Skills Test in Writing

Section 1, Part A
Directions: Choose the letter for the underlined portion that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error in the sentence, choose e.

1. In the United States, three states—a, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin—b is scenes of fierce debate over c legislation aimed at curtailing the power of labor unions. No error d e

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21. Of all the people running for governor, Samuels was less likely to win based on his progressive 
   views. No error 
   a  b  c  d  e

Section 1, Part B
Directions: Choose the best replacement for the underlined portion of the sentence. If no revision is 
   necessary, choose a, which always repeats the original phrasing.

22. My instinct was to take my time to figure out the problem, but I only had one hour to finish 
   the whole test. 
   a. problem, but 
   b. problem but 
   c. problem; but 
   d. problem: but 
   e. problem, but,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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