Answers

Skills Test in Reading

1. c. This paragraph explains that wolves used to live in the Yellowstone area until conflict with humans caused them to disappear. The wolves moved to Canada (choice b), and were a threat to ranchers (choice d), but these choices are too narrow and do not reflect the main idea of the paragraph. You can eliminate choices a and e because there is nothing in the paragraph to suggest that gray wolves were treated unfairly, or that it was important to reintroduce them to Yellowstone.

2. a. Biologists hoped that wolves would help balance the elk and coyote populations. Restoring the park’s plant diversity (choice b) was a factor, but not the main motive. Ranchers and farmers objected to the wolves killing their livestock, so choice c can’t be the reason for reintroduction. And although the wolves are technically endangered, the Yellowstone wolves are governed by special, looser rules, so choice d can be eliminated. There is no evidence to suggest that wolves were reintroduced to increase tourism, so choice e is not correct.

3. d. The phrase although the wolves are technically an endangered species suggests that the Yellowstone wolves are going to be an exception. More specifically, the word technically tells us that the exception will be to their endangered status. It only suggests the legal definition of endangered (choice a), but does not explain it. Choice b, that the government controls the wolves’ status, is a true statement, but it is not the best answer to the question. The statement also does not explain why the wolves are endangered (choice c) or how science is utilized during the reintroduction (choice e).

4. b. Paragraph 2 describes the outcome of the wolf’s disappearance. Although the events occur in chronological order (choice c), they are organized to show cause and effect. There is no compare/contrast in the paragraph, and the events are not given in order of importance, so choices a and d are incorrect. The paragraph is also not broken down by classification, meaning that choice e is not correct either.

5. d. The author concludes the article by listing some of the positive effects of the wolf’s return: beaver and red fox populations are being restored, and elk and coyote populations are balancing to normal levels. Thus the author must not believe that the program was a mistake, choice a. Choice b is not broad enough to encompass the main idea of the whole passage. Choices c and e, on the other hand, are too general because the article only discusses Yellowstone Park and does not comment on the wolf’s role in other national parks or about the disruption of life in general.

6. e. The author’s argument is that the reintroduction of the gray wolf is beneficial. The only statement that provides a definitively negative result of the reintroduction would be the possibility of reduced genetic variability. The statements in choices b and d provide positive effects of the reintroduction, so they would strengthen the author’s argument. The statements in choices a and c neither strengthen nor weaken the author’s argument; because the information does not affect the argument, those choices cannot be correct.
7. c. Like the gray wolf, the muskox was driven to extinction within a particular geographic area, then it was reintroduced back to those lands at a later date. The polar bear is threatened, but it has not been reintroduced, so choice a is not correct. The possum was introduced to New Zealand, causing environmental havoc, but it was not reintroduced there, so choice b is not correct. The moa was hunted to extinction centuries ago and never reintroduced, and the housecat has not itself been in any danger of extinction, so choices d and e are not correct.

8. c. The only inference that can be supported from the graph is that Amy spent the same on clothing as she did on everything else in July: $50. The statements in choices a, b, and d are predictions based on the data that cannot be concluded. The statement in choice e is not true according to the information in the graph, since Dan spent more on movies and games in July than Toby did.

9. b. One of the reasons against another moon landing is the unavailability of important resources. The word *dearth* is used to describe this unavailability, or *scarcity*. The word *death* is similar to *dearth* in spelling but has a very different meaning, so choice a is incorrect. The opposite meaning of *dearth* is *abundance*, so choice d is incorrect. The resources may be important or useful, but the word *dearth* does not suggest those meanings, so choices c and e are incorrect.

10. a. The selection begins with the statement that Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon and then mentions that eleven other men have also walked on the moon, ending with Harrison Schmitt in 1972. Therefore, it can be inferred that a total of twelve men have walked on the moon. The passage states that an extended stay on the moon can pose a danger to astronauts, but because it does not give any specific timeframe, choice c cannot be correct. There is no evidence in the passage to support the statements in choices b or d, so they are incorrect. Choice e is disproven with the final sentence; a trip to Mars will be *significantly more difficult*, not *equally as hard*.

11. e. The final sentence of the passage suggests that man should return to the moon. This is an opinion in contrast with the facts presented earlier in the selection. The first three sentences of the passage provide verifiable facts about the early manned trips to the moon, so choices a, b, and c must be incorrect. The financial costs of a trip to the moon, even if it's just an estimate, can be verified, so choice d is not correct.

