Answers

Skills Test in Reading

1. d. The passage states that the sloth has developed a self-defense to its predators, and then it provides an example of the sloth avoiding the harpy eagle with its adaptation. Therefore, it can be inferred that the eagle is a natural predator to the sloth, choice d. The passage states repeatedly that the sloth is very slow, but never does it suggest that the sloth is the slowest creature on Earth, choice a. Furthermore, the passage says that the sloth lives in the trees, but it cannot be inferred that it never leaves the protection of the trees, choice b. The sloth's algae protects it from being seen, but the passage does not suggest that it is dangerous to other animals, so choice c cannot be correct. The statement in choice e is not supported by the passage at all.

2. e. The slow pace of the sloth is famous, and the word renowned is being used to describe that well-known attribute; therefore, choice e, legendary, makes the most sense in the context of the passage. The sloth can be described as lethargic, but that is what the word languid accomplishes in this sentence; therefore, choice a is incorrect. The word incredibly is not describing how slow the sloth is, so choice b is incorrect. Choices c and d are incorrect as well because the sloth is not described in the passage as either dangerous or hurried.

3. c. The passage describes the sloth's movement as a self-defense mechanism. Then it adds that the fur also serves as camouflage to protect it, matching the purpose listed in choice c. The fur does nothing to aid or detract from the sloth's speed specifically, so choice a is not correct. While the fur does make the sloth unique, that is not the author's purpose in including that information; therefore, choice b is incorrect. The fur is described as a protective trait of the sloth, not something that appeals to predators in particular; therefore, choice d is not correct. Choice e is not correct because the passage does not mention or imply that the sloth's fur is warming.

4. c. The statement in choice c summarizes the idea the paragraph adds up to; it's what holds all the information in the paragraph together and is therefore correct. The statements in choices a and b describe details about Wilma Rudolph, but they do not summarize the main idea of the passage, so they are not correct. The statements in choices d and e also contain details from the passage, but since they do not reflect the entire paragraph, they cannot be correct.

5. e. The fact that Theodore Roosevelt suffered from severe asthma as a child but overcame it as an adult is most similar to the story of Wilma Rudolph. While the situation listed in choice a regarding Franklin Roosevelt is also similar, the fact that he acquired his illness as an adult makes it less comparable. The situations listed in choices b, c, and d do not present analogous scenarios of a child overcoming a debilitating illness to become a highly successful professional as an adult, so they are not correct answer choices.
6. a. The passage states that at the 1960 Olympics, Rudolph won three gold medals. This is the greatest accomplishment that Rudolph achieved as a runner; therefore, it was her zenith, or peak, choice a. Choice b, nadir, has the opposite meaning, and would suggest that that was the low point of her career. Choice c is close, but suggests that it was the end of Rudolph’s career. The passage doesn’t suggest that Rudolph stopped running after that, so this choice is incorrect. Because an epilogue occurs after an event and a midpoint occurs directly in the middle, choices d and e must be incorrect; neither statement is supported by the passage.

7. b. Answers a, c, d, and e offer opinions about the quality and benefits of the shoes. Answers c and d use clear, evaluative words—revolutionary and superior—to show they are stating an opinion. The statement in choice a doesn’t provide any evidence for this claim about the benefits of the shoes. It is difficult to prove with facts that a shoe provides incredible comfort, meaning that choice e provides an opinion rather than a fact. Only the statement in choice b states a fact; this is the only statement here that is not debatable.

8. a. Cheetahs are the fastest four-footed animals on Earth, reaching speeds of up to 60 miles per hour when they run. The name of the shoe, therefore, suggests that the shoe is built for speed and that if you wear them, you’ll be able to run faster. Therefore, the statement in choice a is the most likely reason for the naming of that particular shoe model. None of the other choices present as likely a prediction for its naming, given the qualities most commonly associated with a cheetah.

9. d. The first paragraph mentions many similarities between two of the most popular children’s book authors. The author includes the fact that their families were German to show another way that they were alike, choice d. Choice a suggests that the best children’s authors always come from Germany, which is not correct. The heritage of the authors does not tell about the way Eric Carle created his illustrations, so b is incorrect. The reason is also not to stress a strong family life, choice c. Because the passage is about the talent from Germany specifically, choice e cannot be correct.

10. c. This question asks for the one attribute of Seuss and Carle that is NOT mentioned in the passage as a similarity between the two writers. The passage says that both men wrote and illustrated children’s books (choice a), were born in the United States (choice b), inspired children to read with their stories (choice d), and had their books translated into other languages (choice e). Dr. Seuss drew his illustrations by hand; Eric Carle uses pieces of colored paper to create collages for his illustrations. Therefore, choice c is correct.

11. c. The second paragraph of the passage tells about Eric Carle’s collage process. The author does this primarily to contrast with the process that Dr. Seuss uses to create his illustrations, choice e. The explanation of the collage process may tell students a way to create artwork (choice a), show why a book was popular (choice d), or see another way that Carle was very talented (choice b), but those are not the most likely reasons why the author mentioned the collage process. The collage process is unique to Carle’s books, so choice c cannot be correct.
12. b. The passage is structured neatly with the comparisons of two artists given in the first paragraph and then a difference, the style of the artwork, explained in the second paragraph. The organization does not relay the accomplishments of one artist and then another, so choice a is incorrect. Likewise, the passage does not describe the careers of two artists in chronological order, making choice c incorrect. The passage does not describe artists and then illustrators, nor does it give any readers' responses, making choices d and e incorrect.

13. b. The word *strored* is a positive word that most nearly means *celebrated*, choice b. While the word seems to have “story” in it, the meaning has little to do with the elements of a story, including whether it is *fictional, elaborative, or imaginative*, choices a, d, or e. *Infamous*, choice e, has a negative connotation that would not be associated with a word with a positive connotation, such as *stored*.

14. c. The passage presents comparisons and contrasts between Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss, but the main idea is that both are successful and ultimately inspire their young readers. Therefore, choice e best summarizes the passage. The statements in choices a and c are too general to reflect the entire passage, and choices b and d include only supporting details for the main idea.

15. a. To create a distinction, a word or phrase needs to act as a transition and change the direction of the text. The term *on the other hand* does this, so choice a is correct. *As well* provides an additional similarity, so choice b is not correct. *Regardless*, choice c, may change direction, but in the context of the passage it only acts to disregard the illustration method and not to create a distinction between the authors. Choices d and e are not correct because neither *such as* nor *as a result* creates a distinction between the two authors.

