Answers

**Skills Test in Reading**

1. d. The author’s main point in this passage is to set forth the need to investigate the ecological status of Pará and the means by which the investigation should proceed. The flora and fauna of Guiana are distinct from the flora and fauna of Brazil. However, the fauna and flora of Pará are not necessarily distinct; the passage even asks whether the species in the Pará district are identical, modified, or peculiar to the species of the other regions. Therefore, choice a is incorrect. The passage states that Guiana and Brazil support a very large number of ecologically distinct habitats, but it does not make this claim definitively about Pará, making choice b incorrect. The focus of the passage is not about the overriding importance of Pará’s ecological considerations, and there is no support in the passage to make the claim that Pará’s government has not been supportive of expeditions; therefore, choices c and e are incorrect.

2. c. The physical description in this answer choice is not correct for Para, though it is correct for both Guiana and Brazil. The first sentence of the passage describes both Guiana and Brazil as ecologically distinct provinces. Because this is a true statement, choice a cannot be correct. The passage says that both Guiana and Brazil are centers of distribution for the dissemination of species into Pará, so choice b is not correct. It can be concluded from the passage that Para lies in between Guiana and Brazil, with Brazil to the south. Therefore, choice d is not correct. Both Guiana and Brazil are listed as a center of distribution in the latest process of dissemination of species over the surface of tropical America. Pará lies in between them, so it would also belong to tropical America; this means choice e is incorrect as well.

3. b. The author suggests evaluating Pará to see if it “contains so large a number of endemic species as would warrant the conclusion that it is itself an independent province.” The species in an area determines whether it is a distinct province, not the area’s geographical features, so choice a is incorrect. The passage does not indicate that it is a district’s proximity that determines whether it is distinct, so choice c is incorrect. It is not the number of identical species that determines if a province is distinct, so choice d is incorrect. The species that are endemic to the district determine whether the province is distinct, so choice e is incorrect.

4. c. The author shows support for the statement in choice c in the anecdote about the group of laughing travelers on the railway; because you were not part of the group and were apart from the intended audience, you lacked a connection and did not find the humor funny. The final sentence in the text (“many comic effects are incapable of translation from one language to another …”) support the role listed in choice b, but the railway anecdote not does relate specifically to the customs and ideas of a society. The statement provided in choice a is contradicted throughout the passage and therefore could not be correct. Because the author is not using the anecdote to show that laughter is spontaneous or that proximity affects the humor, choices d and e are incorrect.
5. a. The adverb *rapturously* as it appears on line 6 describes how the travelers in the railway carriage are laughing. You need to examine the surrounding context to determine *how* they are laughing specifically. The word *for* can be replaced with the word *because*, meaning that the travelers laughed *rapturously* because of "stories which must have been comic to them." If the stories must have been comic, then it was truly funny. Laughing *sanguinely* means laughing joyfully. The travelers’ laughter is true because the context of the sentence states that they were laughing at something comic. They would not be laughing *painfully*, so choice b is incorrect. Laughing *morosely* would mean laughing miserably, which would be a difficult situation in almost any context. There is no indication of any morose context in the sentence, so choice c is incorrect. The travelers are laughing at something comical in the train car. Nothing in the context of the sentence or surrounding sentences would suggest that they would be laughing *awkwardly*, so choice d is incorrect. To laugh *hilariously* would mean a funny way of laughing. The travelers may have been laughing because of something hilarious, but that does not mean the same thing as laughing hilariously, so choice e is incorrect.

6. c. The record companies claim that bands have sold fewer albums at record stores, cutting into the musicians’ profits. But if this statement were true, then bands would be able to generate more income through paths other than record store sales. Furthermore, by selling their albums directly to the fans through a website, musicians can earn a greater amount per album sold instead of traditionally selling the albums at a record store. The fact that some users of illegal file-sharing sites may have been sued would not influence the musicians’ earning potentials, so choice a is incorrect. While it may be true that additional touring results in additional revenue for the musicians, it is still true that musicians are earning significantly less money through their album sales. There is a better choice than choice b. If the statement in choice d were true, it would not significantly weaken the companies’ argument. Perhaps the higher gas costs resulted in higher album prices, but that still would not affect the main argument that fewer album sales are negatively impacting musicians’ abilities to support themselves. The fact that bands may be able to reach out to a wider audience does not necessarily mean that they are able to earn more money, so it does not damage the producer’s argument. Illegal downloads may expose more people to a band, but the musicians in the band may still not be able to support themselves or their families. Therefore, choice e is not correct either.
7. c. The main point of the passage is the effect of microgravity on astronauts. This third sentence of the passage both introduces microgravity to the reader and describes it as an imperceptible source of distress for astronauts. The initial sentence of the passage, choice a, makes a general claim about the difficulties of life as an astronaut. However, the passage is not merely about these difficulties, but it is specifically about one particular danger: microgravity and its effects. The fact that space travel is a risky endeavor, choice b, is not the main point of the passage. This sentence serves to point out the obvious, but it is the following sentence—which serves to contrast this apparent fact—that better sums up the main point of the passage. The main point of the passage is not the astronauts' attempts to counteract the negative effects of microgravity or a list of astronauts' workouts, so choices d and e are incorrect.

8. b. Atrophy represents deterioration, frequently in response to underuse. When in space, muscles adapt to the lack of gravity and lose their strength through deterioration. There is no indication in the passage that atrophied muscles cause the astronauts any amount of pain, so choice a is incorrect. Although a muscle that atrophies may be weakened, the primary meaning of the phrase to atrophy is to waste away or deteriorate, making choice c incorrect. The passage does not suggest that astronauts' muscles cramp during space flight, so choice d is not correct. An augmentation means an increase or an expansion. This is the opposite effect that microgravity has on astronauts' muscles, so choice e is not correct either.

9. a. The second and third sentences combine to give support to choice a. None of the other choices provides ample reason for a search, according to the passage. Choice b is incorrect because the passage suggests that it is not enough for the police to have direct evidence of a crime; legal authorization is still required. Criminal suspects in police custody must be read their rights, but that is not the same as reading the constitutional rights before searching a home (choice c). The passage makes no mention of reading rights in order to conduct a search. It is not merely enough for the police to have direct evidence or a reasonable belief, so choice d is not correct. The statement in choice e is not mentioned in the passage, so it cannot be correct either.

10. c. The assertion that laws develop in response to a need for laws is contained in the first sentence of the passage and further supported in the second sentence. Choice a is incorrect; while the author explicitly argues that foreigners should not hold a position of offices of trust, the reason is not simply because they are "not to be trusted." The author provides the example of children being born in a different province "to entitle their children to participate," but he or she gives no clear indication as to whether such a practice is or is not morally suspect, so choice b is incorrect. The author gives no indication that unification is a natural tendency for smaller provinces, making choice d incorrect. The statement in choice e may seem like something the author might agree with, given that the author supports foreigners' exclusion from holding offices of trust. However, it is a leap to assume that he or she would necessarily agree that just because foreigners should not hold an office of trust, no person should be immune to legal restrictions. It is beyond the scope of the passage.
11. a. One reason the author provides as to why foreigners cannot hold offices of trust is because they cannot be as familiar with the laws as natural-born citizens. However, such a program described in this choice might eliminate this unfamiliarity, thus weakening the author's argument. Choices b and d are incorrect because either would strengthen the author's position; they would provide further evidence that foreigners should not hold offices of trust. The fact in choice c might weaken the author's argument slightly—by suggesting that age is an even greater factor in a person's ability to hold an office of trust—but it does not say that being born abroad is not still a factor. A better choice more significantly weakens the argument. The overly general statement in choice e does not address the specific issues that the author raises in regard to a foreigner's ability to hold an office of trust. While this point may help weaken the argument somewhat, there is a more specific statement that weakens the argument more significantly.