12. d. The author's main argument is that mankind should return to the moon, despite all the reasons against it. If a rare and valuable resource were available on the moon, that would be another incentive to return—thus strengthening the argument. Choices a and b are incorrect: if space travel were easier from a space station instead of from the moon or if the moon has no oxygen, then there would be more reasons against a return—thus weakening the argument. The statements in choices c and e provide additional information about space travel but are not particularly related to the argument about a return to the moon; therefore, they are not correct.
13. a. In the midst of listing reasons not to return to the moon, the author describes the satellite as a *big rock*. This expression refers to the moon as something uninteresting or unimportant. Therefore, the purpose is to downplay the importance of returning, despite the fact that the author is merely making a counterargument. The author's purpose in using the expression is not to describe the physical characteristics of the moon, thus eliminating choices b, d, and e. Furthermore, it does not serve to describe a reason to return, making choice c incorrect.

14. d. Despite spending much of the passage listing reasons not to return, the author ends the passage by listing his or her support for a return to the moon. Therefore, the correct answer choice will contain a word that supports a return, such as *essential* (choice d). Choices a and c contain negative adjectives, so they do not match the author's attitude. While a return may be *scientific* or *timely*, the author does not focus on the scientific benefits or the timeliness of a return, making b and e less-than-ideal choices.

15. e. The author's main idea is that man should return to the moon, if only to practice for further expeditions into space. The details in choices a and d do not relate significantly to the main idea, so they are not correct. The statements in choices b and c contradict the author's main idea and therefore do not support it.

16. b. According to the graph, in 2007 there were more than 700 wolves in Idaho and more than 300 wolves in Wyoming; combined, the population of wolves in both states surpassed 1,000. The inferences in choices a, c, and d cannot be supported because that information is not given by the graph. The statement in choice e is not true according to the graph; the line graph shows a total of more than 500 wolves in the two states in 2004.

17. b. The passage states that once the difficult Hillary Step is conquered, it is only a few hundred feet of moderate climbing to the mountain's top. Therefore, the step is the final significant obstacle to the mountain's summit. Because there is still several hundred feet to ascend after the Hillary Step, however, choice e cannot be correct. The statements in choices a and d do not explain why the step is so well known but instead provide some history for a physical feature of the mountain. The statement in choice c is not supported by the passage; while the Hillary Step is surely difficult, it is extreme to suggest that it is one of the most difficult technical climbs in mountain climbing.

18. c. The end of the passage accentuates the difficulties that Edmund Hillary faced in his initial ascent of Mount Everest; therefore, his climb must be respected; the best synonym for *venerable* is therefore *admirable*. The climb itself may have been *hazardous* or *technical*, but *venerable* is describing the achievement and not the climb, so choices a and b are not correct. The rope is *advantageous*, and the resulting climb may be *victorious*, but neither word can be used to replace *venerable* in the passage, making choices c and d incorrect.
19. a. The passage mentions the advantage of the fixed ropes that adorn the Hillary Step, a climbing advantage that was not always available; therefore, though it may still be difficult to ascend, it is easier than it used to be. There is no mention in the passage that the step is responsible for many deaths or requires several hours to pass (choices b and c). The passage does state, however, that there are several hundred feet above the step, making choice d incorrect. Hillary and his Sherpa first ascended the step together in 1953, but the passage does not suggest that they have been the only ones to ever do so, thus making choice e incorrect.

20. d. The final sentence of the article states the main idea: Duncan Brin is responsible for the new success of the Dowshire Ducks baseball team. The sentences in choices a, b, c, and e only provide supporting details from the passage or other information that is not relevant to the main idea.

21. a. The beginning of the passage provides details about the Dowshire Ducks today, then contrasts those positive details with negative details with the team’s past. The passage then concludes with the overall main idea. Because the passage does not begin with a main idea, a definition, or a problem, choices b, d, and e are not correct. While the passage provides a contrast between the past and present of the team, the organization is not entirely based on comparisons and contrasts, making choice c incorrect.

