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. Recently, 23.6-inches-tall Junrey Balawing of the Philippines not only turned 18 years old but also received the title of the world's shortest man from officials at the Guinness Book of World Records. No error

2. In 2007, Trouble an eight-year-old Maltese dog made headlines all over the world when he inherited $12 million from his New York billionaire owner Leona Helmsley. No error

3. Even though she had already purposely lied to him, he was very foolish enough to trust her again. No error

4. Conservationists at the Russian Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Birds are desperately trying to save one of the world's rarest birds, the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper. No error

5. Several states have statewide dog leash laws that prohibit dog owners from letting their dog lose under certain conditions. No error

6. Would you rather be swimming in the blue-green waters of Hawaii or a catamaran in Calcutta? No error

7. I tried to run for cover from the pouring rain, but there were too many people crowding the sidewalk. No error

8. Beside the fact that he invented cubism, what made Pablo Picasso such a great artist? No error
9. Before becoming a dog *owner*, you have to *commit* to walking, feeding, and caring for your dog **every**day—not just when you feel like it. No error

10. The *major* newspapers covering the story throughout the **year** because of the controversy. No error

11. The first-year teachers in the Altamont Central School District are: Ann, Jill, Kelly, Dawn, Mark, and Rita. No error

12. If I were a movie star, my life would be *more perfect*. No error

13. *Children*’s ability to learn a second language at a young age is *amazing*; however, this ability *becomes* more difficult as people age. No error

14. The event *doubles as a fundraiser* and they showcase the surfing skills of canines. No error

15. The office manager *was* someone who was efficient, skilled, and *communicated* well. No error

16. Investors in the stock market fear the market might decline even *farther than* it already has in the past year. No error

17. Relieved that her report finally was done, quickly out came her basketball and sneakers. No error

18. "Why do I always *overdue* it when I start an exercise program and make myself so sore the next *day*?" Daniqua wondered. No error
19. On Friday, September 10, over 100 cities across the globe will participate in the second annual Fashion's Night Out, a global initiative organized by Vogue magazine and the Council of Fashion Designers of America, to promote retail shopping and celebrate fashion. No error

20. Yes, it is a highly unusual career; but Kobi Levi is a young designer who creates humorous depictions of real-life objects and people in the form of shoes! 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. Alternative medicine which includes massage and yoga, has become increasingly appealing to Americans.
   a. medicine which includes massage and yoga, has
   b. medicine, which includes massage and yoga has
   c. medicine, which includes massage and yoga, has
   d. medicine that includes massage and yoga, has
   e. medicine that includes massage and yoga has

23. Nobody could hardly believe that the United States was attacked that dreadful day.
   a. Nobody could hardly
   b. Nobody couldn’t hardly
   c. No body could hardly
   d. No body couldn’t hardly
   e. Nobody could

24. Reading is more fun than television.
   a. Reading is more fun than television.
   b. Reading is more fun than watching television.
   c. Reading is funner than television.
   d. Reading is more fun then television.
   e. Reading is more fun than televising.

25. The dog wagged its tail when its owner’s car pulled into the driveway.
   a. its tail when its
   b. it’s tail when its
   c. it’s tale when it’s
   d. its tail when it’s
   e. its tale when it’s

26. Although the car hit the tree, it wasn’t damaged.
   a. Although the car hit the tree, it wasn’t damaged.
   b. The car hit the tree, it wasn’t damaged.
   c. The car hit the tree but did not damage it.
   d. Although the car hit the tree, it was damaged.
   e. Even though the car hit the tree, it wasn’t damaged.
27. Surely, he meant to say he was sorry.
   a. Surely, he meant to say he was sorry.
   b. Sure that he meant to say he was sorry.
   c. He meant sure to say that he was sorry.
   d. I meant surely to say that he was sorry.
   e. I am surely he meant to say he was sorry.

28. If a base number raised to a power appears in parenthesis and is raised to another power, you should multiply the exponents together.
   a. parenthesis and is raised to another power, you
   b. parentheses and is raised to another power, you
   c. parenthesis, and is raised to another power you
   d. parentheses, and is raised to another power you
   e. parenthesis, and is raised to another power, you

29. Jake sleeping in his bed, not realizing the danger he was in.
   a. Jake sleeping in his bed, not realizing the danger he was in.
   b. Jake sleeping in his bed. Not realizing the danger he was in.
   c. Jake sleeping in his bed; not realizing the danger he was in.
   d. Jake asleep in his bed; not realizing the danger he was in.
   e. Jake was sleeping in his bed, not realizing the danger he was in.

30. Many people think the actress Sandra Bullock is beautiful and has intelligence.
   a. is beautiful and has intelligence.
   b. is more beautiful and has intelligence.
   c. has beautiful intelligence.
   d. is beautiful and intelligent.
   e. has beauty and is intelligent.

31. Although the Russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air, sea, and land.
   a. Although the Russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air, sea, and land.
   b. Although the Russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air sea and land.
   c. Although the russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air, sea, and land.
   d. The Russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air, sea, and land.
   e. The russian aerocar is the ultimate machine on air, sea, and land.

32. The circumstances surrounding the death of the salesperson were unusual and strangely.
   a. unusual and strangely.
   b. unusually and strangely.
   c. unusual and strange.
   d. unusually strange.
   e. usual and strange.

33. Neither of the sisters could do nothing when they saw their long-lost brother get off the plane.
   a. Neither of the sisters could do nothing
   b. Neither of the sisters couldn't do anything
   c. Either of the sisters could do anything
   d. Neither of the sisters could do anything
   e. Neither of the sisters couldn't do nothing

34. Although he felt ill, the doctor gave him a prescription.
   a. Although he felt ill, the doctor gave him a prescription.
   b. The patient felt ill, so the doctor gave him a prescription.
   c. Although he felt ill, the doctor gave the patient a prescription.
   d. He felt ill, the doctor gave him a prescription.
   e. He felt ill although the doctor gave him a prescription.
35. I felt really bad when I dropped my friend's antique vase.
   a. really bad
   b. real bad
   c. really badly
   d. real badly
   e. reel badly

36. Scientists use **phenomenon** to refine hypotheses and disprove theories.
   a. phenomenon to refine hypotheses and disprove theories.
   b. phenomena to refine hypotheses and disprove theories.
   c. phenomenon to refine hypothesis and disprove theories.
   d. phenomena to refine hypothesis and disprove theories.
   e. phenomenon to refine hypothesis and disprove theories.

37. Since the beginning of June, because I've been on summer break.
   a. Since the beginning of June, because I've been on summer break.
   b. Since the beginning of June, therefore, I've been on summer break.
   c. Since the beginning of June, I've been on summer break.
   d. The beginning of June, because I've been on summer break.
   e. The beginning of June, therefore, I've been on summer break.

38. "Are we nearly there?" asked the impatient child.
   a. "Are we nearly there?" asked the impatient child.
   b. "Are we nearly there," asked the impatient child?
   c. "Are we near there?" asked the impatient child.
   d. "Are we near there." asked the impatient child?
   e. "Are we nearly their?" asked the impatient child.

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 that your essay is well organized and that you support your central argument with concrete examples. Allow 30 minutes for your essay.

A student activist group on your school campus is protesting the use of animals for dissection in science classes. The group claims that animals have basic rights to life and happiness, and that purposely destroying them for use in classes is cruel. Many of the science students disagree, stating that animals are useful in educating people about important medical and health issues and that eliminating their use in the classes would severely harm students' education.

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.