16. c. The statement in choice e can be supported because the winter months January, February, and March all show more snowfall, in inches, than rainfall. None of the other statements can be supported. Choice a is incorrect because the graph only shows the winter months, and you cannot determine whether there was any snowfall in the other months of the year. Choices b, c, and d can all be disproven with the sizes of the bars in the graph.

17. c. The passage refers to Mount Vesuvius as “The only active volcano on mainland Europe.” Therefore, any other active volcanoes in Europe must reside off the mainland; Mount Etna can be found in Sicily, an island off of Italy. The statements in choices a and b are not supported by information in the passage, so they cannot be concluded to be correct. The passage makes no mention of the severity of the post-A.D. 79 eruptions, so the statement in choice c cannot be supported. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 was certainly catastrophic, but it cannot be determined from the passage that it was the *most* catastrophic in the world, making choice d incorrect as well.
18. b. Though Mount Vesuvius has traditionally been a very active volcano, the passage describes it as atypically dormant since 1944. Therefore, the meaning of dormant must be the opposite of active, which is inactive, choice b. Though the volcano may be dangerous, threatening, and explosive, the word dormant is not being used to describe the volcano in those terms, making choices a, c, and e incorrect. The area near the mouth of the volcano may be overdeveloped, but dormant does not have this meaning, so choice d is incorrect.

19. c. The passage begins with a description of the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The purpose of this description is to show how dangerous the volcano is, making choice c the most likely reason. While the description of the event illustrates the power of nature and provides some history of ancient Italy (choices a and d), those are not the author’s primary reasons for providing the information; he or she is trying to make a specific point about Mount Vesuvius. The information about the A.D. 79 eruption does not do anything to describe the government’s measures to increase safety, choice b, nor to accentuate the frequency of the volcano’s major eruptions, choice e.

20. a. The passage begins with the famous A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius, and then the author uses that historical event to frame the importance of safety in the current-day Bay of Naples, which he or she then describes. While the dangers of the volcano are initially provided (choice b), the organization of the passage does not then present safety measures. The sentences in choices c and d focus too much on the geology of the volcano to describe the entire passage, so they are incorrect. For choice e, no specific warning is presented at the beginning of the passage, so it cannot be correct.

21. d. The author’s central argument in the passage is that Mount Vesuvius is very dangerous, and that people should not live so close to its mouth. This argument would be most strengthened if it were predicted that the volcano would have another major eruption in the next decade or two (choice d). The statement in choice a is irrelevant to the central argument and neither strengthens nor weakens it. The statements in choices b and e make Mount Vesuvius seem less dangerous, so they weaken the argument and are therefore not correct. The precise amount offered to the families living near Mount Vesuvius does not significantly alter the author’s argument either, so choice c is incorrect as well.

22. d. The primary purpose of the passage is to express the dangers of Mount Vesuvius. The fact that it is the only active volcano in mainland Europe does not specifically make it more or less dangerous, so choice d is the best answer. The details provided in choices a and c help show how potentially dangerous the volcano is by showing its power and frequency, so those choices are not correct. The statement that Mount Vesuvius has not erupted since 1944 might make it seem like the volcano is less dangerous, but that belies the fact that it is still active and hazardous; therefore, choice b is incorrect. The passage mentions how many people live close to the volcano’s mouth to accentuate the specific danger to many people who live in the area, making choice e incorrect as well.
23. c. *Sympathetic* can be defined as favorably inclined. Because the author presents details that support the need for a student dress code, *sympathetic* best describes his or her attitude. The author is supportive of a dress code, so choice a is incorrect. Because he or she seems convinced about the effectiveness of a dress code, choices b and c are incorrect as well. The author may be concerned about students' well-being, but that is not the same as being concerned about a dress code. The best adjective should present a positive spin on a dress code, so choice d is not the best answer.

24. c. The author’s main argument is that a dress code is a good idea. The only statement in the answer choices that weakens this argument is given in choice c, because restricting students’ independence would not be a positive result. The statements in choices a, b, and d would all strengthen the author’s main argument because each choice adds further support that a dress code is a good idea. The statement in choice e is not relevant to the author’s argument and neither weakens nor strengthens it.

25. c. The third sentence of the passage provides its main idea. The sentence in choice e is a rewording of that sentence and is therefore the best summary of the passage. The sentences in choices a, b, and c are all supporting details that back up the main idea that Goran Kropp is an independent and determined adventurer. Based on the details from the story, Kropp was not reckless and thoughtless, so choice d could not be correct.

26. d. The part of the passage where the author uses the phrase “In addition” comes where Goran Kropp’s journey to Mount Everest is described. Specifically, it refers to the difficulties Kropp faced in riding his bicycle to the base of the mountain, making choice d correct. The phrase did not relate specifically to Kropp’s mountain-climbing abilities, so choice a is not correct. It also does not refer to Kropp’s decision to adventure independently or cautiously, making choices b and c incorrect. Kropp may have put himself in danger with his bicycle ride, but the statement in choice e is too extreme; Kropp does not exactly risk his life by getting chased by dogs, stung by wasps, or drenched by the rain.

27. a. The passage focuses on Kropp’s unique desire to travel alone and without the aid of modern technology. That description best suits the description of John Fairfax, who rowed across an ocean (which uses only his own manpower) and did his adventure alone. The adventurers listed in choices b and c did not accomplish their feats alone, so those are not the best choices. George Washington is not especially known for solo adventures, so choice d is not correct. Amelia Earhart may have done things by herself, but her use of airplanes means that she relied on technology—and therefore was not as similar to Kropp as Fairfax, according to the passage.

28. c. An opinion cannot be supported with actual evidence. Whether an action is easy or difficult cannot be supported; it is a matter of opinion, making choice c correct. Each of the statements presented in choices a, b, d, and e contains information that can be verified. Therefore, those statements are all facts, and those choices are therefore incorrect.
29. a. Throughout the passage the author depicts Kropp as a determined adventurer; even after having to turn back from the summit of Everest, he returned two days later after the storm passed. Therefore, the justification given in choice a is the most likely reason that the author included this information. The fact that Kropp did not continue climbing through the bad weather is indicative that he is not simply a daredevil, making choice b not the best option. The inclusion of that information was specific to Kropp and not about mountain climbing in general, so choices c and d cannot be correct. Likewise, choice e is too general and not supported by the passage either, making it an incorrect choice.

30. c. The passage begins with an event that occurred when Goran Kropp climbed his first mountain at age six. It then continues through his adventure to Mount Everest, and ends when he rode his bike home after reaching the summit. Therefore, the best description of the organization of the passage is in chronological order (choice e). The organization is not structured using compare and contrast, problem and solution, or cause and effect, so choices a, b, and d are not correct. If choice c were correct, the most important details would appear in the beginning of the passage. Because that's not the case, choice c is not correct.

