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. Following a honeymoon in the Pocono Mountains, the couple were eager to settle into a new routine. No error e.

2. The student's mind went blank, he could not think of anything appropriate to write about when he got to the essay part of the test. No error e.

3. Startled by the barking, the chicken ran quick into its coop for shelter as the hopeful dog plummeted up the hill. No error e.

4. Saturday was the 33rd running of the Freihofer's Run for Women in Albany, New York; over 4,000 women ran in the 5-kilometer race. No error e.

5. In my opinion, Norman Rockwell, who's work chronicled the times, was an illustrator of tremendous ingenuity and energy. No error e.

6. Several landscape designers submitted bids on the shopping mall project, and the property owner awarded the contract to the designer whose proposal was less expensive than all the rest. No error e.

7. Ruby, a robot invented at Melbourne's Swinburne University, recently completed a Rubik's cube in 10.18 seconds. No error e.

8. The record time for solving a Rubik's cube is held by a 14-year-old male named Feliks Zemdegs, who effectively completed the puzzle in 6.77 seconds on November 13, 2010. No error e.
9. There are many types of extreme sports, such as slacklining, a sport of daredevil proportions in which athletes walk and tumble across nylon webbing that has been stretched across a cavern and anchored on each end. No error.

10. Either the physicians or the hospital administrator are going to have to make a decision to ensure the fair treatment of patients. No error.

11. When the owner returned from a week’s vacation to pick up his dog at the kennel, the terrier wagged its tail to and fro with excitement and licked the owner’s face from ear to ear. No error.

12. There were three wedding gowns that she liked more than all the others she tried on, but the more ornate gown with the inlaid pearls was the one she thought she liked best. No error.

13. Contestants in the Scripps national spelling bee watched eighth-grader Sukanya Roy from Pennsylvania win the spelling bee’s coveted trophy and $40,000 in college scholarship funds. No error.

14. The soil that composes the giant ant hills found in Zambia is often used to make bricks; the ants excavate the clay from below ground level and bring them to the top of the earth. No error.

15. Growing up, Kate Middleton was an excellent student in school, was very athletic, and some day becomes British royalty. No error.

16. I think I will do good on my final exam because I am confident that I am well prepared, rested, and relaxed going into the classroom. No error.

17. The new, exhausted parents have watched television when the baby began to cry in the next room. No error.
18. Violent storms pounded the **capital region** causing widespread damage to homes and trees, **but yet** no human deaths were caused by the severe weather. **No error**

19. The new MyPlate icon promoted by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** has dismantled the **Food Guide Pyramid** that once assisted Americans in their quest to eat a **well-balanced diet**. **No error**

20. My father had an antique 1957 Studebaker **Transtar** pickup truck with a wide-mouthed **grille** and I remember riding in the cab with my dad as the old engine **noisily sputtered**. **No error**

21. Although e-readers have been on the market for only a few **years**, the managers of Amazon.com report they sell more e-books than all print books combined. **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. My father who is an **avid gardener** is teaching me everything I need to know about raising deliciously tasty tomatoes.
   a. father who is an avid gardener
   b. father, who is an avid gardener
   c. father who is an avid gardener,  
   d. father, who is an avid gardener,
   e. father, whom is an avid gardener,

23. The students **can't hardly** believe there are only 23 school days left before summer vacation.
   a. can't hardly
   b. cannot hardly
   c. can hardly
   d. who can't hardly
   e. whom can hardly

24. When elementary school-aged children were asked what health goals they would like an adult's help to achieve, they responded they would like adults to help them learn how to cook, getting additional exercise, and eating healthy foods.
   a. help them learn how to cook, getting additional exercise, and eating healthy foods.
   b. help them learn how to cook, help them get additional exercise, and help them eat healthy foods.
   c. helping them learn how to cook, getting additional exercise, and eating healthy foods.
   d. help them learn how to cook, get additional exercise, and eat healthy foods.
   e. help them learning how to cook, getting additional exercise, and eating healthy foods.

25. **Would he or me** be a better bowling partner?
   a. he or me
   b. him or me
   c. him or I
   d. he or I
   e. him or he
26. The committee threw we retirees a huge end-of-the-year party.
   a. we retirees
   b. us retirees
   c. them retirees
   d. those retirees
   e. retirees we

27. The promotional staff had less innovative ideas than the marketing staff.
   a. less innovative ideas
   b. less innovative idea
   c. fewer innovative ideas
   d. fewer innovative idea
   e. fewer innovation ideas

28. In the past, Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee, so she passed on the tiramisu dessert after dinner.
   a. past, Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee, so she passed
   b. passed Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee, so she passed
   c. passed Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee, so she past
   d. past Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee, so she past
   e. past Dawn hadn't liked the taste of coffee so she past

29. We were missing a vital piece of information: the timeline, the expense report, and the list of participants.
   a. a vital piece of information:
   b. a vital piece of information;
   c. vital pieces of information:
   d. vital pieces of information;
   e. vital piece of information:

30. The dates we are considering for our annual party are Thursday, January 13; Friday, January 14; and January 15, Saturday.
   a. Thursday, January 13; Friday, January 14; and January 15, Saturday.
   b. Thursday January 13, Friday January 14, and January 15 Saturday.
   c. Thursday January 13; Friday January 14; and January 15 Saturday.
   d. Thursday, January 13; January 15, Saturday; and January 14, Friday.
   e. Thursday, January 13; Friday, January 14; and Saturday, January 15.

