Skills Test in Writing

**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. According to researchers at the **World Health Organization,** radiation from exposure to **cell phones** could associated with some risk for brain cancer. **No error**

2. When it comes to teaching **children,** we would agree that **everyone's** ability level should be considered. **No error**

3. The contractor was **impressed** with the way the new employee worked; she worked **hardly** and never complained. **No error**

4. Earthquakes are extremely **difficult** to predict; that's why most scientific investigations occur after earthquakes occur. **No error**

5. Don't be so **incredible; I really did see a** flying saucer in the sky last night! **No error**

6. Based on my experience with having done both, **running a marathon** is easier than a **triathlon.** **No error**

7. **Memorial Day** has the special honor of marking the informal start of **summer; more importantly,** however, it is the day Americans reflect on the sacrifices made by the over one million people on active military duty **nationally** and internationally. **No error**

8. Just between the three of us, we made a big mistake; however, our error will be officially recorded as a computer error. **No error**
9. The principal of the conservation of matter states that matter cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be changed from one form to another. No error

10. If I was a billionaire, I can assure you that I would quit my job tomorrow and fly away to Italy. No error

11. Although Queen’s most recognized song is “Bohemian Rhapsody,” my favorite song is “Made in Heaven.” No error

12. Brewing sun tea in the summertime is more enjoyable than instant tea from a jar. No error

13. James enjoys reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens each winter, it is his favorite book. No error

14. The teacher told the student to get his backpack and books because their mother had arrived to pick him up for a doctor’s appointment. No error

15. For his birthday, Coleman wanted to have his friends over to go swimming, to get ice cream at his favorite ice cream parlor, and his father to come home from Iraq. No error

16. She knew perfectly good that it was her turn to do the dishes; yet, right after dinner she made up an excuse for having to go out. No error

17. He was fully capable to changing the baby, but he was waiting for someone else to come home to take care of the newborn’s needs. No error
18. It's hard to believe that its only been 50 years since 400 courageous African-American youths took a stand to desegregate interstate buses in the deep South by participating in the Freedom Rides. No error

d e

19. Through an interactive message board called Massively Multiplayer Online War Game Leveraging the Internet (MMOWGLI), the U.S. Navy is employing the video-gaming public to track and fight pirates. No error

a b c d e

20. Although it began as a fatal plague three decades ago, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) has become a treatable chronic disease in many countries. No error

a b c d e

21. Some people believe it's more important to be happy doing your job than earn lots of money.

No error

a b c d e

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. According to this Global Positioning System (GPS), I have to drive north then east to get to the lake.
   a. north then east
   b. North then east
   c. north then East
   d. North then East
   e. North than East

23. Mark, Roger, and Maurice went looking for Jill and Kelly last night, but no one could find the girls nowhere.
   a. no one could find the girls nowhere.
   b. no one could find the girls anywhere.
   c. anyone could find the girls anywhere.
   d. anyone could find the girls nowhere.
   e. no one could find the girls no where.

24. Before leaving for their two-week vacation in the Adirondacks, the Tenaces cancelled their newspaper delivery, asking the postal service to hold their mail, and brought their two dogs to the boarding kennel.
   a. asking the postal service to hold their mail,
   b. asking the Postal Service to hold their mail,
   c. asking the postal service to hold there mail,
   d. asked the postal service to hold there mail,
   e. asked the postal service to hold their mail,
25. Planet Earth has billions of inhabitants, and it is destroying our natural resources.
   a. and it
   b. and they
   c. and the pollution they create
   d. and the earth
   e. and Earth

26. Each of the athletes on the men's basketball team believed their team would win; unfortunately, one team would lose.
   a. men's basketball team believed their team would win;
   b. mens basketball team believed their team would win;
   c. mens' basketball team believed their team would win,
   d. men's basketball team believed their team would win,
   e. men's basketball team believed his team would win;

27. We were all down on our hands and knees searching carefully threw the grains of sand on the beach for Juan's missing ring.
   a. careful threw the grains
   b. carefully threw the grains
   c. carefully through the grains
   d. careful through the grains
   e. carefully through the grains

28. According to behavior modification theory, discriminative stimuli control behaviors and tell people or animals how to act or what to do.
   a. stimuli control behaviors and tell
   b. stimuli controls behaviors and tells
   c. stimuli controls behaviors and tell
   d. stimulus control behaviors and tell
   e. stimulus controls behaviors and tell

29. To improve his results, the experiment was repeated with more control of the variables.
   a. the experiment was repeated
   b. he repeated the experiment
   c. repeating the experiment
   d. the experiment was repeating
   e. he is experimenting

30. His speech not only cost him the support of his own political party but enraging his opponents to the point of causing demonstrations.
   a. but enraging
   b. by enraging
   c. yet enraging
   d. and enraging
   e. but enraged

31. Spreading mothballs around in the vegetable garden to keep chipmunks from eating the plants and seeds.
   a. Spreading
   b. Spread
   c. Because spreading
   d. Although spreading
   e. Yet, spreading

32. Her vivid description of the murder facilitated the detectives' ability to find the murderer.
   a. vivid description of the murder facilitated the detectives'
   b. vividly description of the murder facilitated the detectives'
   c. more vivider description of the murder facilitated the detectives
   d. most vividest description of the murder facilitated the detectives
   e. most vividly description of the murder facilitated the detectives
33. Neither of the men scarcely knew nobody at the reception.
   a. Neither of the men scarcely knew nobody
   b. Neither of the men knew anybody
   c. Neither of the men knew scarcely anybody
   d. Neither of the men scarcely knew anybody
   e. Neither of the men knew anybody scarcely

34. The young woman took the dog for a walk with no shoes.
   a. took the dog for a walk with no shoes.
   b. took the dog with no shoes for a walk.
   c. for a walk with no shoes, took the dog.
   d. who took the dog for a walk with no shoes.
   e. with no shoes took the dog for a walk.

35. We enjoyed the deliciously meal that the chef had prepared perfect.
   a. deliciously meal that the chef had prepared perfect.
   b. delicious meal that the chef had prepared perfectly.
   c. deliciously meal that the chef had prepared perfectly.
   d. delicious meal who the chef had prepared perfectly.
   e. meal deliciously that the chef had prepared perfectly.

36. On her first day of college classes, she received five course syllabi and bought nine textbooks.
   a. syllabi and bought nine textbooks.
   b. syllabi, and bought nine textbooks.
   c. syllabus and bought nine textbooks.
   d. syllabus, and bought nine textbooks.
   e. syllabus and bought 9 textbooks.

37. Taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems, because China's government started a One Child Policy.
   a. Taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems, because China's government started a One Child Policy.
   b. Because China's government started a One Child Policy, taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems.
   c. China's government started a One Child Policy, taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems.
   d. Since China's government started a One Child Policy, taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems.
   e. Even though taking a drastic step to end its overpopulation problems, because China's government started a One Child Policy.

38. If the world population predictions come to fruition, the country of India will overtake China as the more populated country in the world around the year 2040.
   a. more populated
   b. more population
   c. most populated
   d. most population
   e. more populous