31. a. An opinion cannot be proven. The statement in choice a is an opinion because it cannot be proven. The statements in choices b, c, d, and e each contain information that could be proven in some way. For that reason, each of those statements contain facts instead of opinions; choices b, c, d, and e are therefore incorrect.

32. c. The final sentence of the passage insinuates that because so many students watch television, it is another reason why the school day should be extended; therefore, the inference is that television is not an effective use of a student's time (choice e). The passage does not specify that students should be involved in more after-school activities, just that the school day should be extended; choice a is therefore incorrect. While the passage says that students frequently must wait for two hours, it doesn't say when students get home; therefore, it cannot be deduced when the parents get home, making choice b incorrect. Nowhere in the passage is it mentioned that being at home is unsafe or that students should be given extra homework, so choices c and d are likewise incorrect.

33. c. The passage discusses Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity and how and why it so greatly affected the world of physics. Therefore, the statement in choice e most closely describes the primary concern of the passage. The passage focuses only on Einstein's theory of special relativity, so choice a is not correct. While the passage does relate the speed of light, mass, and energy, this is only a detail of the passage and not its primary concern; therefore, choice b is not correct. The passage does not discuss harmful effects or potential drawbacks of the discovery, making choices c and d incorrect.
34. b. The beginning of the passage mentions that Einstein had many discoveries. However, it then goes on to focus on one particularly important discovery; the phrase but despite is used to help make that transition from the general to the specific. The phrase one of does not focus the content on one specific discovery, so choice a is not correct. The phrase deceptively simple describes the equation from the theory of special relativity, but it does not focus the passage on the specific discovery, so choice c is not correct. The phrase by relating does not act as a transition, and as a result describes the consequences of the discovery; neither phrase serves to focus the content of the passage on a specific discovery, so choices d and e are not correct.

35. b. The previous sentence from the sentence that contains the word multifarious describes Einstein's numerous achievements. The multifarious array of significant discoveries also describes the numerous discoveries; therefore, varied shares the closest meaning. There were many significant discoveries, but the discoveries themselves were not multitalented or nefarious (meaning evil) themselves, thus making choices a and c incorrect. While the discoveries were certainly groundbreaking and unique, the word multifarious is not being used to describe them in those ways; therefore, choices d and e are also not correct.

36. d. The first sentence of the passage provides readers with a meaning of the Cambrian Period, so the sentence does provide a definition (choice d). Nothing is being compared or contrasted in this initial sentence, so choices a and c are not correct. The sentence describes the evolution of life only within the Cambrian Period, not the entire history through the present, so choice b cannot be correct. While there was an explosion of growth during the Cambrian Period, the sentence does not explain the origin of life on the planet, making choice e incorrect as well.

37. a. The passage states that life on Earth advanced from single-celled organisms to more complex animal groups during the Cambrian Period. It is for that reason that the Jurassic Period, with its massively complex creatures, must have followed the Cambrian Period. There is no indication that sharks originated during the Cambrian Period, even though "some" of the more complex organisms still exist. Additionally, although there was an explosion of life during this period, there is no evidence that there was a greater variety of life on planet Earth during the Cambrian Period than during any other period, so choices b and c are not correct. While the reason for the increase of life during the Cambrian Period is unknown, it cannot be concluded that it is because of a lack of available fossils. In fact, there are fossils from the Cambrian Period, so choice d must be incorrect. The passage tells you the length of the Cambrian Period (about 54 million years), but you cannot use that information to determine that it was the longest period in Earth's history. Choice e is therefore incorrect.
38. b. The author tells the readers in the last sentence of the passage that scientists don't agree on why life diversified so greatly during the Cambrian Period. Therefore, choice b makes the most sense. The author does not explain a scientific phenomenon or disprove a claim in the final sentence, so choices a and d are not true either. Because the author is simply saying that scientists don't exactly know why the explosion of life occurred, no other information is being provided, making choices c and e incorrect.

39. d. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven. It can be proven that the United States is culturally diverse and that its climate ranges from freezing to hot—or that some areas are so cold that an ice cube will rarely melt. However, perfect weather is a matter of opinion. Some people might like cold weather. Some people might like hot weather. That's why the fourth sentence in the passage is an example of an opinion. Each of the other sentences from the passage, represented by choices a, b, c, and e, are examples of facts instead of opinions.

40. a. The passage contrasts the climate extremes in the United States, comparing the frigid to the torrid. Therefore, torrid must have the opposite meaning of frigid, such as hot; the best word to describe that opposite is sweltering (choice a). The temperatures may be dissimilar, but the word torrid is describing how they are dissimilar, so choice b is not correct. Glacial and lukewarm do not describe the weather as hot, so choices c and d are incorrect. While a torrid temperature may be uncomfortable, the word torrid cannot be replaced with uncomfortable in the passage and keep the same meaning; therefore, choice e cannot be correct.

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.
Answers

1. c. If 30 men each have 42 square feet, then the dormitory has $30 \times 42 = 1,260$ square feet in total. $1,260 \div 35 = 36$ square feet, which is the amount of square footage each man will now have, but this does not yet answer the question (incorrect choice a). Because the men now have 42 square feet, subtract 36 to get how much less square footage he will have: $42 - 36 = 6$, so each man will have 6 fewer square feet. Choices b, d, and e all do this last step of subtraction incorrectly.

2. c. To determine the cost of 3,800 gallons of water from each company, multiply 3,800 by the cost per gallon and then add the flat fee. So Sea Horse Pool Servicing Professionals would cost $531 (3,800 \times 0.12 + $75 = $531), which is the incomplete answer and incorrect choice a. Penny’s Pool Services would cost $595 (3,800 \times 0.15 + $25 = $595), which is the incomplete answer and incorrect choice b. Because $595 - 531 = 64$, Sea Horse Pool Servicing Professionals would be $64 cheaper. Choice d lists the right savings, but the wrong company. Choice e almost uses the correct equations but forgets to turn the 15¢ and 12¢ into dollars by moving the decimal point two places to the left: $(3,800 \times 15 + $25) - (3,800 \times 12 + $75) = $11,350.

3. b. If 200 customers were surveyed at first and then 1,200 were surveyed, the best way to predict how many people would choose vanilla ice cream would be to multiply the results of the first survey by 6, since $200 \times 6 = 1,200$. Because the original survey had 75 votes for vanilla, multiply 75 by 6 to get 450. Choice a could not work because that is how many people chose vanilla out of just 200 people, so it would not be the same number when surveying 1,200 people. Choice c was the closest, but 525 is 75 times 7, and the sample size was only 6 times as big as the original. Similarly, choice d is 75 times 8, but the sample size was not 200 \times 8 people large. Choice e cannot be correct because that is almost the entire sample size, and in the first survey of 200 customers, less than half chose vanilla.

