

Pretest

Part 1: Improving Sentences and Paragraphs

Questions 1–6: Read each sentence. Choose the best way to write the underlined part of the sentence. Fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

- 1 The striking workers showed their anger about the proposed wage cuts by blocking the entrance to the factory, ridiculing the owner, and with big signs saying "Unfair!"
- A having held big signs that said "Unfair!"
 - B by big signs saying "Unfair!"
 - C holding big signs saying "Unfair!"
 - D Make no change
- 2 Since no pair of students were making much progress, the science teacher assigned everyone a new lab partner.
- F Since none of the students was making much progress
 - G Because of the fact that no pair of students was making much progress
 - H Since no pair of students was making much progress
 - J Make no change
- 3 A team uniform, as well as a mouth guard and protective goggles, is required to play in the tournament.
- A uniform, as well as a mouth guard and protective goggles, are required
 - B uniform, as well as a mouth guard and protective goggles, is requiring
 - C uniform as well as a mouth guard, and protective goggles are required
 - D Make no change
- 4 My aunt, a long-time volunteer at the Museum of Fine Arts, has always been exceeding generous with her time and talents.
- F exceeding generously
 - G exceedingly generous
 - H exceedingly generously
 - J Make no change

5 Usually, when a student is interested in politics and current events, they give serious consideration to joining the debate team.

- A Usually, when a student is interested in politics and current events, he or she gives serious consideration to join
- B If a student is interested in politics and current events, it usually gives serious consideration to joining
- C Usually, when a student is interested in politics and current events, he or she gives serious consideration to joining
- D Make no change

6 Worrying about the exam, sleep was impossible; the night seemed endless.

- F Worrying about the exam, I found sleep to be impossible, and the night seemed endless.
- G Having worried about the exam, sleep was impossible and the night seemed endless.
- H Worrying about the exam, sleep seemed impossible, and the night seemed endless.
- J Make no change

Questions 7–8: Read each question and fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

7 Which is a complete sentence written correctly?

- A Drinking fluids before, during, and after prolonged exercise.
- B Instead of an older thermometer containing mercury.
- C Be sure to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- D Elderly adults often requiring medical attention.

8 Which is the best way to combine these two sentences?

You should wear solid, light-colored clothing to avoid bee stings. Dark colors and flower designs on clothing attract bees.

- F Dark colors and flower designs on clothing attract bees, so you should avoid bee stings and wear solid, light-colored clothing.
- G If you wear clothing that is solid and light-colored, then you will not get bee stings like when you wear dark colors and flower designs.
- H You should not wear dark colors and flower designs on your clothing because if you do you will get bee stings that if you wore solid, light-colored clothing you would avoid.
- J Since dark colors and flower designs on clothing attract bees, you should wear solid, light-colored clothing to avoid bee stings.

Questions 9–14 refer to the following passage. Read the passage. Then read each question. Fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

(1) Which has more influence on people, nature or nurture?
(2) Although people disagree on this question, just about everyone has an opinion. (3) I believe that nurture has a greater influence. (4) Clearly, the way a child is raised has a huge impact on his or her life. (5) For instance, a child who grows up in a family that likes music will very likely be musical, too. (6) A child raised in a family that likes sports is apt to become a sports fan. (7) Thinking about my own experience, I feel certain that if I had been raised in a different family, I would be very different from the person I am now. (8) Genes passed from parent to child determine the child's height, eye color, and more.

(9) Of course, some—indeed most—children do have at least some interests that differ from those of their parents. (10) Here also, nurture is more influential than nature. (11) Remember that the word *nurture* refers to the whole environment in which a child is raised, and plus an important part of that environment is the child's friends. (12) No one would disagree that children's peers have a big influence on them. (13) A youngster who becomes friends with athletic kids would very likely strive to become a good athlete.

(14) If nature is the main factor that makes us who we are, none of us would ever change much. (15) On the contrary, we would always have the same interests and dislikes. (16) Experience teaches us that everyone changes! (17) At different stages of their lives, people enjoy different foods, music, books, and hobbies. (18) As new things happen to them, they develop new interests and tastes.

9 Which sentence is not relevant to the writer's argument and should be removed?

- A Thinking about my own experience, I feel certain that if I had been raised in a different family, I would be very different from the person I am now.
- B Genes passed from parent to child determine the child's height, eye color, and more.
- C Remember that the word *nurture* refers to the whole environment in which a child is raised, and plus an important part of that environment is the child's friends.
- D Experience teaches us that everyone changes!

10 Which is the best way to join the clauses in the underlined part of sentence 11?

- F raised, and
- G raised, or
- H raised, although
- J Make no change

- 11** Which sentence from the passage is an interrogative sentence?
- A** sentence 1
 - B** sentence 7
 - C** sentence 9
 - D** sentence 16
- 12** Which would be the best word or phrase to insert at the beginning of sentence 13 to link it to sentence 12?
- F** For example,
 - G** Additionally,
 - H** In conclusion,
 - J** Otherwise,
- 13** Which of these would be the best sentence to insert before sentence 14 to introduce the third paragraph?
- A** My friends and I have always loved to play board games.
 - B** I do have to admit that nature has some influence.
 - C** Scientists have spent years thinking and talking about the question of nature vs. nurture.
 - D** Consider this final point.
- 14** Which sentence should be added after sentence 18 to conclude this piece?
- F** I think you will agree that a nurturing environment is crucial for the development of healthy children and adults.
 - G** As you can see, nature and nurture both play important roles in making us who we are.
 - H** In other words, people's environment—nurture as opposed to nature—has the greater influence.
 - J** To sum up this essay, people have always argued about nature vs. nurture and will continue to do so for years to come.