12. d. The author discusses the laws of pre-unified European provinces, specifically pointing out similarities and differences, such as that certain laws were enforced in each province but that other provinces were so free that mothers moved there before giving birth to earn the immunities of that land. The passage does not defend the argument that increased freedom leads to increased commerce, so choice a is incorrect. Choice b is incorrect: This passage discusses the origins of provincial law in pre-unified Europe, but the only mention of a constitution is to suggest that it was founded on commerce. Choice c is incorrect. To know that this choice is incorrect requires you to know the meaning of the word vagaries, which connotes capriciousness and does not apply to the author's discussion of legal development in the provinces. Choice e is incorrect; the reciprocity amounts in neighboring provinces is mentioned in this passage in regard to the rights of foreigners holding office. However, this specific attribute of the law—or the advocacy of its desirability—is not the main point of the passage.

13. a. The first three sentences set up and support the discussion of the exclusion of foreigners from office. In that section of the passage, it is mentioned that a foreigner could not be expected to be acquainted with these unnecessarily complicated laws, meaning that choice a is correct. The end of the first paragraph refers to the reciprocity of the laws across provinces, suggesting that the laws would need to be enforced. But that did not say that enforcement would be impossible, making choice b incorrect. Even though foreigners were excluded from holding office, the passage does not provide distrust, choice c, as a cause of the exclusion. Neither a necessary unification nor a potential job loss is given as support for the main idea, so choices d and e are both incorrect.
14. c. This passage discusses Hipparchus's discovery of the equinoxes. The final sentence in the passage sums up the importance in terms of the discovery's contribution to science, saying that it was the "first instance in the history of science" in which observation was combined with such skillful interpretation. Hipparchus observed the heavens as part of his investigation, but the passage does not suggest that he was the first to do this, making choice a incorrect. The statement in choice b is not supported by the passage; Hipparchus may have discovered the equinoxes and determined the magnitude of its precession, but he was not the first to perceive them. The passage states that Hipparchus used crude instruments, but this statement is not given to describe his most important contribution to the sciences, so choice d is incorrect. The statement in choice e is not a contribution made by Hipparchus, at least not as mentioned in the given passage. The Earth's tilt may cause the seasons, but that is not mentioned in the passage, nor is Hipparchus given the credit for the contribution.

15. d. The passage makes no statement about the distance from the Sun to the Earth on the equinoxes, so there is no support for the statement in choice d. The passage begins with the statement that day and night are not generally equal. However, it then states that the day and night are equal on the equinoxes, making choice a incorrect. By suggesting that this occurs "at all places on Earth," the passage indicates that the equinoxes fall on the same day for both hemispheres. While the spring equinox occurs in the northern hemisphere in March and the southern hemisphere in September, the two general equinoxes both share the same day on Earth. Therefore, choice b is also incorrect. Hipparchus discovered that the equinox was moving relatively to the stars, but that it would take 25,000 years to complete a precession, making choice c incorrect. Because the equinoxes are separated by "half a year" in the passage, choice e must be incorrect as well.

16. e. The passage begins with a description of the phenomenon of the equinoxes, then the passage goes on to define the term "equinox" and explain its discovery by Hipparchus. The passage does not begin with an introduction of opposing scientific theories or a problem, so choices a and b are incorrect. Likewise, the passage does not begin with a scientific breakthrough, so choice d cannot be correct. Choice c mentions an inequality, which could describe the unequal day and night, but it is not the inequality but the equality—the equivalent day and night on the equinoxes—that the passage focuses on, making choice c incorrect.
17. b. The word *immediate* in the sentence is being used to describe the nearby stars that are adjacent to the area of the equinoxes. The words in choices a, c, and d could each be used to replace the word *immediate* in different sentences, but they would impact the meaning of the sentence from this passage. Therefore, each is incorrect. *Remote*, choice e, nearly means the opposite of the word *immediate* as it appears in this passage, so it is not correct either.

18. c. The sentence in the passage is suggesting that the human brain is responsible for horrific wars. Therefore, the word *executed* most nearly means that it began, or *initiated*, those wars. The word *executed* often means *assassinated*, but it does not have this meaning in the context of this passage, so choice a is incorrect. Choice b is also incorrect; it may be true that people—and their brains—have *participated in* wars, but that is not the meaning of *executed* in the given sentence. Choices c and d are incorrect. The human brain is not responsible for destroying or *joining* horrific wars, at least not in terms of the context of the passage.

19. c. To answer this question, you have to find the antecedent of *it*. First, you discover that *it* refers to the *last question*. Then you must trace back to realize that the *last question* itself refers to the "truth" of the axioms in the previous sentence. By determining how the parts of the text relate to one another, you can determine the meaning of the assertion. Choice a is incorrect; the *it* in this line does not refer to geometrical propositions. While the question of the "truth" of the individual geometrical propositions is thus reduced to one of the "truth" of the axioms, it is therefore the truths that are being referred to as without meaning, not the propositions themselves. The passage does not delve into the nature of straight lines until after the line referred to in this question, so choice b is not correct. Choice d is incorrect; the passage states that the *last question is not only unanswerable by the methods of geometry*, meaning that the *it* is referring to the *last question* and not the subject of the prepositional phrase that follows: *by the methods of geometry*. Choice e is a bit tricky, but it can help to identify the subject. The *it* from this line refers to the *last question*, which can be traced back to mean the "truth" of the axioms in the previous sentence. It is not, therefore, the questions of the truth, but the truth itself.
20. c. Lines 12–15 contain the statement that argues that the truth of the propositions depends on the truth of the axioms, making choice e correct. The concept of straight lines is not addressed until late in the passage, and it is not introduced as the basis for the truth of geometrical propositions, so a is not correct. It is the truth of the axioms, not the validity of Euclidean geometry or a connection of geometric ideas, choices b and c, that plays the role of determining the truth of a geometrical proposition. Choice d is incorrect; there is no indication that suggests that it is merely our inclination to accept the truth that determines whether a geometrical proposition is indeed true.

21. b. The author repeatedly refers to truth in relation to geometrical propositions. See, for example, lines 12–15. The author (Albert Einstein) is laying the groundwork for an argument that the principles of geometry are only apparently true. Choices a and c are incorrect. While the author presents a definition for axioms and straight lines, they are not the topic, which presents his chief concern. While geometrical propositions are a key aspect of the passage and the subject of the author’s chief concern, it is not the ability to use them to draw conclusions, which is his primary focus, so choice d is incorrect. Choice e is also incorrect. The author introduces planes and points as a starting point to show how geometry is built upon certain conceptions. However, these conceptions are not the author’s primary concern, so choice e is not the best answer choice.

