Skills Test in Writing

Section 1, Part A
Directions: Choose the letter for the underlined portion that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error in the sentence, choose e.

1. Last summer when Kate visited Japan as part of her master's degree program, she sees many Shinto temples. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

2. Gurney Williams offered this advice to parents, “Teaching creativity to your child isn't like teaching good manners. No one can paint a masterpiece by bowing to another person's precepts about elbows on the table.” No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

3. The mother-to-be decided she didn’t want to take any anesthesia during childbirth and labor; naturally, she wanted to give birth. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

4. Surrounding oneself with books and papers and working extensively to produce a coherent analysis and discussion of a topic can be an exhausting process that many students are required to repeat again and again. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

5. Many historians believe Adolf Hitler prosecuted the Jews because he viewed them as an inferior race and blamed them for Germany's defeat in World War I. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

6. For me, going to school is harder than a job. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

7. He admitted personal guilt; he knew what he'd done. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e

8. Irregardless of the current trend of government cutbacks, experts foresee steady hiring in the government's future. No error  
   a  b  c  d  e
9. My Yorkshire Terrier Rocky is extremely afraid of thunder; mainly, when there's a storm I cover his ears. No error

10. My sister met her husband in a café; he was very tall. No error

11. Marco moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, with her family in June 2004, when her mother got a job teaching at the state university. No error

12. I had never felt more relaxed then when we moved out of the busy, fast-paced city into the quiet countryside. No error

13. Men's and women's gender identities seem to evolve as times change. No error

14. The customer called the store several times that day, but they never answered. No error

15. During World War II, the Allies stormed Italy and then would launch a massive assault. No error

16. Although Marco is from Italy and speaks Italian as his first language, he speaks English good. No error

17. Stunned by the audacity of the man, it was turning into a volatile relationship. No error

18. When it comes to selecting accessories to complete an outfit, many people are clueless as to how to compliment their wardrobe with appropriate items that will best fit an occasion. No error

19. Because the city has an inadequate transportation system, Clarissa transfers twice to get to work each day. No error
20. Josh surmised his father was putting in too many hours at his job and wasn't getting enough rest. No error.

21. No matter what the teacher tried, the students in her class were not as engaged in this new unit in economics as much as studying history. No error.

Section 1, Part B
Directions: Choose the best replacement for the underlined portion of the sentence. If no revision is necessary, choose a, which always repeats the original phrasing.

22. I loved the book The Da Vinci code, and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the role of symbologist Robert Langdon in the movie made from the book.
   a. The DaVinci code, and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the role
   b. The DaVinci Code, and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the role
   c. The Da Vinci code and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the role
   d. The Da Vinci Code, and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the roll
   e. The davinci code, and I enjoyed how Tom Hanks played the roll

23. The crowd was so thick, no one couldn't go nowhere.
   a. no one couldn't go nowhere.
   b. no one couldn't go anywhere.
   c. no one couldn't go anywhere.
   d. no one could go anywhere.
   e. no one could go nowhere.

24. The soldiers battled in the streets, woods, and in the homes of the citizens.
   a. in the streets, woods, and in the homes
   b. in the streets, the woods, and in the homes
   c. in streets, the woods, and the homes
   d. in the streets, in the woods, and in the homes
   e. in streets, woods, and the homes

25. If the picnickers don't eat all the salads with mayonnaise in them within an hour, pack them away in the cooler.
   a. If the picnickers don't eat all the salads with mayonnaise in them within an hour, pack them away in the cooler.
   b. Pack them away in the cooler, if the picnickers don't eat all the salads with mayonnaise in them within an hour.
   c. Pack away all the salads with mayonnaise in them if the picnickers don't eat them within an hour.
   d. If the picnickers don't pack them away in the cooler, eat all the salads with mayonnaise in them within an hour.
   e. If the picnickers pack them away in the cooler, don't eat all the salads with mayonnaise in them within an hour.
26. After storing the diamond in the secret compartment of the dresser for safekeeping, Alex absentmindedly sold it.
   a. After storing the diamond in the secret compartment of the dresser for safekeeping, Alex absentmindedly sold it.
   b. After storing the diamond in the secret compartment of the dresser for safekeeping, Alex absentmindedly sold the dresser.
   c. After storing it in the secret compartment of the dresser for safekeeping, Alex absentmindedly sold the dresser.
   d. After storing the diamond in it for safekeeping, Alex absentmindedly sold it.
   e. Alex absentmindedly sold it after storing the diamond in the secret compartment of the dresser for safekeeping.

27. There is a most unique flower in the garden.
   a. There is a most unique flower in the garden.
   b. There is a unique flower in the garden.
   c. There is a more unique flower in the garden.
   d. In the garden, there is a most unique flower.
   e. In the garden, there is a more unique flower.

