaged, enthusiastic volunteers than schools that require volunteer work.
- C) Studies in the fields of psychology and economics have revolutionized researchers' understanding of volunteerism.
- D) It is important that students choose charitable work that suits their interests and values.



Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

### Marsupials Lend a Hand to Science

Marsupials (mammals that carry their young in a pouch) are a curiosity among biologists because they lack a corpus callosum, the collection of nerve fibers connecting the two hemispheres of the brain. In most other mammals, the left hemisphere of the brain controls the right side of the body, the right hemisphere controls the left, and the corpus callosum allows communication between the hemispheres. Scientists **23** are long believing that this structure enables complex tasks by sequestering skilled movement to a single hemisphere without sacrificing coordination between both sides of the body; this sequestration would explain handedness, the tendency to consistently prefer **24** one hand over the other, in humans. However, a recent finding of handedness in marsupials suggests that a **25** trait other than the presence of a corpus callosum **26** links as handedness: bipedalism.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) will long be believing
- C) have long believed
- D) long believe

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and favor the use of one hand over the other,
- C) one hand over the other that could be chosen,
- D) one hand on a regular basis,

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) trait,
- C) trait;
- D) trait:

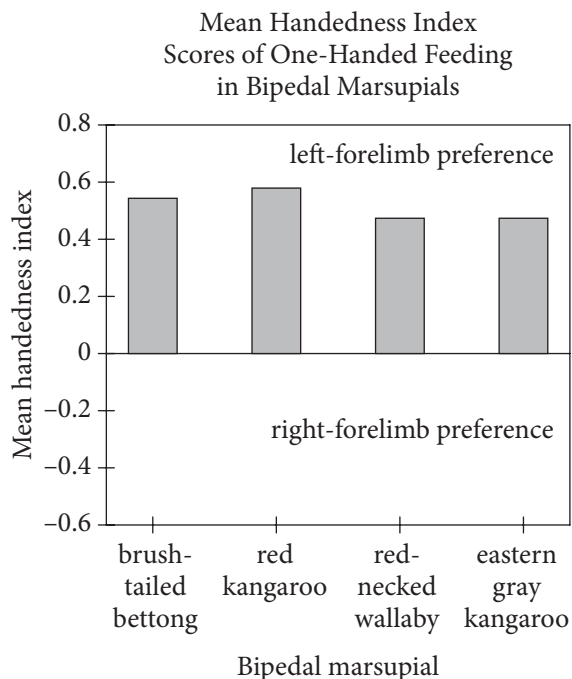
26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) correlates with
- C) correlates from
- D) links on

Researchers at Saint Petersburg State University and the University of Tasmania observed marsupials walking on either two legs (bipeds) or four (quadrupeds) and performing tasks such as bringing food to their mouths. The scientists employed a mean handedness index;

**27** negative scores indicated a left-forelimb preference and positive scores indicated a right-forelimb preference.

While eating, the eastern gray kangaroo, red-necked wallaby, red **28** kangaroo and, brush-tailed bettong, all bipedal marsupials, preferred using their left forelimb, as revealed by **29** positive mean handedness index values less than 0.2 for all four species. These results suggest handedness among these animals.



Adapted from Andrey Giljov et al., "Parallel Emergence of True Handedness in the Evolution of Marsupials and Placentals." ©2015 by Elsevier Ltd.

27

Which choice accurately reflects the information in the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) scores of 0 or less indicated a left-forelimb preference and positive scores indicated a lack of forelimb preference.
- C) positive scores indicated a lack of forelimb preference and negative scores indicated a right-forelimb preference.
- D) positive scores indicated a left-forelimb preference and negative scores indicated a right-forelimb preference.

28

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) kangaroo, and
- C) kangaroo; and
- D) kangaroo—and,

29

Which choice most accurately reflects the data in the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) positive mean handedness index values greater than 0.6
- C) positive mean handedness index values between 0.4 and 0.6
- D) mean handedness index values of 0

30 Having four feet, quadrupedal marsupials in the study did not show a strong preference for the use of one forelimb. For instance, gray short-tailed opossums and sugar gliders were assigned mean handedness values very close to zero—they used their right and left forelimbs nearly equally. In effect, the study provided no evidence of handedness among quadrupedal marsupials.