22. d. The passage states that Mozart played both the harpsichord and the violin at a master level, but it does not state that these were the only instruments he ever played in his career. According to the passage, Leopold devoted himself to his son’s musical education. Therefore, choice a cannot be the right answer. It is mentioned in the passage that by age six, Wolfgang Mozart could play both the violin and the harpsichord at a professional level. Therefore, choice b is not right. Given the amount of time that Mozart spent performing and playing music, it would be fair to suggest that Mozart’s childhood was dedicated to his career. Therefore, choice c cannot be correct. The passage states that Mozart’s father booked as many concerts as possible at courts throughout Europe. This means that Mozart traveled throughout the continent, making choice e incorrect.
23. b. As part of his early musical career, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart toured extensively across Europe. As support for this fact, the author describes the length and number of shows he performed each day. The fact that Wolfgang played so many concerts does not necessarily relate to his talent level. One may assume that he must have been musically talented to play as many shows, but choice a is incorrect. Choice c is also incorrect; the number of hours that Mozart spent performing concerts does not justify the fact that his father booked him at such a young age. The following sentence may serve this purpose, suggesting that it was not uncommon at the time. The purpose of the sentence is not to suggest that Mozart was mistreated, making choice d incorrect. Choice e is also incorrect; Mozart must have had a strong stamina and decent physical health to perform as many concerts as he did.

24. a. The ocean sunfish eats jellyfish, which is beneficial to human beings. The spider’s diet of mosquitoes is likewise beneficial to human beings, making a the correct choice. The diet of tuna or grizzly bears may be similar to that of sunfish because both eat sea creatures, but that’s not what the question asked about; it asked about similar diets that are beneficial to human beings, so choices b and d cannot be correct. The diet of a rhinoceros or a tick is neither similar to the sunfish nor beneficial to human beings, so choices c and e cannot be correct.

25. c. A statement of opinion is a statement that cannot be proven with facts; it cannot be proven that a fish has an unusual appearance because unusual is not a clearly defined term. On the other hand, it can be proven that the sunfish is the largest bony fish, choice a. Its diet of jellyfish, choice b, can likewise be verified and is therefore not an opinion. The fact that the sunfish is banned in Europe and is eaten as a delicacy by some people is mentioned in the final sentence of the passage; both statements are facts and not opinions, so choices d and e are not correct.

26. e. The beginning of the passage mentions the rapidly expanding population of jellyfish and the problems that the jellyfish present. The second half of the passage describes a specific type of fish that eats jellyfish in large quantities, thus acting as a potential solution for overpopulation; this describes the statement in choice e perfectly. While two creatures are described in the passage, the passage is not entirely about the comparison and contrast of them, making choice a incorrect. The main idea does not actually appear in the passage until the final sentence, so b cannot be correct. The passage does not begin with the definition of a fascinating sea creature or its dietary constraints, so choices c and d are not correct.

27. d. The word curtail in the passage is describing the difficulty of limiting the population growth of jellyfish. Curtail, therefore, must have a similar meaning as “limit,” such as curb, choice d. If a growth were curtailed, it may not reverse completely, so choice a is not the closest meaning of curtail in this context. Choice c, withstand, does not refer to the potential for the population growth to continue unabated, so it is not correct. Both increase and liberate, choices b and e, mean the opposite of curtail, so they are not correct.
28. c. The beginning of the passage includes a negative description of jellyfish. The key word however suggests a change in direction within the passage as the positive attributes of the sunfish are introduced. The words unfortunately, difficult, and entirely do not help provide a transition from one direction to an opposite direction within the passage, making choices a, b, and d incorrect. The word though in choice e does provide a transition at the end of the passage, but it does not help transition from content about jellyfish to that of sunfish.

29. d. The author makes the case throughout the passage that unpleasant jellyfish are increasing in numbers, but the sunfish may be able to curtail their population growth. Therefore, the author would most likely agree that sunfish should be protected, choice d. There is no evidence in the passage that suggests the author’s attitude is that the sunfish is not the largest creature in the ocean, choice a, even if that were true. Similarly, there is no proof to support the statement in choice e. The statements in choices b and e are in regard to jellyfish and not the ocean sunfish, so those choices cannot be correct.

30. c. The final sentence of the passage serves as its main idea, suggesting that the ocean sunfish should be protected across the world like it is in the European Union. The best support for this declaration is given in choice c, which states that ocean sunfish eat a lot of jellyfish, which is beneficial to human beings. The statements in choices a and d do not better support the reason why ocean sunfish should be protected, so they are not correct. The statements in choices b and e do not relate to the ocean sunfish and therefore do not support the final sentence of the passage.

31. b. The passage states that the iron rims kept the tires from getting worn down. This is in contrast to the earlier fragile model from 1818. Therefore, Macmillan increased the durability of the bicycle, choice b. It may be tempting to suggest that Macmillan’s improvements to the bicycle improved its efficiency, choice a, but there is no direct correlation in the passage from his improvements to energy efficiency. The passage states that Macmillan’s bicycles were never produced in large numbers; therefore, there is no indication that he helped the bicycle to be ridden by the masses, choice c. Although the passage says that Macmillan’s bicycles could be ridden easily, it does not indicate that the lighter weight, choice d, was the reason for this. One of the wheels in Macmillan’s bicycle design was much larger than the other, but it was not the front wheel that was larger. Therefore, choice e cannot be correct either.

32. e. The list of the improvements in choice e correctly represents the chronology of events in the history of the bicycle from the passage. The list in each of the other answer choices is not in correct chronological order. The order of the changes are nearly in order in choice a, but the diamond-shaped frame as indicated in the final sentence represents a further improvement made after the inclusion of rubber tires. The inclusion of gears on pedals did not come until 10 years after Pierre and Ernest Michaux created the improved crank mechanism, so choice b is incorrect. According to the final sentence in the passage, the “easy braking” represents a further improvement that Lawson made only after attaching a chain to the pedals to drive the rear wheel, thus making c incorrect. The list of improvements to the bicycle’s design in choice d is provided in alphabetical order instead of chronological order, so this answer is incorrect as well.
33. e. Like the automobile, the bicycle was developed over the course of a long time and through the contributions of many different inventors. The ability to transport passengers or improve communications, choices a and b, have nothing to do with the development of the bicycle. The space station, choice c, may have been constructed over several years, but the bicycle was not; it was improved upon, not built, over the long time period. There was no one specific technological advancement that led to the development of the bicycle, so choice d is not correct.

34. e. The instrument in this sentence refers to the foot-operated cranks that improved the riding experience. These cranks can be described as a mechanical contraption, choice e. The word instrument frequently refers to a musical mechanism, choice a, such as a guitar or a piano. But this passage does not relate to music in any way, so there is a different definition of instrument in this case. An instrument can also be a monitoring device, such as a medical instrument to record a heart rate, or a formal document. However, the instrument in this passage is a tool that improves the design of the bicycle; it does not record any information, nor is there any indication of a document used. Therefore, choices b and c are not correct. The instrument that this sentence refers to, the foot-operated cranks on the new design of the bicycle, allowed for faster riding. An impediment, choice d, is a blockage, which would have the opposite meaning of the facilitating instrument.