4. d. The factors of 14 are 7 and 2, and because 14Q is divisible by 48, Q must be divisible by 24 (the 2 factor from 14 would have to multiply by a factor of Q to get 48, and $2 \times 24 = 48$). Because Q must be divisible by 24, then Q is also divisible by all factors of 24. The only answer choice that is not a factor of 24 is 14.

5. e. The fox population doubled from 10 to 20 from 2009 to 2010, but after that it did not double for the next two years, so choices a and d cannot be true. The deer population doubled from 20 to 40 and then from 40 to 80 from 2010 to 2012, so choice b is true. Choice c is also true; the owl population increase was neither rapid nor steady since it stayed the same in 2009 and 2010, and again remained unchanged from 2011 to 2012. Choice e contains both of the true statements, a and c.
6. b. The trend of the owl population does not show a steady increase, which rules out choice a. Choice c mentions a decline in the owl population, but it did not decrease at all during this four-year period. Choice d does not make sense since an illness in the owl population would lead to decline, not to steadiness. Choice e is not supported by the data—the recovery of the fox population does not affect the change in the owl population. Choice b is a reasonable hypothesis to why the owl population did not show the same recovery growth as the other two groups.

7. a. In order to find the volume of any regular prism, multiply the surface area of the bottom or top face by the height of the prism. In this case, the area of the triangular base is given in square inches, but the height of the vase is given in feet. When 16 square inches is multiplied by 18 inches (which is 1.5 feet), then the correct answer is 288 inches², which is answer choice a. Finding the area of the vase by incorrectly adding 16 square inches and 18 inches would give 24 inches², which is incorrect answer choice b. Finding the area for triangles involves taking half of the base and multiplying that by the height. Therefore, one error possible to make when answering this question is taking half of the area of the base before multiplying it by 18 inches: \( \frac{1}{2} \times 16 \times 18 = 144 \) square inches (incorrect answer choice c). This is incorrect because the area of the base has already been calculated and does not need to be divided by 2 again. Choices d and e both used incorrect translations of a foot and a half into inches: 16 \( \times \) 16 = 256 (choice d) and 16 \( \times \) 20 = 320 (choice e).

8. c. To compare percentages, fractions, and decimals, it is easiest to convert them all into fractions. "Percent" means out of 100, so 6% means six out of 100, or \( \frac{6}{100} \), which reduces to \( \frac{3}{50} \) when you divide the numerator and denominator by two (choice c). The fraction in choice a is equal to the repeating decimal 0.666 \( \ldots \) which is 66\( \frac{2}{3} \)% The answer in choice b is equal to the \( \frac{60}{100} \), which is 60%. Choice d cannot work because percentages are always represented in decimals that are between 0 and 1, with 1 being 100%, so 6.00 would be 600% and not 6%. Choice e does not work because the six is over one thousand and not one hundred, so \( \frac{6}{10,000} \) would be 0.006% and not 6%.
9. c. On the xy-plane, points are plotted in coordinate pairs. A coordinate pair consists of the x-coordinate first, which shows the horizontal location of a point. The x-coordinate will be positive when a point is to the right of the origin (the origin is the place where the x- and y-axis cross). An x-coordinate is negative when a point is to the left of the origin. The second coordinate in a pair is the y-coordinate, which shows the vertical location of a point. The y-coordinate will be positive when the point is above the origin and negative when the point is below the origin. Using point C, you can see that its x-coordinate is 6. Because point D is directly below it, point D will also have an x-coordinate of 6. This rules out answer choices b, c, and d. Looking at point A, which has a y-coordinate of −3, you can see that point D will also have a y-coordinate of −3. Therefore, choice e is the coordinate pair that has the correct x- and y-coordinates, (6, −3).
Choice a has a y-coordinate of −4, which would be one space directly below point D. Choice c, (−1, 4), would be the correct answer for point B.

10. c. The formula for the area of a square is $A = s^2$ where s is the side length. Because squares are symmetrical with all equal sides, you just need to find the length of one side. In this case, the side length of $\overline{AD}$ is 7 because the x-coordinate goes from −1 at point A to 6 at point C. Because $7 \times 7 = 49$, the square has an area of 49 square units. Choice a incorrectly multiplies the coordinates of 6 and 4 in point C. Choice b squares just the 6 x-coordinate in point C. Choice d incorrectly determines that the side length is 9 by incorrectly combining coordinates 6 and 3: $9 \times 9 = 81$. Choice e incorrectly determines that the side length is 5 by incorrectly combining coordinates 6 and −1 or coordinates 4 and −1: $5 \times 5 = 25$.

11. d. Use the relationship, “Discounted Price = Original Price − Amount of Discount.” Let $p$ = the Original Price. Then the Amount of Discount would equal $(0.20)(p)$. This can be used in the equation as follows: $960 = p - (0.20)(p)$. Therefore, $960 = 1p - (0.20)(p) = 0.80p$. Because $960 = 0.80p$, divide both sides by 0.80 to get $p = $1,200. Choice a is unreasonable since $768 is already lower than the price after the computer was discounted. ($768 would be the price after removing 20% from the already discounted price of $960.) Choice b assumes that 20% is the same as $200, and it adds $200 to $960 to get $1,160. This is incorrect because 20% of $1,160 will be more than $200. A common mistake is to take 20% of $960, which would be $192, and then add $192 to $960 to get $1,152. This is wrong because 20% of $1,200 will be greater than $192, so the sale price after taking 20% of $1,152 would not be $960, ruling out choice c.
12. a. Because circle A represents all numbers that can be written in the form $2x + 1$, where $x$ is all integers greater than or equal to $0$, circle A contains all odd numbers, since odd numbers can always be expressed in the form $2x + 1$. Because circle B represents all factors of 24, circle B contains 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 24. The only overlap of the points that are in circles A and B are the two numbers, 1 and 3. Choice b is an odd factor of 24, but this answer forgets the odd factor 1. Choice c is the sum of the two odd factors of 24. Choice d is the number of factors of 24, with the exception of 1 and 24. Choice e is the total number of factors of 24.