30

Which choice provides the best transition from the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Like most other mammals,
- C) In contrast to their bipedal counterparts,
- D) While using their forelimbs for eating,

**31** Kangaroos, though, still do not exhibit handedness to the extent that humans do. As the researchers noted, the quadrupeds typically live in trees and employ all four limbs in climbing. The bipeds, on the other hand, are far less arboreal, leaving their forelimbs relatively free for tasks in **32** whom handedness may confer an evolutionary advantage. Why the majority of marsupials studied preferred their left forelimbs while the majority of humans prefer their right remains a mystery, however, **33** as does the mechanism by which, in the absence of a corpus callosum, the hemispheres of the marsupial brain communicate.

31

Which choice presents a main claim of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For the marsupials in the study, then, handedness seems to be associated with bipedalism.
- C) There are many things scientists do not understand about the marsupial brain.
- D) Additional studies on this phenomenon will need to be performed with other mammals.

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) which
- C) what
- D) whose

33

The writer wants to conclude the passage by recalling a topic from the first paragraph that requires additional research. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) though researchers should not neglect the sizable minority of humans who are left handed.
- C) and scientists believe that studies like this one may someday yield insights into the causes of certain neurological disorders.
- D) and an additional study is planned to study handedness in other animals that stand upright only some of the time.

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

### An Employee Benefit That Benefits Employers

— 1 —

According to a 2014 report from the Society for Human Resource Management, 54 percent of surveyed companies provide tuition assistance to employees pursuing an undergraduate degree, and 50 percent do so for employees working toward a graduate degree.

**34** Despite these findings, more companies should consider helping employees pay for education because doing so helps **35** increase customer satisfaction and improve the quality of the companies' business.

**34**

Which choice provides the most effective transition from the previous sentence to the information that immediately follows in this sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In addition to the 2014 report,
- C) Although these levels are impressive,
- D) Whether they want to or not,

**35**

Which choice most effectively establishes the main idea of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) solve the problem of rising tuition costs
- C) strengthen the US economy
- D) attract and retain employees

— 2 —

Tuition-reimbursement programs signal that employers offer their **36** workers' opportunities for personal and professional development. According to professor of management Peter Cappelli, such opportunities are appealing to highly motivated and disciplined individuals and may attract applicants with these desirable qualities. Many in the business community concur. Explaining his company's decision to expand its tuition-assistance program, John Fox, the director of dealer training at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles in the United States, **37** who stressed the importance of drawing skilled employees to Fiat Chrysler's car dealerships: "This is a benefit that can surely bring top talent to our dealers," he said.

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) workers opportunities'
- C) workers opportunities
- D) worker's opportunity's

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) stressed
- C) stressing
- D) and he stressed

— 3 —

Paying for tuition also helps businesses retain **38** employees. Retaining employees is important not only because it ensures a skilled and experienced workforce but also because it mitigates the considerable costs of finding, hiring, and training new workers. Employees whose tuition is reimbursed often stay with their employer even after they complete their **39** degrees. Because their new qualifications give them opportunities for advancement within the company. The career of Valerie Lincoln, an employee at the aerospace company United Technologies Corporation **40** (UTC) is a significant success story for her company's tuition-reimbursement program. In eight years at UTC, Lincoln earned associate and bachelor's degrees in business and advanced from an administrative assistant position to an accounting associate position. This allowed UTC to retain an employee with a **41** deep knowledge of her industry and years of valuable experience.

38

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

- A) employees, and this retention
- B) employees, the retaining of whom
- C) employees, which
- D) employees; that

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) degrees: because
- C) degrees because
- D) degrees; because

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) (UTC)—
- C) (UTC):
- D) (UTC),

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hidden
- C) large
- D) spacious

— 4 —

Tuition reimbursement can be expensive, and many companies would find it impractical to pay for multiple degrees for all employees. Businesses have succeeded in **42** minimizing and keeping down costs and ensuring the relevance of employees' coursework by offering fixed amounts of reimbursement each year and stipulating which subjects workers can study. Even with these methods, tuition reimbursement may not be appropriate in all cases, especially if classes are likely **43** to divert employees' time and energy from their jobs.

**Question 44** asks about the previous passage as a whole.

**42**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) minimizing costs associated with employees' coursework
- C) being effective at keeping down costs
- D) keeping down costs

**43**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) diverted
- C) in diverting
- D) diversions for

**Think about the previous passage as a whole as you answer question 44.**

**44**

The writer wants to insert the following sentence.

Still, since securing an excellent workforce is crucial to a business's success, employers should give serious thought to investing in reimbursement programs.

To make the passage most logical, the sentence should be placed immediately after the last sentence in paragraph

- A) 1.
- B) 2.
- C) 3.
- D) 4.

**STOP**

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.  
Do not turn to any other section.**