31. While cleaning up after dinner, the phone rang.
   a. While cleaning up after dinner, the phone rang.
   b. While I was cleaning up after dinner, the phone rang.
   c. The phone rang while cleaning up after dinner.
   d. The phone cleaned up after dinner.
   e. While I was cleaning up, the phone rang after dinner.

32. The number of hours we have for this telethon has been reduced.
   a. number of hours
   b. numbers of hours
   c. numbers of hour
   d. amount of hours
   e. amount of hour

33. The warehouse doesn't have no surplus stock at this time.
   a. doesn't have no
   b. does have no
   c. doesn't have any
   d. does have any
   e. doesn't has any
34. The swimmer explained how to do the backstroke in the subway.
   a. The swimmer explained how to do the backstroke in the subway.
   b. The swimmer explains how to do the backstroke in the subway.
   c. The swimmers explain how to do the backstroke in the subway.
   d. The swimmer in the subway explained how to do the backstroke.
   e. The swimmer in the subway explain how to do the backstroke.

35. The new keyboard looked strangely to me.
   a. looked strangely
   b. look strange
   c. looking strangely
   d. looking strange
   e. looked strange

36. During our brake, we noticed a break in the pipeline.
   a. brake, we noticed a break
   b. brakes, we noticed brakes
   c. breaks, we noticed brakes
   d. break, we noticed a break
   e. brake, we noticed a brake

37. Flooding several major cities along the banks of the Mississippi River.
   a. Flooding several major cities along the banks of the Mississippi River.
   b. Several major cities along the banks of the Mississippi River flooded.
   c. Flooding several major cities along the banks of the Mississippi River.
   d. Along the banks of the Mississippi River, flooding several major cities.
   e. Several major cities caused flooding along the banks of the Mississippi River.

38. The massage therapist felt gently along the patient’s spine.
   a. felt gently
   b. felt gentle
   c. feel gentle
   d. feel gently
   e. fell gently

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.

Should high school students be required to pass a standardized test to graduate? Some think the best way to make students and schools responsible is to create graduation-determining tests. They believe students will take their coursework more seriously. Others feel these tests will do nothing to improve education in America but will instead do much to worsen it as teachers “teach to the test” and schools’ populations explode with seniors who do not pass the test. In your essay, take a position either supporting or condemning these graduation tests. Be sure to support your position with logical arguments and specific examples.
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. In the United States, three states—Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin—is scenes of fierce debate over legislation aimed at curtailing the power of labor unions. No error
   a b c d e

2. The audience applauded politely for the actor not feeling well, he hadn't performed to the best of his ability. No error
   a b c d e

3. Juliet did poor in her first dance recital; she was confident she could have done better if she had practiced the routine a few more times. No error
   a b c d e

4. Adjectives and adverbs add spice to writing in that they describe, or modify, other words. No error
   a b c d e

5. I have all ways been enamored with the concept that through computer modeling we can create an executable model to test a complex system. No error
   a b c d e

6. In my opinion, watching a psychological thriller is less scary than a horror film. No error
   a b c d e

7. In Disney's The Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, Captain Jack Sparrow—played by Johnny Depp—journeys to the fabled Fountain of Youth. No error
   a b c d e

8. Based on her continuous need to pay her rent, Annabelle decided to offer to teach another yoga class on the weekends. No error
   a b c d e
9. Trading illicit drugs (also referred to as trafficking illegal drugs) is one of the largest global markets, valued at over $322 billion. No error

10. The other senators watched their colleague, who frequently launched filibusters to draw attention to neglected discussion, stood up. No error

11. Despite the fact that her friends became vegetarian, Darby's position on eating meat hasn't changed. No error

12. Even though they were admired by some, the innovations of Lewis Carroll's later novels were not as well received as his Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. No error

13. At the Belmont, on June 9, 1973, Secretariat won by an astonishing 31 lengths, claiming the first Triple Crown in 25 years. No error

14. Introduced by the International Olympic Committee in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics Games, they allow future host cities access to draw on the knowledge and experience of previous Games hosts. No error

15. Dawn, an administrative assistant with extensive experience working in human resources, was looking for a position in an office where she would be respected for her knowledge and experience, would be looked upon as a professional, and within an easily commutable distance. No error

16. The sign at the cash register in the supermarket was grammatically correct: It read, "15 Items or Less." No error
17. Screaming and shouting to cheer on the team, the day ended with everyone having a sore throat. No error
   a  b  c  d  e

18. As the term is intrinsically linked to the process of writing personalized communications on paper,
    the usage and marketing of stationary is a niche industry that is increasingly threatened by electronic
    media. No error
    d  e