13. b. An important thing when translating “less than” into an algebraic expression is to remember that the order of the algebraic terms must be swapped. So in this case, the two must come after the subtraction sign. This rules out choices a and d as being possible. Another crucial translation is writing the square of a number as $x^2$ and not as $\sqrt{x}$ (which is the “square root of $x$”). This additional detail rules out choice e. The remaining choices are b and c. $(4x)^2$ is actually “the square of the product of four times a number” and $4x^2$ is four times the square of a number. Therefore, $4x^2 - 2$ (choice b) is the proper translation.

14. a. The uniforms were 20% of the budget and transportation was 30% of the budget, so allow the budget to be $x$ and express the difference between transportation and uniforms: $0.30x - 0.20x = $550. This simplifies to $0.10x = $550, so $x = $5,500. Choice b accidentally adds the percentages and uses this equation $0.30x + 0.20x = $550 to get $x = $1,100. Choice c only divides the $550 by 30%, ignoring the 20% of the uniforms. Choice d only divides the $550 by 20%, ignoring the 30% of the transportation.

15. d. When modeling inequalities on a number line, an open circle symbolizes that this number is not part of the solution (so a < or > symbol is reflected by an open circle). Conversely, a closed circle is used to model part of the solution (so a ≤ or ≥ symbol is reflected by a closed circle). Because the solution set includes both of the endpoints -1.4 and 2, the circles must be filled in as well as the data points in between. Therefore, choice d best models $-1.4 \leq x \leq 2$. Choice a models the inequality $-1.4 < x < 2$. Choice b models the inequality $-1.4 > x > 2$. Choice c models the inequality $-1.4 \geq x \geq 2$.

16. b. Because the ribbon lengths are given in yards and feet, first see how each girl’s ribbon translates into feet: Philana’s 11 and a half yards will be 33 feet + 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet, because 11 yards is 11 × 3 feet and half of a yard is 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet. Philana’s ribbon totals 34\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet. Since Emily has \(\frac{2}{3}\) of Zosia’s 30 feet, multiply those to see how many feet Emily has: \(\frac{2}{3}(30)\frac{1}{3} = 10\frac{10}{3}\) feet, which is 20 feet. Together the three girls have 34.5 + 30 + 20 = 84\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet. Because the answer calls for inches, multiply 84\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet by 12 to get 1,014 inches. Choice a confuses 84\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet with 84\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Choice c turns the 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) yards into inches and then forgets to consider the other two girls’ lengths of ribbon. Choice d forgets to turn the 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) yards into feet first and combines 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) with 30 feet and 20 feet, getting 66\(\frac{1}{2}\) feet, which is 798 inches. Choice e turns Emily’s ribbon into \(\frac{2}{3}\) more ribbon than Zosia’s ribbon and wrongly concludes that Emily has 30\(\frac{2}{3}\) feet of ribbon: \((34\frac{1}{2} + 40 + 30\frac{2}{3})/12 = 1,262\) inches.
17. a. $f \times g$ must be divisible by 2, 3, and by 6, since $6 = 2 \times 3$, so choices b, c, and d are all correct. It is possible that $f \times g$ is divisible by 5 (for example, 30 is divisible by 2, 3, and 5), so statement e is correct. $f \times g$ does not have to be divisible by 4 (for example, 6 is divisible by 2 and 3, but not by 4), so statement a is not correct.

18. c. Because Sohail bought 4 raffle tickets for Asad and three times that for Amara, he bought $4 \times 3 = 12$ tickets for Amara, which means there were 16 tickets in total between the two of them. To find the probability of an event happening, the number of desired events must be put over the total number of events. In this case, there are sixteen “desired events” (tickets belonging to Asad or Amara) and 80 total events (total number of tickets). Probability can be written as a fraction or as a decimal (between 0 and 1). In this case all the answers are given in decimal form, so $\frac{16}{80}$ must be turned into a decimal. Using long division to do this, 0.20 is the correct quotient. Choice a is the probability that Asad alone will win: $\frac{4}{80} = 0.05$. Choice b is the probability that Amara alone will win: $\frac{12}{80} = 0.05$. Choice d is the probability that Asad and Amara would win if they had 20 tickets between them: $\frac{20}{80} = 0.25$. Choice e is the probability that Asad and Amara would win if they only had 7 tickets between them: $\frac{7}{80} = 0.0875$, which rounds to 0.09.

19. d. This is an example of indirect variation because as the number of painters increases, the time in hours decrease. With indirect variation, a proportion is used by setting a ratio of the independent variables equal to the dependent variables. It is essential to position the dependent information in the right place so that when the independent increases, the dependent will decrease. (In this case the painters are “independent” because they are determining how long the painting will take, and not vice versa). The proportion of $\frac{6 \text{ painters}}{12 \text{ hours}} = \frac{8 \text{ painters}}{\text{new hours}}$ will work because the unknown hours will be less than the 12 hours it would take 6 painters to do the job. Cross-multiply $\frac{6}{12} = \frac{8}{\text{new hours}}$ to get $8(\text{new hours}) = 72$, and $\text{new hours} = 9$. Choice c, 10 hours, incorrectly assumes that because there are two more painters it will take 2 fewer hours to complete the job; this does not consider the rate per hour at which the painters all work. Choice e mistakenly sets up the proportion as $\frac{6}{\text{hours}} = \frac{12}{\text{hours}}$ which doesn’t make sense because then 8 painters are taking more time to finish the job than the 6 painters would have.

20. d. Choices a, c, and e are not correct since Charge Card Interest has increased over the four years shown, not decreased. Choice b is not correct since Online Purchases have increased over the four years shown, not decreased. Choice d is correct since Online Purchases have increased and In-Store Purchases have decreased over the four years shown.
21. e. First, notice that Charge Card Interest was exactly $100 in 2001 and $150 in 2002. The only table that does not display these two points correctly is b, so rule that one out. Next, notice that Charge Card Interest was the same in 1999 and 2000, perhaps around $80 or $90. Charts c and d display different amounts for Charge Card Interest in 1999 and 2000, so those cannot be correct. The only possibilities now are a or e, so check the rest of the data in table a. In-Store Purchases show a regular decline in the bar graph, but in table a they show an increase from 1999 to 2000, so this table is not fully accurate and the correct answer is e.

22. a. If Charge Card Interest profits were $150,000 in 2002 and $40,000 in 1997, they experienced an increase of $110,000. To calculate the percentage increase between two numbers, divide the difference between the two numbers (found using subtraction) by the original number. So in this case it would be $\frac{110,000}{150,000}$. There are several ways that this could be translated to a percentage, but we will use long division and then multiply it by 100. (To change a decimal to percentage you multiply by 100, but to change a percentage to a decimal, you divide it by 100.) In this case $\frac{110,000}{150,000} = 2.75 = 275\%$, choice a. Choice b mistakes the Charge Card Interest profits of $150,000 in 2002 for the percentage increase. Choice c mistakes the difference of $150,000 and $40,000 to be the percentage increase, but it is just the dollar amount of the increase. Choice d mistakenly puts the $110,000 increase in profits over the new profits of $150,000 instead of over the original profits of $40,000: $\frac{110,000}{150,000} = 0.7333$. Choice e cannot be correct because if profits only increased by 100%, then they would have doubled by 2002 and been only $80,000, not $150,000.