35. c. The passage details a series of modifications made to the design of the bicycle over the years that improved its usability. Therefore, it would be prudent to presume that additional modifications would be made to continue its development (choice c). Because additional changes will likely occur, choice a cannot be correct. Because there is no indication in the passage to predict that the design will regress to older conditions or that a bicycle will be able to fly, choices b and e can be eliminated. Similarly, the passage does not indicate that a bicycle will gain weight, making choice d incorrect.

36. a. The only statement in the answer choices that cannot be verified or proven to be true is given in choice a; the term clumsy is not something that can be proven, making that sentence a statement of opinion. The statements in choices b, c, and e can each be proven, making them statements of fact rather than opinion. It can also be proven that a gear does or does not make a bicycle more efficient, meaning that the statement in choice d is an opinion rather than a fact.
37. b. The final stipulation of a planet's attributes, according to the new definition of a planet, is that it must dominate the neighborhood along its orbit through its gravitational pull. The statement in choice b, referring to the debris in its path, suggests that Pluto does not dominate its neighborhood in the same way that the other planets do. It is true that Pluto is much smaller than the other planets, choice a, but the size of an object is not listed among the new criteria for a planet. Pluto had always been much smaller than any other planet. The passage mentions that Pluto has a moon as evidence for its status as a planet. However, the absence or presence of a moon is not cited as justification for the classification of a planet, making choice c incorrect. According to the new definition of a planet, a planet must orbit the sun. But the passage makes no mention about the specific orbit of the sun—or its shape—so the statement in choice d cannot be concluded as a possible explanation. The statement in choice e describes why Pluto is round, as are the eight planets in our solar system. This actually meets the first definition of a planet and would therefore not be a reason why Pluto lost its status as an official planet.

38. c. Patrick Henry, above all else, was a patriot; this aspect of his life is made clear in the opening sentence of the passage. The quote illustrates his patriotism perfectly by showing that he'd prefer to die rather than live under British tyranny. He was therefore very committed to the struggle against oppression, choice c. This quote does serve to show that Patrick Henry was brave, choice a; after all, he put his life on the line in the pursuit of freedom. But is the author's point in the article to show Henry's courage? The point of the passage is to label Henry as a patriot devoted to the cause of American liberty. There is a better choice that explains the author's likely purpose in including the quote. Certainly the quote sounds emotional, and it perhaps paints the picture of Patrick Henry as a fiery leader, choice b. However, the author's main idea is to paint Patrick Henry as a patriot—not as just an impassioned leader. Similarly, the quote does show Patrick Henry as a poignant orator, choice e. However, you need to determine whether that was the author's intention by including the quote. Is the passage about Henry's legendary speaking abilities? Because the passage is mostly about Henry's unbridled patriotism, the better choice will focus on how the quote accentuates that dedication. There is no indication that Henry was a power-hungry politician, choice d. He served as governor, but the quote does not portray him as being consumed by the power of elected office.
39. b. The passage states that Patrick Henry was a leader in every protest against British tyranny and in every movement for colonial rights. Therefore, it can be inferred that he was involved in any event that related to colonial rights, including the Revolution itself (choice b). While the authorship of the Constitution may seem like a reasonable event for Henry to have been involved with, it was not a direct movement for colonial rights, because the United States had already earned its independence by then; therefore, choice a is not the best choice. Likewise, choice d cannot be correct because the Bill of Rights was part of the Constitution. The Stamp Act was one of the most significant taxes imposed on colonial America by the British Parliament in that it helped trigger a movement for independence. Henry was involved in the opposition to this Act; he helped lead the movement for its appeal, making choice c incorrect. The secession of the Confederacy occurred during time of the Civil War, nearly 100 years after the time of Patrick Henry, so choice e cannot be correct.

40. b. The passage is primarily about Patrick Henry and his important role in helping the colonies establish their independence (choice b). It defines some of the events leading up to the Revolution and examines some of the British injustices, but only in context of Patrick Henry, so choices a and e are not correct. Patrick Henry is not being compared to or contrasted with any other patriots in the passage, so choice c cannot be correct. While Henry’s famous quote did have a great impact and is well known more than 200 years later, choice d, this passage was not primarily about Patrick Henry’s quotation, but about the man himself.

The following is a chart of the different skills assessed by the questions in this practice PPST; you can use it to identify your strengths and weaknesses in this subject to better focus your study.
Skills Test in Mathematics

1. c. Because the class is exclusively populated by eight- and nine-year-olds and nine-year-olds represent $\frac{1}{5}$ of the class, it can be determined that eight-year-olds represent $\frac{4}{5}$ of the class. To estimate the fraction of “guppies” that are eight-year-olds, you must multiply this $\frac{4}{5}$ fraction representing the eight-year-olds by the $\frac{1}{5}$ of the students who are “guppies.” To multiply fractions, multiply numerator by numerator and denominator by denominator, and then reduce if necessary $\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{1}{8} = \frac{4}{40}$ which reduces to $\frac{1}{10}$. Choice a, $\frac{4}{40}$, is the result when $\frac{4}{5}$ is multiplied by $\frac{1}{8}$. This gives an estimate of the nine-year-old “guppies.” Choice b, $\frac{2}{10}$, is the result when $\frac{1}{5}$ is incorrectly added to $\frac{2}{8}$. The numerator and denominator were added straight across, which is incorrect (needs a common denominator); multiplication is the operation that must be used when a question asks to calculate a fraction of something. Choice d, $\frac{5}{13}$, is the result when $\frac{4}{5}$ is incorrectly added to $\frac{1}{8}$ (see explanation for choice b). Choice e, $\frac{13}{40}$”, is the answer to $\frac{4}{5} + \frac{1}{8}$, but multiplication is what was necessary.

2. d. 9.8 million is 9,800,000. Multiply this by 1.8 cars per person and the answer is 17,640,000. Choice a is 1.8 times 9,800. Choice b is 1.8 times 98,000. Choice c is 1.8 times 980,000. Choice e is 1.8 times 98,000,000.

3. b. Add up the 911 calls for every month, and then divide by the number of months. The total number of calls was $213 + 194 + 257 + 267 + 279 + 308 = 1,518$. Divide 1,518 by 6 months to get 253. Choice a is the median. Choice c is the maximum. Choice d is the maximum number of calls that were dispatched. Choice e is the mean of the calls for which the police were dispatched.

4. b. Add up the police dispatched calls for every month, and divide that sum by the number of months to see the average number of calls dispatched: 66 + 70 + 61 + 79 + 70 + 68 = 414, $\frac{414}{6} = 69$. To estimate what percentage of calls for which police are dispatched on average, put the average number of police dispatched calls over the average number of 911 calls: $\frac{69}{253}$. Choice a, 10%, is not a good estimate because 10% of 253 is 25.3 (move the decimal in 253 once to the left), and 69 is much more than 25.3. An average of 50% could only exist if the average of police dispatched calls was around 126 (which is half of 253). Therefore, choices c, d, and e are all incorrect because they are 50% or higher. This leaves 25% as the best estimate.