19. The following artifacts are the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: The Great Pyramid at Giza,
    the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia,
    the Pharos Lighthouse near Alexandria, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, and the Colossus of
    Rhodes. No error
    e

20. Believe it or not, several of our most loved and revered artists, such as Michelangelo and Leonardo
    DaVinci, lived and created their masterpieces during the Middle Ages. No error
    a  b  c  d  e

21. Of all the people running for governor, Samuels was less likely to win based on his progressive
    views. 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. My instinct was to take my time to figure out the problem, but I only had one hour to finish
    the whole test.
    a. problem, but
    b. problem but
    c. problem; but
    d. problem: but
    e. problem, but,

23. No one had no idea where to find the book.
    a. No one had no
    b. No one had not
    c. No one had any
    d. Any one had any
    e. Any one had no

24. The school budget not only provided for three new school buses but also sets aside enough
    funds to hire a second fourth-grade teacher.
    a. buses but also sets aside
    b. buses, but also set aside
    c. buses, but also sets aside
    d. buses but also set aside
    e. buses but also provides
25. There are several reasons why there concerned about their grades.
   a. There are several reasons why there concerned about their grades.
   b. They’re are several reasons why there concerned about their grades.
   c. Their are several reasons why they’re concerned about their grades.
   d. There are several reasons why they’re concerned about their grades.
   e. There are several reasons why they’re concerned about their grades.

26. When it comes to running a marathon, a person has to run at their own pace.
   a. their own pace.
   b. there own pace.
   c. her own pace.
   d. his own pace.
   e. his or her own pace.

27. The teacher looked skeptical when the student said she left her homework on the bus.
   a. skeptical when
   b. skeptically when
   c. skeptical, when
   d. skeptically, when
   e. skeptically, when,

28. The school held a reunion for all the alumnus of the Class of 1975.
   a. alumnus of the Class of 1975.
   b. alumnus of the class of 1975.
   c. alumni of the Class of 1975.
   d. alumni of the Class of Nineteen Seventy-Five.
   e. alumnus of the Class of Nineteen Hundred Seventy-Five.

29. I saw a long, black snake following a frog that was slithering slowly toward the rocks in my garden.
   a. following a frog that was slithering slowly toward the rocks in my garden.
   b. slithering slowly toward the rocks in my garden following a frog.
   c. following a frog toward the rocks in my garden that was slithering slowly.
   d. toward the rocks slithering in my garden following a frog slowly.
   e. following a frog slithering slowly in my garden toward the rocks.

30. Every day before I go to work, I fed the dogs, watered the garden, and then run three miles.
   a. fed the dogs, watered the garden, and then run three miles.
   b. feed the dogs, watered the garden, and then run three miles.
   c. feed the dogs, water the garden, and then ran three miles.
   d. feed the dogs water the garden and then run three miles.
   e. feed the dogs, water the garden, and then run three miles.

31. Stressed about the deadline she had committed to meet, it was difficult for Ann to concentrate on the project.
   a. it was difficult for Ann to concentrate on the project.
   b. Ann found it difficult to concentrate on the project.
   c. concentrating on the project was difficult for Ann.
   d. it was difficult to concentrate on the project for Ann.
   e. Ann concentrated on the difficult project.
32. To see the good view of the lake, better than anywhere else, you have to climb to the top of that hillside.
   a. good view of the lake, better
   b. good view of the lake, best
   c. better view of the lake, better
   d. better view of the lake, best
   e. best view of the lake, better

33. It was evident that the school had insufficient funds for technology; students didn’t hardly have no computers available to use.
   a. didn’t hardly have no
   b. did hardly have no
   c. hardly had any
   d. hardly had no
   e. didn’t hardly have any

34. Even though he ate the Thanksgiving dinner off the table, the dog was sent to his kennel crate for the night.
   a. Even though
   b. Although
   c. After
   d. Furthermore
   e. As

35. Out of all the courses I’ve taken, this one is definitely the easiest.
   a. easiest
   b. easier
   c. easy
   d. more easier
   e. most easiest

36. Crisis place an enormous strain on our resources as embassy personnel focus on assisting U.S. citizens affected by them.
   a. Crisis
   b. Crises
   c. Criss
   d. Crissis
   e. Crises

37. Since the ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire, because it will soon be flooded to make more water available for today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers.
   a. Since the ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire, because it will soon be flooded to make more water available for today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers.
   b. The ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire, will soon be flooded to make more water available for today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers.
   c. Since the ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire, because today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers will flood more water.
   d. Since it will soon be flooded to make more water available for today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers, since the ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire.
   e. Because it will soon be flooded to make more water available for today’s Iraqi settlers and farmers, since the ancient city of Ashur, capital of the powerful Assyrian Empire.

38. The carpenter did a very good job building the garden shed; it was spacious and had a strong foundation and roof.
   a. good job building the garden shed; it
   b. well job building the garden shed; it
   c. good job building the garden shed, it
   d. well job building the garden shed, it
   e. good job building the garden shed; it