23. c. To find the area of the non-shaded part of the drawing, subtract the area of the smaller circle from the area of the larger circle. The formula for the area of a circle is $A = \pi r^2$. Using this, the area of the entire pool and border space is $A = \pi (8^2)$, which is 64$\pi$ (incorrect answer a). Using the area formula again, the area of just the pool is $A = \pi (5^2)$, which is 25$\pi$ (incorrect answer b). Subtracting 25$\pi$ from 64$\pi$ gives 39$\pi$ (correct answer c). Choice d adds 25$\pi$ to 64$\pi$ to get 89$\pi$. Incorrect answer e subtracts the radii of 5 and 8 before applying each radius in the area formula, and this cannot work because each radius must be squared before subtracting them (the correct order of operations must be respected): $A = \pi (8^2 - 5^2) = 9\pi$.

24. d. A square yard is 3 feet by 3 feet, which is 9 square feet. Therefore, to calculate the square feet of tile needed, the square yardage needs to be multiplied by 9. The manager needs to order $9\pi$ square yards of tile, which is $9\pi$ square feet. Choice a incorrectly uses a multiple of 12, thinking that the 12 inches in a foot need to be multiplied by the square yardage of $9\pi$. Choice b incorrectly uses a multiple of 3, thinking that the 3 feet in a yard need to be multiplied by the square yardage of $9\pi$, but really the 3 feet need to be squared first. Choice c incorrectly squares 12 (because area was being calculated) and then uses 144 as the multiple of $9\pi$. Choice e incorrectly doubles the 3 feet in a yard and then uses 6 as the multiple of $9\pi$. 

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25. c. John's first 100 minutes will be free because they are included in the monthly price of $6.95. That leaves 140 minutes at $0.05 per minute, which will cost 140 \times $0.05 = $7 in addition to the $6.95, which is $13.95. Choice a is just the cost of the additional 140 minutes. Choice e uses 0.50 for the cost per minute to incorrectly calculate that the additional 140 minutes cost $70 instead of $7. Choices b and d are close approximations to the correct answer, but are not based on the correct method outlined here.

26. c. The acronym PEMDAS is helpful when doing problems that deal with order of operation. Parentheses come first, followed by exponents. Then multiplication and division are done simultaneously in the order of left to right. Addition and subtraction follow, and are also done simultaneously in the order of left to right. Remember, that 2^4 is 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2, not 2 \times 4. Using these pieces of information, 5 + 3 \times 2^4 = 5 + 3 \times 16 = 5 + 48 = 53. Choice a makes the mistake of performing 2^4 as 2 \times 4: 5 + 3 \times 8 = 5 + 24 = 29. Choice b makes the mistake of performing 3 \times 2 before using the exponent: 5 + 6^2 = 5 + 1,296 = 1,301. Choice c makes the mistake of adding 5 plus 3 before multiplying by 2^4: 5 + 3 \times 16 = 8 \times 16 = 128. Choice d makes a combination of the mistakes made in b and c: 5 + 3 \times 8 = 8 \times 8 = 64.

27. b. This is a problem that can be solved by drawing similar triangles and then writing a proportion to solve. Make two different ratios, each one representing \frac{\text{height}}{\text{shadow}} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{24}{x}, where x = \text{length of tree's shadow}. Since the numerator 24 is 6 times larger than the numerator of 4, you can multiply the denominator of 6 by 6 also, and then the fractions will make a correct proportion: \frac{4}{6} = \frac{24}{36}, so x = 36 and the shadow will be 36 feet long. Choices a and c do not make sense since both of those shadow lengths are shorter than the 24-foot tree. Because the 4-foot girl cast a shadow longer than herself, the 24-foot tree must also cast a shadow longer than itself. Choice c comes from setting the proportion up incorrectly by having \frac{\text{height}}{\text{shadow}} in one fraction and \frac{\text{shadow}}{\text{height}} in the other fraction.

28. c. The median measure in a set of data is the middle number when the data are listed from smallest to largest. In this case there are six pieces of data, so there is not one middle data entry, but two entries that must be averaged: 4, 6, 6, 8, 11, 13. The average of the two middle numbers is 7, so 7 is the median. Choice a is incorrect because it is the average (arithmetic mean) of all the data entries: 4 + 6 + 6 + 8 + 11 + 13 = 48 and 48 + 6 = 8. Choice b is incorrect because 6 is the mode, or data entry that occurs most frequently in the data set. Choice d is incorrect because 4 is the minimum of the data set. Choice e is incorrect because 12 is the average of the two data entries that are in the middle in the table (11 and 13), but the two middle entries need to be taken from the ordered list of data from smallest to greatest.
29. **a.** To round numbers to the nearest hundred, look at the tens place: if the tens digit is 5 or higher, round the next number to the nearest hundred. If the tens digit is less than 4, round down. 152 becomes 200; 2,812 becomes 2,800; 445 becomes 400; 8,451 becomes 8,500; and the sum of 200 + 2,800 + 400 + 8,500 is 11,900. Choice **b** is 11,900 rounded to the nearest thousand. Choice **c** incorrectly rounds every number up, not looking at the tens place in each one: 200 + 2,900 + 500 + 8,500. Choice **d** incorrectly rounds every number down, not looking at the tens place in each one: 100 + 2,800 + 400 + 8,400. Choice **e** incorrectly rounds every number to the nearest ten, not to the nearest one hundred: 150 + 2,810 + 450 + 8,450.

30. **d.** To solve this, isolate each of the equivalent places in each number and find the sum for that place. If necessary, you may have to carry over a digit to the next place. The correct answer combines the ones places to get: 1 + 7 = 8; the tens places to get 50 + 00 = 50; the hundreds places to get 100 + 800 = 900; the thousands places to get 4,000 + 2,000 = 6,000; and the ten thousands places to get 50,000 + 0,000 = 50,000. Combined, these terms are 50,000 + 6,000 + 900 + 50 + 8, choice **d**. Choices **b** and **c** accidentally tack a zero onto 4,157 so that it would have as many digits at 52,801. Choice **b** is an incorrect addition of 41,570 and 52,801 that forgets to carry a one from the hundreds to the thousands place. Choice **c** is the correct addition of 41,570 and 52,801 but the incorrect answer to this problem. Incorrect choice **e** only combines the 50,000 from the 52,801 with 4,157.