5. c. The number of 911 calls per month in chronological order is 213, 196, 257, 267, 279, and 308. With the exception of the second month, the frequency of calls has increased with every month in question. Thus, the data supports the conclusion that the frequency of 911 calls tended to increase over the period range shown. Choice a does not work because the population of Hule is unknown, so it is impossible to know what the rate of crime is. Choice b is not supported by the table because we do not know if other Octoberes have had high call rates. Choice d is not supported by the table since the police dispatched data was relatively stable over the six months while the 911 calls increased, so there does not exist a strong correlation between calls and dispatches. Choice e is incorrect because the average number of calls for which police were dispatched was around 25%, and that does not qualify as “usually.”
6. c. In each term, the x value is increasing by 3x, and the constant number value is decreasing by 2. Therefore, 3x - 2 is being added to each term as you move along in the series. So to get the fifth term, add 3x - 2 to the fourth term: (4x - 6) + (3x - 2) = 7x - 8. Repeat this to get the sixth term: (7x - 8) + (3x - 2) = 10x - 10. Repeat again to get the seventh term: (10x - 10) + (3x - 2) = 13x - 12. Choice a, 7x - 8, is only the fifth term in the series. Choice b, 10x - 10, is only the sixth term in the series. Choice c, 10x - 12, has the correct constant term but the incorrect x-term. Choice d, 13x + 10, has the correct x-term but the incorrect constant term.

7. c. The starting distance from Chicago to Los Angeles is 2,000 miles, so that comes first in the equation. Then, for every hour, the train gets 60 miles closer to Los Angeles, so subtract 60t from 2,000 to create the correct equation. Choice a could not be correct since the answer would be a negative number until t was above 33. In this case 60t and 2,000 are in the wrong order. Choice b ignores the information that Los Angeles is 2,000 miles from Chicago; the only thing being calculated here is the total distance traveled, not the distance to Los Angeles. Choice d is wrong because the speed, 60 mph, is not being multiplied by time, which is part of the distance = rate \times time formula. Choice e is incorrect because t is being multiplied by both the rate and the total distance.

8. a. Since 60 minutes are in an hour, multiply the 8-hour workday by 60 to get a total of 480 minutes. To find \( \frac{5}{12} \) of 480, multiply \( \frac{5}{12} \times 480 = 200 \). So Parker spends 200 minutes, or 3 hours and 20 minutes, answering e-mails. 3 hours and 20 minutes subtracted from 8 hours is 4 hours and 40 minutes. Choice b is incorrect because 3 hours was subtracted from 8 hours and the minutes weren't considered. Choice c is the amount of time Parker spends answering e-mails, not doing other things. Choice d correctly subtracts the 3 hours from 8 hours, but forgets to subtract the 20 minutes from 60 minutes. Choice e correctly subtracts the 20 minutes from 8 hours, but forgets to reduce the 8 hours to 7 hours before subtracting the full 3 hours.

9. c. Because there are 100 centimeters in a meter, 100 meters = 10,000 centimeters. \( \frac{10,000}{50} = 200 \). Choice a does not turn the 100 meters into centimeters before dividing by 50. Choice b only turns 100 meters into 1,000 centimeters before dividing by 50. Choice d turns 100 meters into 100,000 centimeters before dividing. Choice e divides 50 meters by 0.01 meters, which is incorrect.
10. e. The fraction \( \frac{3}{4} \) is equivalent to 0.75 (you can do long division of 3 divided by 4 if you don't have this memorized). So 42.5\% is the same as 4.75\%. When working with percents, you put the percent over 100, which causes the decimal place to be shifted back to the left two times. \( \frac{4.25}{100} = 0.0425 \). Choice a, 4.34, incorrectly writes the fraction of \( \frac{3}{4} \) as .34 and does not move the decimal at all. Choice b incorrectly writes the fraction of \( \frac{3}{4} \) as .34 and only moves the decimal back once. Choice c incorrectly writes the fraction of \( \frac{3}{4} \) as .34 but moves the decimal back correctly. Choice d, 0.475, correctly converts the fraction into decimal, but only moves the decimal point back one place.

11. d. Recall the formula: \( \text{distance} = \text{rate} \times \text{time} \). Time must be in hours because you are asked to find miles per hour. 150 minutes = 2.5 hours, so calculate \( 180 = \text{rate} \times 2.5 \). To solve, divide both sides by 2.5 to get 72 miles per hour. Choice a, 120 mph, cannot be correct since 150 minutes is more than two hours, and if the train went 120 miles each hour, it would have traveled over 240 miles. Choice b, 30 mph, subtracts 150 from 180, but the relationship between distance and speed involves division. Choice c, 90 mph, assumes incorrectly that the train traveled 180 miles in two hours. Choice e, 75 mph, assumes incorrectly that the train traveled 150 miles in two hours.

12. a. Because Maddie has 9 pairs of socks in total, there are 18 socks in her drawer. Four pairs, or 8 socks, are white, which means that 10 socks are not white. The chance of her selecting a non-white sock at random is \( \frac{10}{18} \), which reduces to \( \frac{5}{9} \). Choice b, \( \frac{4}{9} \), is the probability that the sock she selects will be white (\( \frac{8}{18} \)). Choice c, \( \frac{2}{3} \), is the probability that the sock she selects will be white or maroon (\( \frac{12}{18} \)). Choice d, \( \frac{7}{9} \), is the probability that the sock she selects will be white or gold (\( \frac{14}{18} \)). Choice e, \( \frac{5}{18} \), is the number of pairs of non-white socks divided by the total number of non-white socks.

13. c. To set up a proportion, put the number of births in the numerator and the corresponding total number of people in the denominator:

\[
\frac{\text{births}}{\text{total \# of people}} = \frac{15}{1,000} = \frac{x}{300,000,000}
\]

Choice a is almost correct, but the \( \frac{15}{10} \) represents that there were 15 births for every 10 people, where it is actually 15 births for every 1,000 people. Choice b has the ratio on the left set up as births \( \div \) total \# of people, but the ratio on the right is the reciprocal of that: total \# of people \( \div \) births. This is incorrect because both ratios need to be set up the same. Choices c and d ignore that the 15 births come from 1,000 people, and these choices have 15 paired with one, which is incorrect.

14. c. In order to compare fractions, first look to see if they have a common denominator. In this case, all the denominators can go evenly into 200, so rewrite every fraction with a denominator of 200 and then compare their numerators:

\[
\frac{11}{100} = \frac{22}{200}, \quad \frac{6}{50} = \frac{24}{200}, \quad \frac{23}{200}, \quad \frac{23}{200},
\]

\[
\frac{7}{25} = \frac{56}{200}, \quad \frac{1}{10} = \frac{20}{200}, \quad \frac{26}{200}, \quad \frac{56}{200}, \quad \frac{7}{25}
\]

Because 56 is the largest numerator, \( \frac{56}{200} \) or \( \frac{7}{25} \), has the largest value.
15. b. \( \frac{252}{3} = 84 \) shows how many $2 packages were purchased. Because 84 chances were purchased at $2 each, $168 was earned. To find the average amount of money spent for each dunking, divide $168 by 12 to get $14. Choice a makes the mistake of dividing the 252 balls thrown by the 12 dunkings without investigating how much money was earned: \( \frac{252}{12} = 21 \). Choice c is $168 divided by 10 dunkings, but it should be divided by 12. Choice e was found by dividing the 84 packages purchased by the 12 dunkings, without first calculating the total amount the 84 packages cost.