Questions 15–20: A student wrote this passage. It may need some changes or corrections. Read the passage. Then read each question. Fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

(1) All human beings experience stress, and most think of it as a negative force. (2) However, many people are surprised to learn that some stress is actually positive. (3) The right amount of stress at the right time can challenge and motivate an individual. (4) For example, a dancer or athlete may perform brilliantly on opening night or in a championship game. (5) Too much stress is detrimental to both health and peace of mind. (6) I really hate it when I'm under a lot of pressure.

(7) Everyone is familiar with the emotional component of stress; it can range from a feeling of mild unease to outright panic. (8) Stress has a physical component, too. (9) Chemicals in the body trigger a long list of physical reactions. (10) Heart rate and breathing rate increase, blood pressure goes up, digestion slows down, perspiration increases, and pupils dilate. (11) Muscles are tense, and the body is alert and ready for action. (12) This is the so-called "fight or flight" reaction. (13) In the modern world, however, neither fighting nor running away is a helpful or appropriate response to most things that cause us stress.

15 What type of passage is this?

- A** expository
- B** interpretive response to literature
- C** argumentative
- D** personal narrative

16 What pattern of organization did the writer use to organize these two paragraphs?

- F** comparison and contrast
- G** problem and solution
- H** cause and effect
- J** chronological order

17 Which would be the best word or phrase to insert at the beginning of sentence 5 to help make the transition to the ideas in the next paragraph?

- A** In fact
- B** For instance
- C** On the other hand
- D** Besides

18 Which sentence is inappropriate and should be removed from this passage?

- F** All human beings experience stress, and most think of it as a negative force.
- G** I really hate it when I'm under a lot of pressure.
- H** Stress has a physical component, too.
- J** Muscles are tense, and the body is alert and ready for action.

19 Which sentence could best be inserted before sentence 13 to add to readers' understanding?

- A** It is a natural reaction of the body.
- B** Thousands of years ago, this same reaction helped primitive people survive.
- C** Exercise or even just a brisk walk can help.
- D** If you are constantly crabby or short-tempered, or have stiff muscles or an upset stomach, you may be suffering from too much stress.

20 If this passage continued, what information would be most logical to add in the next paragraph of the passage?

- F** a definition of stress
- G** a list of things that commonly cause stress
- H** why all stress is bad
- J** some techniques for managing stress

Part 2: Correcting Sentence Errors

Questions 21–26: Read each sentence. One of the underlined parts may be an error in grammar or usage. Decide which underlined part, if any, should be corrected. Fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>21 <u>Listening to</u> a few brief sound bites on the A TV news <u>is certainly not</u> an adequate B substitute <u>for reading</u> daily newspaper such C as <u>The New York Times</u>. <u>Make no change</u> D E</p> <p>22 After the game on Friday night, Coach Sullivan congratulated the team, threw a few necessities in his suitcase, and <u>headed direct</u> to the airport, <u>hoping that</u> F G the storm <u>would not cause</u> his flight H <u>to be canceled</u>. <u>Make no change</u> J K</p> <p>23 On Mondays, <u>Sams grandfather</u> shops for A groceries at <u>Food Giant</u> because the store B <u>offers a generous discount to senior citizens</u> C D on that day. <u>Make no change</u> E</p> | <p>24 It <u>was getting</u> close to midnight, and I had F not done <u>none of</u> my math homework, G <u>nor had I studied</u> for <u>Tuesday's</u> biology test. H J <u>Make no change</u> K</p> <p>25 Regina and her friends <u>are hoping</u> to find A <u>part-time jobs</u> to earn some spending B money <u>durring</u> the months of June, July, C <u>and August</u>. <u>Make no change</u> D E</p> <p>26 Monarch <u>butterflies, with</u> their dramatic F <u>colors, are lovely to look at: moths,</u> on the G H other hand, are nothing more than a <u>nuisance, as far as I am concerned!</u> J <u>Make no change</u> K</p> |
|---|---|

Questions 27–32: Read the passage. Choose the best way to write each underlined part. Fill in the circle of the correct answer on your answer document.

In our family, everyone has chores to do, even my youngest brother whose
27 **28**
only six years old. Every month we have a family meeting, and that’s when we
have a chance to switch jobs. After doing the same chores for four weeks, all
of us kids are always ready for a change: until now. This month, I’m not
29
switching, for I’ve found my ideal family chore. It’s not mopping the kitchen
floor, loading and unloading the dishwasher, or cutting the grass. I’m really not
very interested in those things! But I like to shop, and I love to eat. So now that
I have my drivers license, I been doing the weekly grocery shopping. Mom
30 **31**
makes a list of what we need for meals, plus other things like paper towels and
soap. I take the list to triple A market and hunt for bargains! I check and
32
compare prices carefully. Once I get everything on Mom’s list, if there is any
cash left over, I can get frozen yogurt, granola bars, corn chips . . . now do you
see why I like this job?

Name _____ Date _____

- 27 A do: even
- B do; even
- C do even
- D Make no change

- 28 F whos
- G who's
- H whom
- J Make no change

- 29 A change. Until now
- B change (until now)
- C change—until now
- D Make no change

- 30 F drivers' license
- G driver's license
- H "driver's license"
- J Make no change

- 31 A doing
- B had done
- C have been doing
- D Make no change

- 32 F Triple a market
- G triple a market
- H Triple A Market
- J Make no change