31. **c.** There are two ways this problem can be solved. First, you can use the acronym FOIL (Firsts, Outsidens, Insides, Lasts) to remember the order of multiplication that needs to happen between the following pairs of terms to expand the binomial: $(3x - 4)^2 = (3x - 4)(3x - 4) = 9x^2 - 12x - 12x + 16 = 9x^2 - 24x + 16$. The second way to do this is to work backward by plugging in a value for $x$ and seeing which expression gives you the same value. For example, $(3x - 4)^2 = 16$ when $x = 0$, because $(3 \times 0 - 4)^2 = (-4)^2 = 16$. This disqualifies choice **a**, which gives $-8$ when $x = 0$. It also disqualifies **c**, which gives $-16$ when $x = 0$. Next, investigate what happens when $x = 1$: $(3 \times 1 - 4)^2 = (3 - 4)^2 = (-1)^2 = 1$. Choice **b** yields 25 when $x = 1$, so this cannot be correct. Choice **d** yields 3 when $x = 1$, so this cannot be correct. Choice **e** yields 1 when $x = 1$, so this must be the correct solution.

32. **d.** The most important thing to remember when combining algebraic terms with exponents is that terms with the same exact variables and exponents ("like terms") can be added and subtracted. (Although not needed for this question, algebraic terms with different variables and exponents can be multiplied and divided.) Write the expression so that the like terms are grouped together (when moving terms, you must keep the sign to the left of each term with that term). Once like terms are grouped together, add or subtract the coefficients and keep the terms separate. $3x^2 + 7x^2 - 8a^2 + 7a^2 - 2ax + 4ax = 10x^2 - a^2 + 2ax$ (choice **d**). Choice **a** multiplies all the coefficients together instead of adding and subtracting them. Choice **c** almost performs these steps correctly, but here the exponents in each of the like-term groupings are added. Choice **b** also adds the exponents, but just of the middle terms, $-2ax$ and $4ax$. 

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33. **d.** For each of the two meat choices there are three vegetable choices, so there are 6 combinations of meat and vegetable (for hamburger, there will be three combinations with each of the different vegetables and for chicken there will also be three pairings). Therefore there are 24 different combinations. This is calculated by performing $2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$. Choice **a** is $2 + 3 + 4 = 9$. Choice **c** would have been appropriate if there were 2 meat, 3 vegetable, and only 3 dessert options because $2 \times 3 \times 3 = 18$.

34. **a.** Each meter has 100 centimeters in it, so you need to multiply the total number of meters by 100 centimeters. $5 \frac{3}{4}$ is the same as 5.75, so 5.75 meters will have $5.75 \times 100 = 575$ centimeters in it. Choice **b** confuses $5 \frac{3}{4}$ for 5.34 and then multiplies 5.34 by 100. Choices **c** and **e** make mistakes converting meters into centimeters, multiplying 5.75 by 1,000 and 10,000, respectively. Choice **d** combines the errors found in choices **b** and **d**.

35. **b.** Before he draws the first card, Jake has 2 red cards, 7 black cards, and 9 cards in total. After he flips the first card, which is red, there are still 1 red card, 7 black cards, and 8 cards in total. To find the probability of an event happening, the number of desired events must be put over the total number of events. In this case, there is one “desired event” (red card) and 8 total events (total number of cards). Therefore the probability that Jake's second card will be red is $\frac{1}{8}$. Choice **a** mistakenly compares the 1 red card left to the total number of cards there were to begin with. Choice **c** mistakenly compares the 2 red cards to the remaining number of cards; however, after the first card was flipped, we know that only 1 and not 2 red cards are left. Choice **d** is the probability that the second card will be black, because there are 7 black cards left out of the 8 that remain. Choice **e** is the probability that the second card will be black, but forgets that there are no longer 9 cards left, and therefore, compares the 7 black cards to 9.

36. **e.** A line of symmetry is a line that divides a shape into two symmetrical halves. Rectangles and hexagons can be divided in half by connecting the midpoints of opposite sides. A rhombus is a 4-sided figure whose four sides all have the same length. A rhombus often looks like a kite and can be divided into two halves by connecting its opposite vertices. An isosceles triangle has two equal base angles and its line of symmetry exists from the midpoint of the base side to the vertex angle. A scalene triangle has 3 angles and 3 sides that are all unique and does not have a line of symmetry.
37. a. This scatter plot shows a positive correlation because the general trend models an increase in the y values as the x values are increasing. It does not show a negative correlation (choice b), as that would be a downward-sloping collection of points, not upward sloping as shown. An inverse relationship (choice c) is when the dependent variable (y) decreases as the independent variable (x) increases, so the graph would have a negative slope. Choice d is not correct because there is an obvious trend, and a trend line could be drawn to model the trend shown. Choice e is not correct because the values of the x- and y-coordinates are unimportant when determining the general type of relationship.

38. a. To compare decimals, add zeros to the right of the decimal point so that all the numbers have the same number of places to the right of the zero. In this case, every number should be extended to the thousandths place: -0.150; -0.015; 1.002; 0; and 1.010 will be compared to -0.020 and 1.020. -0.150 has a larger absolute value than -0.020, which means that since it is negative, it is less than -0.02, so choice a is correct. -0.015 has a smaller absolute value than -0.020, which means it is larger than -0.02 because it is negative; therefore, choice b is not correct. 1.002 has only two thousandths, so it is smaller than 1.020, which has 20 thousandths, thus eliminating choice c. Zero is always between any negative and positive numbers, so choice d is eliminated. You can see that 1.010 is smaller than 1.020, so choice e is eliminated.

39. c. Square roots are treated like exponents and must be dealt with before the other operations of addition and subtraction. You have to take the square roots of the individual numbers before adding them. You cannot add or subtract numbers that are in square root symbols. This means that choices a, b, and d contain incorrect statements. Investigating choice c, we see that \(\sqrt{9} = 3; \sqrt{25} = 5;\) and \(\sqrt{64} = 8.\) Because 3 + 5 = 8 is a true statement, this choice is correct.