16. b. Because R is divisible by 4, S is divisible by 5, and B is divisible by 3, then any multiple of \( RBS \) must be divisible by \( 4 \times 5 \times 3 = 60 \). Any number that is divisible by 60 will also be divisible by 6, 10, 12, and 15, because these are all factors of 60. The only number listed that is not a factor of 60 is 8.

17. c. The area within the figure is the total number of unique boxes within the shape. Starting at the top and counting down to the bottom, there are 18 unique boxes. Choice a, 13, is the maximum height of the figure. Choice b, 12, does not count all the squares that are in the corners of the figure. Choice d, 24, counts all the corner squares twice, but each square within the figure must be unique in order to be counted. Choice e, 38, is the perimeter of the figure, not the area.

18. a. Replace \( 5H - 4G \) with the expressions given for \( H \) and \( G \), then distribute while remembering to also distribute the minus sign:

\[
5(2w) - 4(3w - 1) = 10w - 4(3w) - 4(-1)
\]

(Here the negative must stay with the 4 when it is distributed) = \( 10w - 12w - (-4) = -2w + 4 \). Choice b forgets that the distributed 4 must stay negative, which will cancel out the negative sign that is in front of the 1. Choice c incorrectly does the subtraction between \( 10w - 12w \) and forgets that \( 2w \) should be negative. Choice d incorrectly combines \( -2w + 4 \), forgetting that two terms cannot be added or subtracted unless they have all the same variables. Choice e also incorrectly combines \( -2w + 4 \), forgetting that two terms cannot be added or subtracted unless they have all the same variables, and making a negative sign mistake of keeping the sign of the smaller number.

19. e. The total number of records sold is \( 15 + 20 + 10 + 15 = 60 \). The lowest amount of sales would be \( 60($7) = $420 \), and the highest amount of sales would be \( 60($20) = $1,200 \). Choice a cannot be correct since the store sold 60 records, so making $0 is impossible. Choice b is the range of individual prices of the records, not total sales. Choices c and d use $7 times the least amount of records sold, which was 10, in order to get the least amount of sales, but since 60 records were sold this is incorrect.
20. c. Because the length is $\frac{4}{3}$ as long as the width, the length will be $\frac{4}{3} \times 30 = 40$ feet. A rectangular yard of 30 feet by 40 feet cut by a diagonal will give two congruent right triangles. 70 feet, is the sum of 30 and 40, not the square root of the sum of their squares. Choice e, 40 feet, is just the length of the garden, not the diagonal.

21. b. Looking at the bar graph, the height of each column indicates the frequency by using the scale on the left. March sales were a little less than halfway between $5,000 and $10,000, so $7,000 is a good reading. April and June both go up to the $10,000 mark, and May is at $15,000. Choice a is incorrect because April's sales were not above $10,000. Choice c is incorrect because fractions in a frequency table are not appropriate. Choice d is incorrect because the June sales were much lower than $25,000. Choice e does not apply since b has the correct table.

22. c. Every logic statement that is in the form "if a then b" has an equivalent statement, called the contrapositive, which is always true. The contrapositive of "if a then b" is "if not b, then not a." Therefore, by flipping the order of the statements and negating both statements you get, "If Stan is not happy, Sierra did not visit." Choice b is incorrect because it reverses the order and only negates the first statement. Choice c is not provable because the initial statement does not mention whether Sierra would or would not be happy to go away for the weekend. Choice d is not provable because the initial statement does not mention that a longer stay would make Stan happier.
23. d. This problem is modeled with two similar right triangles: the smaller one has a height of 8 and a shadow of 3. The larger one has a height of \( h \) and a shadow of 15. Setting up a proportion of height over shadow and then cross-multiplying gives:
\[
\frac{\text{height}}{\text{shadow}} = \frac{8}{3} = \frac{h}{15}
\]
\[3h = 120\]
\[h = 40 \text{ feet}\]
Choice a, 55, is the answer when the second fraction in the preceding proportion is accidentally inverted to be \( \frac{15}{h} \). Choices b, c, and e are reasonable estimates that someone might make if not using a proportion to solve this.

24. d. By definition, a circle is a collection of points that are equidistant from a fixed center point. Although equilateral triangles, squares, and regular pentagons are all symmetrical shapes that can contain a center point, that center point will be farthest away from the vertexes in that shape, so choices a, b, and c are incorrect.

25. c. The total volume of the tank is depth \( \times \) width \( \times \) length = 10 \( \times \) 24 \( \times \) 40 = 9,600 cubic feet. Because there are already 4,660 cubic feet of water in the tank, subtract 4,660 from 9,600 to see how many cubic feet of water are needed to fill the tank: 9,600 – 4,660 = 4,940 \( \text{ft}^3 \). Choice a is incorrect since 9,600 \( \text{ft}^3 \) is the full volume of the tank. Choice b is incorrect since 14,260 \( \text{ft}^3 \) is the sum of 9,600 and 4,660. Choice d is incorrect since it contains a subtraction error.

26. a. 475 multiplied by 0.08 gives 38 (multiply 475 by 8 and then move the decimal two places to the left). To simplify \( \frac{38}{6} \), 6 goes into 38 six times, with a remainder of two, and that remainder gets put over 6, the divisor. The final answer is \( 6\frac{2}{3} \). Choice b, 228, is 0.08 \( \times \) 475 \( \times \) 6, not divided by 6. Choice c, 6.2, is incorrect because the remainder of 2 must not be used as the decimal, but must be put over the divisor. Choice e is the answer to only the first step of the problem.

27. d. The sum of the angles of a four-sided polygon is 360°. Since the angles of this quadrilateral are in the ratio 1:2:2:4, there are 1 + 2 + 2 + 4 = 9 parts to consider. Divide 360° by 9 to find that each part equals 40°. Using the ratio, the angles of the quadrilateral are 1(40°), 2(40°), 2(40°), and 4(40°). The largest of these is 4(40°), or 160°. Choice a, 40°, represents the measure of the smallest angle. Choice b represents the sum of the three smallest angles in the four-sided polygon. Choice c represents the measure of the two middle angles. Choice e represents the measure of all the interior angles of a polygon.
28. **c.** Because the first minute is charged only the $1.50 fee and not the 60¢ fee, when calculating the charges for the \( m \) minutes, \( m \) must be subtracted by one before multiplying it by the 60¢ per minute charge. It is also critical to write 60¢ in decimal terms, as 0.60. Therefore, 0.60\((m - 1)\) represents what Terry will be charged for all his minutes after his first minute. Since his first minute costs $1.50, add this to 0.60\((m - 1)\) to get the total price. Choices \( a \) and \( b \) do not take into consideration that the first minute is not billed the 60¢ per minute charge. Choice \( d \) is not solving for the cost in terms of \( c \) and has the variables in the wrong places. Choice \( e \) is almost correct, but the 60¢ was not correctly converted into a decimal.