28. Currently, estimated useful lives for equipments and furnitures range from between three and five years.
   a. Equipments and furnitures range from between three and five years.
   b. Equipment and furnitures range from between three and five years.
   c. Equipment and furnitures range from between three to five years.
   d. Equipment and furnitures range from between three and five years.
   e. Equipments and furnitures range from between three to five years.

29. Within the boundaries of the constellations Aquarius and Cancer are found?
   a. Within the boundaries of the constellations Aquarius and Cancer are found?
   b. What constellations are found within the boundaries of Aquarius and Cancer?
   c. Within the boundaries of the constellations Aquarius and Cancer are found?
   d. Aquarius and Cancer are found with the boundaries of the constellations?
   e. Within the boundaries of Aquarius and Cancer of the constellations are found?

30. My idea of nirvana is a deliciously decadent chocolate cake and drinking cold milk.
   a. Drinking
   b. A drink of
   c. Drink
   d. Drunken
   e. Have drunken

31. Gulping down another few swallows of his orange juice, Mrs. Lewis grabbed her bag and escorted her son toward the door.
   a. Gulping down another few swallows of his orange juice, Mrs. Lewis grabbed her bag and escorted her son toward the door.
   b. Mrs. Lewis grabbed her bag and escorted her son toward the door as he gulped down another few swallows of his orange juice.
   c. Gulping down another few swallows of his orange juice; Mrs. Lewis grabbed her bag and escorted her son toward the door.
   d. Mrs. Lewis gulped down another few swallows of his orange juice and grabbed her bag and escorted her son toward the door.
   e. Gulping down another few swallows of his orange juice, Mrs. Lewis escorted her son toward the door and grabbed her bag.
32. My sister looked angrily when I told her the jacket I had borrowed from her had been left at the beach.
   a. angrily when I told her the jacket I had borrowed from her had been left at the beach.
   b. angrily when I told her I'd left the jacket I had borrowed from her at the beach.
   c. angry when I told her I'd left the jacket I had borrowed from her at the beach.
   d. angry when I told her the jacket I had borrowed from her had been left at the beach.
   e. angrily when I told her the jacket I had left at the beach had been borrowed.

33. When we left the concert, we couldn’t hardly hear each other talking; the music had been so loud.
   a. couldn't hardly
   b. couldn’t barely
   c. could hardly
   d. couldn’t scarcely
   e. hardly couldn't

34. The angry rooster chased the dog that was cackling loudly around the yard.
   a. The angry rooster chased the dog that was cackling loudly around the yard.
   b. The angry rooster chased the dog loudly around the yard that was cackling.
   c. The dog that was cackling around the yard chased the angry rooster.
   d. The angry rooster that was cackling loudly chased the dog around the yard.
   e. The angry rooster around the yard chased the dog that was cackling.

35. Would it be better or worse for animals if everyone became vegetarian?
   a. better or worse
   b. best or worse
   c. best or worst
   d. better or worst
   e. better and worse

36. When the Namibiar's flew to Jamaica, the airline lost their luggages.
   a. Namibiar’s flew to Jamaica, the airline lost their luggages.
   b. Nambiar's flew to Jamaica the airline lost their luggages.
   c. Namibiar's flew to Jamaica, the airline lost their luggage.
   d. Nambiar’s flew to Jamaica, the airline lost their luggage.
   e. Nambiar’s flew to Jamaica, the airline lost his luggage.

37. Since the Industrial Revolution, because people have increased the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 30 percent by burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests.
   a. Since the Industrial Revolution, because people
   b. The Industrial Revolution because people
   c. Since the industrial revolution, because people
   d. Since, the Industrial Revolution because people
   e. Since the Industrial Revolution, people
38. The Wheelers sold fortunately their home within 6 days of being on the market.
   a. The Wheelers sold fortunately their home within 6 days of being on the market.
   b. The fortunately Wheelers sold their home within 6 days of being on the market.
   c. Fortunately, the Wheelers sold their home within 6 days of it being on the market.
   d. The Wheelers sold their home within 6 days fortunately of being on the market.
   e. The Wheeler’s fortunately sold their home within 6 days of being on the market.

Section 2, Essay Writing
Carefully read the essay topic that follows. Plan and write an essay that addresses all points in the topic. Make sure your essay is well organized and that you support your central argument with concrete examples. Allow 30 minutes for your essay.

In an effort to combat obesity and increase healthfulness among students, the school board is considering changing the cafeteria menu to avoid all junk food and provide only low-fat meals and snacks. They are also considering eliminating soda machines. Supporters say this plan will help students slim down and have more energy for school. Opponents say this plan is unfair to students who will now have fewer choices in the cafeteria and will cost the school a great deal of money because the soda machines generate money for the school. In your opinion, do you think the schools should only offer low-fat meals and snacks?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on the topic. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.