40. e. In order to graduate, Rodney needs at least an average of 74 in his Geometry class. The average of five pieces of data is found by adding them all up and dividing that sum by five. In this case we do not have the fifth piece, so we take a different approach. Because Rodney needs to earn an average of 74 over 5 tests, that means that the sum of his five tests must be \((74)(5) = 370.\) This is true because 370 + 5 = 74. His first four tests sum to 280: 64 + 72 + 68 + 76 = 280. This is 90 points shy of the sum of 370 he needs, which means that he must score a 90 on his fifth test in order to have an average of 74. Choice a is the average of his first four tests because 280 / 4 = 70. Choice b is wrong because it supposes that the average of the first four tests (which is 70) must average with the fifth test to be 74: \(\frac{70 + 78}{2} = 74.\) This is not correct because it is a weighted average that gives the score of the fifth exam as much weight in the final score as all the other tests combined. This is not how this professor will determine the average. A fifth test score of 80 would give a final average of 72, so choice c is not correct. A fifth test score of 85 would give a final average of 73, so choice d is not correct.
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. Verb tense should be consistent throughout a sentence. If a sentence describes an event in the past, its verbs should all be in the past tense. Receives should be received.

2. a. Commas are needed to set off the appositive phrase an eight-year-old Maltese dog.

3. d. Enough cannot be modified by very.

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

5. d. Loose is an adjective that means the opposite of tight or restrained. Lose is a verb and means to miss something. In this case, the correct word choice is loose because the dogs must be restrained.

6. d. This sentence contains an error in comparison. A writer can compare two nouns or two verb phrases but should not compare a noun with a verb phrase. Choice c is a verb phrase, so choice d must also be a verb phrase. The underlined portion could read riding on a catamaran in Calcutta.

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

8. a. Beside means next to, and besides means in addition to. Therefore, in this case, the sentence should read Besides the fact . . .

9. d. When used as an adjective, everyday is one word. However, in this case it should be two words (every day) because it is not being used to describe a noun.

10. b. The –ing form of the verb covering, in this case, needs a helping verb to make sense. Helping verbs include is, has, has been, was, had, had been, and so on. The major newspapers have been covering the story . . . would make sense in this sentence.

11. c. Use a colon to introduce a list when the clause before the colon can stand as a complete sentence. In this sentence, it doesn’t make sense if you end the sentence after the verb are, so the colon should be deleted.

12. c. Perfect is in its superlative form. Some words represent qualities that are either present or absent. A life can be perfect or not perfect. There is no condition of being a degree of perfect.

13. a. Children is a plural noun even though it does not end in –s. We add an ’s to plural words not ending in –s to show possession.

14. c. The pronoun they does not agree with the antecedent event. Event is singular; they is plural.

15. d. This sentence lacks parallel construction. The items in the series list must all be in the same form or part of speech. Efficient and skilled are adjectives; communicated is a verb form.

16. a. Farther refers to distance; it is the comparative form of far when referring to distance. Further means to a greater degree. This sentence implies the stock market will decline to a greater degree; therefore, the correct word choice is further.

17. d. This sentence contains a dangling modifier. It mistakenly modifies the wrong noun. To be correct, modifying phrases at the beginning of a sentence should describe the subject of the sentence that directly follows the comma. To correct the sentence, we could finish the sentence with “. . . Maria quickly took out her basketball and sneakers.”

18. b. Overdue means late, such as having an overdue library book. Overdo refers to doing too much. In this case, overdo is the correct word choice.

19. e. Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice e is the best answer.
20.  c. Because there are no grammatical, idiomatic, logical, or structural errors in this sentence, choice e is the best answer.
21.  d. This sentence contains an error in comparison. When comparing two items, we need to match the form of the two entities. To correct this sentence, we could end it with... taller than the Eiffel Tower in France?

Skills Test in Writing—Section 1, Part B
22.  c. Which includes massage and yoga is a nonessential clause. The meaning of the sentence is not changed when it is deleted. Commas set off nonessential clauses. Choices a and b are missing the commas to offset the clause. Choices d and e have changed the nonessential clause to an essential clause by using that.
23.  e. Using nobody and hardly in the same sentence makes it a double negative; therefore, choice e is correct. No body would refer to there being no physical body, so choices c and d do not make sense.
24.  b. To give this sentence parallel construction, we have to make both entities match in form. Changing television to watching television matches it to reading. Choice c uses funner, which is not a word. Choice d uses then, which is not the correct word choice to compare things. Choice e uses televising, which changes the meaning of the sentence.
25.  a. Choice a is correct because it is the only choice that uses its in both cases. Its shows possession, while it's is the contraction for it is. Also, tale refers to a story; tail refers to the part of the dog that wags.
26.  c. In choices a, b, d, and e, we aren't sure if it was the car or the tree that was or wasn't damaged. The pronoun it does not identify which noun was damaged. Choice c clearly states that the tree was not damaged.
27.  a. Sure is an adjective; surely is an adverb. In this case, surely acts as a sentence-adverb by telling how or what he meant (verb). Choice b is a sentence fragment. Choice c incorrectly uses sure (an adjective) to describe meant (the verb). Choices d and e change the meaning of the sentence.
28.  b. Choices a, c, and e misspell the plural noun parentheses. Choice d needs a comma to offset the introductory phrase ending with power and doesn't need the comma after parentheses.
29.  e. All the choices are sentence fragments except choice e. Sleeping needs a helping verb.
30.  d. Beautiful and intelligent are both adjectives, so choice d contains parallel construction. None of the other choices are parallel because the entities do not match.
31.  d. Choices a, b, and c are all sentence fragments. In choice e, Russian is a proper adjective and should be capitalized.
32.  c. In choice c, both words are the correct adjective forms needed to allow the sentence to make sense. The other choices do not consistently use the adjective form of the intended words.
33.  d. Choice d is correct because it is the only choice that does not contain double negatives.
34.  b. In choices a and c, we don't know if the doctor was ill or the patient. Choice d is a run-on sentence. Choice e changes the meaning of the sentence. Choice b is correct because it is clear that the patient fell ill, not the doctor.
35. a. Choices c, d, and e are incorrect because they use _badly_ (an adverb that would imply how I felt) instead of _bad_ (describing the noun I). Imagine feeling around with your hands and doing a bad job at it, perhaps because you are being too rough as you feel around—that’s feeling badly. Also, _really_ is an adverb describing the adjective _bad_.

36. b. Choice b correctly uses these plural nouns: _phenomena, hypotheses_, and _theories_. All the other choices incorrectly use at least one of the plural nouns.

37. c. The original sentence (a) and choices b, d, and e contain errors in subordination because they have two subordinate clauses. By deleting _because_, the sentence makes sense. So, choice c is correct.

38. a. Choices b and d contain incorrect punctuation. Choices c and d incorrectly use _nearly_ (an adjective) instead of _near_ (an adverb). Choice e uses the wrong _there_.

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 Study Chart for Practice Exam 3

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