29. **b.** 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 are the multiples of three between 1 and 20. Therefore, 6 out of the 20 numbers are multiples of three. \( \frac{6}{20} = \frac{3}{10} \). Choice \( a \), \( \frac{1}{3} \), is impossible since there is not a probability fraction with a denominator of 20 that could be reduced to \( \frac{1}{3} \). Choice \( c \), \( \frac{3}{20} \), put “3” from “multiple of 3” over 20, but there are six, and not three, multiples of three. Choice \( d \), \( \frac{1}{10} \), would only be true if there were only two multiples of three between 1 and 20, but there are six. Choice \( e \), \( \frac{1}{20} \), would only be true if there were one multiple of three between 1 and 20, but there are six.

30. **c.** To graph a coordinate pair of numbers, start at the center of the graph, where the \( x \)-axis and \( y \)-axis intersect at the origin. Move left or right according to a negative or positive first coordinate, and then, staying on that number, move up or down, according to a negative or positive second coordinate. Using this method, it is true that \((-4, -3)\) lies three spaces to the left of the origin and four units down. This is in the shaded region and is therefore a solution. Choice \( a \), \((0,3)\), is on the \( y \)-axis at three, which is above the shaded area. Choice \( b \), \((-4,0)\), is on the \( x \)-axis at negative four, which is to the left of the shaded area. Choice \( d \), \((5,0)\), is on the \( x \)-axis at five, which is on the dotted line. When the lines are solid in graphs, then the points on them exist as a solution, but when the line is dotted, then the line’s points are outside the solution set. Choice \( e \), \((0,2)\), is on the \( y \)-axis at two, which is on the dotted line and, as explained for choice \( d \), is not a solution.

31. **a.** The sum of all four golfer’s scores was 341 on day one, 341 on day two, and 343 on day 3, so they shot approximately the same overall score each day. Choices \( b \) and \( c \) are incorrect since the team’s score did not change at all on the second day. Choice \( d \) is incorrect since the team was consistent. Choice \( e \) is incorrect since Monica’s score was not the lowest (or highest) score on any of the three days.
32. c. To begin solving this problem, divide the distance of 18,480 feet by 5,280 in order to see how many full miles were biked and what the remainder is. 18,480 ÷ 5,280 = 3 with a remainder of 2,640 feet. Put 2,640 feet over 5,280 feet to see what fraction of a mile 2,640 feet is. $\frac{2,640}{5,280}$ is $\frac{1}{2}$, so Carmen biked $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Choice a is only the number of full miles that Carmen biked and ignores the remaining 2,640 feet. Choices b and c are estimates of how much of a mile the remaining 2,640 feet are, but they were not calculated correctly. Choice d took the remainder of 2,640 feet and tacked it onto 3 miles, which is incorrect.

33. a. Rounding 162 to the nearest hundred yields 200 (since the tens place is greater than 5), and rounding 849 to the nearest hundred yields 800 (since the tens place is less than 5). Multiplying 200 times 800 yields a product of 160,000, since $2 \times 8 = 16$, and then you have four zeros to tack onto 16. Choice b, 180,000, incorrectly rounds 849 up to 900. Choice c, 16,000, only adds three zeros instead of four. Choice d, 1,000, adds 200 and 800 instead of multiplying them. Choice e, 128,000, multiplies 160 and 800, but 160 should have been rounded to 200.

34. b. To compute $(5 \# 6) \# 3$, begin looking at $(5 \# 6)$. The $a$ term here is 5, and the $b$ term is 6. Because $5 \leq 5$, use $a^2 - 3b; 5^2 - 3(6) = 25 - 18 = 7$. Now compute 7 # 3 by using the rule for when $a > 5$: $2(7) + (3) = 14 + 3 = 17$. Choice a, 7, is the answer of only the first step, $(5 \# 6)$. Choice c, 16, is the answer reached when the rule for $a > 5$ is used and the second step is left out. Choice d, 35, is the answer reached when the rule for $a > 5$ is used and the second step is carried out. Choice e, 90, is $5 \times 6 \times 3 = 90$.

35. c. If Loretta bought the DVD player for 30% off, that means that she only paid 70% of the original price: $(70\%)(\text{original price}) = \$77$. Divide $\$77$ by 0.70 to get $\$110.00$ as the original price. Choice a, $\$47.00$, is $\$77$ minus 30% as an integer, and percents are never handled as integers. Choice b, $\$107.00$, is $\$77$ plus 30% as an integer; again, percents are never handled as integers. Choice d, $\$100.10$, is $\$77$ plus 30% of $\$77$, but the 30% discount was off the original and not off the sale price. Choice e, $\$256.00$, is $\$77$ divided by 30%, but it should have been $\$77 \div 70\%$.

36. a. The sum of the interior angles of a triangle is $180^\circ$. Because the vertex is 3 times as large as the base angles, let the measure of the vertex angle be $3b$ and each of the base angles measure $b$. Solve the equation $3b + b + b = 180^\circ; 5b = 180^\circ; b = 36^\circ$. Therefore, the base angles will each equal $36^\circ$ and the vertex will be $3 \times 36^\circ = 108^\circ$. The sum of one base angle and the vertex is $36^\circ + 108^\circ = 142^\circ$. Choice b, $36^\circ$, is the measure of one base angle. Choice c, $72^\circ$, is the sum of both base angles. Choice d, $108^\circ$, is the measure of the vertex. Choice e, $60^\circ$, is the measure of each angle in an equilateral triangle.

37. d. In 2001 the savings account had approximately $2,250 in it, and in 2002 it had grown to about $2,750, which was a $500 increase. Choice a is impossible to determine since we do not have any information about 1998. Choices b and c both showed less than $250 in growth. Choice e is wrong since this information can be determined from the graph.
38. c. The trend of this graph is that the growth was slow in the beginning, but as the years have increased, so has the rate of growth of the savings account. If the curve were to be naturally extended through 2003, the next point would be between $3,500 and $4,000. Choices a, $2,800, and b, $3,000, would not show enough growth for the trend to continue its arc. Choices d, $8,000, and e, $10,000, are too large, and the curve would be too dramatic to follow the trend shown.

39. b. Because x is increasing steadily by 2 and the increase of y is not steady, this relationship cannot be linear, so choices a, c, d, and e are ruled out. These are all linear equations because the x value does not have an exponent. This just leaves choice b, and testing a few of the values in \( y = x^2 + 2 \) shows that this is the correct equation: 38 = 6² + 2 and 18 = 4² + 2.

40. a. The quantity \( n\% \) means "n parts out of 100." \( n\% \) can be written as \( \frac{n}{100} \) or equivalently as \( n \times 0.01 \). This equivalent of \( n\% \) then gets multiplied by 40 in order to find \( n\% \) of 40. This yields the equivalent expressions I and II. Selection IV is incorrect because when a percentage is divided by 0.01, it moves the decimal point two times to the right and the final answer would be larger than the number that is being taken a percentage of. Selection III is incorrect because multiplying the percentage by 100 will have the same result that dividing it by 0.01 would have, which was covered in the explanation of IV.

The following is a chart of the different skills assessed by the questions in this practice PPST; you can use it to identify your strengths and weaknesses in this subject to better focus your study.

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### Skills Test in Writing—Section 1, Part A

1. **c.** The word *couple* is a singular noun, which requires a singular verb. In this case, the sentence should read the *couple was eager.*

2. **b.** The comma is incorrect punctuation. Because this sentence contains two independent clauses, a semicolon (:) should be used instead of the comma.

3. **b.** The word *quick* is used as an adverb in this sentence, telling how the chicken ran. The adverbial form of *quick* is *quickly.*

4. **c.** Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice *c* is the best answer.

5. **b.** This sentence contains an error in word choice. The word *who's*—meaning *who is*—must be replaced with *whose.*

6. **d.** When comparing expensiveness, the correct use of the term is *less expensive.* There is no such word as *expensive.* This reflects an error in double comparison.

7. **e.** Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice *e* is the best answer.

8. **c.** The correct word choice would be *effectively,* meaning "to cause a result." *Affective* refers to "the ability to influence or alter someone's mental state."

9. **a.** In this comparison, the word *as* should be used instead of *like.* The use of *as* completes the idiom *such as.*

10. **b.** When two subjects are connected with the conjunction *or,* the subject that is closer to the verb will determine whether the verb is singular or plural. The verb in this sentence should be *is* because *administrator*—the closer subject—is singular.

11. **c.** This is a grammatical error. The contraction *it's*—meaning *it is*—does not make sense in this sentence. *Its* should replace *it's.*

12. **c.** This sentence compares three gowns; therefore, the superlative *most* should be used. *More* is incorrect because it is the comparative form and should be used only when comparing two things. In choice *a,* *more* is correct because the comparison is between the three gowns and all the others (two collective groups).
13. a. Scripps National Spelling Bee is a proper noun. It is the specific name used to identify a contest, so it must be capitalized.

14. c. In this pronoun error, the pronoun them is plural. The noun the pronoun is replacing is clay, which is singular.

15. c. This is an error in parallelism. Because the other two phrases in the series begin with a verb in past tense and the topic is “growing up,” becomes should be replaced with something Kate did growing up that relates to becoming British royalty. For example, the sentence could end with “and dreamed of someday becoming British royalty.”

16. a. In this sentence, the word good is being used as an adverb telling how the student thinks he or she will do on the test. Therefore, good should be replaced with well. This is a word-choice error.

17. c. The verbs have watched and began contradict each other. The sentence is poorly constructed. It would make better sense if the parents were watching (the past progressive form of the verb to show the action that was going on at the time) television when the baby began to cry.

18. c. But yet is redundant and unnecessary. One word or the other should be deleted.

19. e. Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice e is the best answer.

20. e. Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice e is the best answer.

21. d. When comparing two things—in this case, selling e-books and selling print books—the word than is used instead of then. The word then refers to a time or the next thing in a series or sequence.

Skills Test in Writing—Section 1, Part B

22. d. The clause “who is an avid gardener” is a nonrestrictive (not essential) clause and should be set off by commas. Choices a, b, c, and e are all punctuated incorrectly. In addition, choice e uses the pronoun whom, which is the wrong case.

23. c. Can’t hardly and cannot hardly are double negatives. Inserting who or whom ruins the structure and meaning of the sentence. Therefore, the sentence should just read can hardly.

24. d. The parts of the underlined series must be parallel with each other. Only choice d contains the appropriate parallel construction. Choices a, c, and e break the parallel flow of the sentence with the use of inconsistent forms of the verbs. Choice b is unnecessarily wordy and redundant.

25. d. Because the pronouns are being used as the subject in this sentence, nominative case pronouns (i.e., I, we, you, he, she, they, it) must be used. The only choice in which both pronouns are nominative case is choice d.

26. b. Sometimes a pronoun is immediately followed by a noun in a sentence. To make certain which pronoun to use, delete the noun from the pair to see which makes sense. Choices c, d, and e change the meaning of the sentence. They are incorrect.

27. c. Use the adjective fewer to modify plural nouns that can be counted. Use less for singular nouns that represent a quantity or a degree. Most nouns to which an -s can be added require the adjective fewer. Choices b, d, and e change the meaning of the sentence.
28. a. *Past* as a noun means history. *Passed* is the past-tense verb of pass, meaning *went by.* Choice a is the only choice that correctly uses both *past* and *passed* and is also punctuated correctly.

29. c. The list of information following the colon must correlate with the description preceding the colon. Choices a and b infer that just one piece of information is missing, when three items are listed as missing. Choice d has the wrong punctuation, and choice e is missing the article.

30. c. When dates or days are listed and there is a particular order to them, they should be listed in sequence. Choice e is the only one that lists the dates in sequence with the correct use of commas and semicolons for a series.

31. b. Choices a, c, and d imply that the phone was cleaning, not the person. Choice e changes the meaning of the sentence.

32. a. Use the noun *number* when referring to things that can be made plural or that can be counted. Use the noun *amount* when referring to singular nouns. *Hours* is a plural noun, so it requires the noun *number.* Choices b through e do not follow this rule.

33. c. Choice a introduces a double negative. Choice c corrects the double negative and makes sense. Choices b and d do not make sense. In choice e, the verb doesn’t agree with the subject.

34. d. Choices a through c have misplaced modifiers that make the sentence unclear. You can’t do the backstroke in the subway, but a swimmer who is in the subway can explain how to do the backstroke in a pool. In choices b, c, and e the subjects and verbs do not agree.

35. e. *Strange* describes the keyboard (a noun), not how it looked (a verb), so choice e is correct. Choice a is an adverb. Choices b through d change the meaning of the sentence.

36. d. *Break* as a verb means “separate, shatter, or adjourn.” As a noun it means “separation, crack, pause, or opportunity.” *Brake* as a verb means “slow or stop.” As a noun it means “hindrance or drag.” Choice d is the only choice in which *break* is used correctly in both instances.

37. b. Choice a is a subordinate clause and cannot stand alone as a complete sentence without a main clause. Choices c through e do not make sense.

38. a. Take special care to choose the correct word when using verbs that deal with the senses, such as *feel.* *Gently* describes how the therapist felt the spine, not how he or she felt personally. Choice a is correct because *gently* describes the verb; it is an adverb. In choice b, *gentle* is describing the therapist; it is an adjective. Choices c through e change the meaning of the sentence.

The following is a chart of the different skills assessed by the questions in this practice PPST; you can use it to identify your strengths and weaknesses in this subject to better focus your study.
### Writing Skills Study Chart for Practice Exam 1

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### Skills Test in Writing—Section 2, Essay Writing

Following are sample criteria for scoring a PPST essay.

A score “6” writer will:

- create an exceptional composition that appropriately addresses the audience and given task
- organize ideas effectively, include very strong supporting details, and use smooth transitions
- present a definitive, focused thesis and clearly support it throughout the composition
- include vivid details, clear examples, and strong supporting text to enhance the themes of the composition
- exhibit an exceptional level of skill in the usage of the English language and the capacity to employ an assortment of sentence structures
- build essentially error-free sentences that accurately convey intended meaning

A score “5” writer will:

- create a commendable composition that appropriately addresses the audience and the given task
- organize ideas, include supporting details, and use smooth transitions
- present a thesis and support it throughout the composition
- include details, examples, and supporting text to enhance the themes of the composition
- generally exhibit a high level of skill in the usage of the English language and the capacity to employ an assortment of sentence structures
- build mostly error-free sentences that accurately convey intended meaning

A score “4” writer will:

- create a composition that satisfactorily addresses the audience and given task