22. a. The word *teeming* is being used to describe the bleachers of a baseball stadium—specifically, how many cheering fans are in them. Therefore, the best word to replace *teeming* will likewise describe the size of the crowd. Although the word ends in *-ing*, *teeming* is an adjective; therefore, choices b and e do not contain proper words to use to replace *teeming* in the passage. The bleachers may be *energized* by the crowd, but the closest meaning of the word relates to the size of the crowd, not its energy, so choice c is not correct. *Vacant*, choice d, has the opposite meaning and is therefore incorrect as well.

23. d. The author follows the portrayal of the continents as puzzle pieces with a physical description of their shapes. Therefore, it is their physical relationship that he or she is most concerned with. The author’s purpose is not to contrast the continents but rather to stress their connection, so choice a is incorrect. The purpose is also not to describe the mystery or minimize the importance of the continents, which means choices b and c are incorrect. There is nothing in the passage to suggest any problems scientists faced in determining the causes of continental drift, so choice e is also not correct.

24. b. The author uses the word *cursory* to suggest that it would not take much time to notice an obvious pattern in the globe’s continental patterns. A replacement word, therefore, could be *brief*, *hurried*, or *superficial*. Choices a and c include words with an opposite meaning, so they cannot be correct. Choices d and e contain words that have little relation to the word *cursory* and are therefore incorrect as well.
25. b. The author makes the argument that the African and South American continents were once joined together. If the same plant was found to have lived on both continents, it would lend support to that argument. On the other hand, if species are unique to each continent alone, it would not strengthen the author’s argument; therefore, choice d is not correct. The statements in choices a and c are largely irrelevant to the author’s main idea, making those answer choices incorrect. The statement in choice e also does not reinforce the theory of continental drift, so it is not correct.

26. e. The final sentence of the passage states that different plates can move in different directions, resulting in the current positions of the continents. Therefore, it can be inferred that the African and South American continents exist on separate plates. Alfred Wegener developed the theory of “continental drift,” but the theory of plate tectonics followed later; the passage does not suggest who proposed the theory of plate tectonics, but the statement in choice a cannot be inferred. Although there was no ocean between Africa and South America, that does not mean that Earth had no oceans; choice b is therefore incorrect. The passage does not compare the sizes of the continents, just their shapes, so choice c is incorrect. The passage also does not discuss the specific support for or against the continental drift theory, so choice d is not correct.

27. b. To find the primary purpose, you need to find the statement that best sums up what the entire passage is about. The best description of the passage’s primary purpose is that it describes the unique eating habits of a type of sea spider (choice b). The passage mentions one similarity between land spiders and sea spiders—that both have eight legs—but this is not what the passage is mostly about, so choice a is not correct. The passage does not mention any warnings about sea spiders, so choice c is not correct. The statements in choices d and e are mentioned in the passage, but those statements are not the focus of the passage.

28. a. The first paragraph of this passage tells about one specific invention created by Benjamin Franklin: a stove called the Franklin stove. While Benjamin Franklin was responsible for many great inventions, the paragraph does not mention more of his inventions, so the statement in choice b is not the primary purpose. The paragraph does not tell much about how a stove works, so the statement in choice c is not the primary purpose either. The passage mentions that Franklin could have made a lot of money from his stoves (choice d), but he refused to patent it and so did not make money from the invention. The first paragraph compares stoves, but that is not the primary purpose of the paragraph, so choice e is not correct.
29. c. The word however separates the riches that Franklin could have received from his invention with his noble decision to share the stove's design. It is not being used to provide a physical description, provide additional benefits of the stove, contrast its advantages and drawbacks, or compare the apparent usefulness with its costs; therefore, choices a, b, c, and d are all incorrect.

30. d. Benjamin Franklin was the inventor of the Franklin stove. Therefore, according to the passage, he was offered the right, or permission, to patent his stove. Check the answer choices to see which word or phrase most closely fits the meaning of right in the given sentence. In fact, you can even replace the terms in the answer choices with the word right from the passage. Only legal claim (choice d) makes sense. While right may mean correct, good health, turn, or exact in other contexts, it refers to a legal claim in the context of the sentence. Therefore, choices a, b, c, and e are not correct.

31. d. Based on the fact that Franklin turned down the opportunity to patent his stove in the quote at the end of the passage, it can be inferred that Franklin was less concerned with making money than with helping his fellow humans (choice d). There is nothing in the passage to suggest that Benjamin Franklin was afraid of making a fire, so choice a is not correct. The passage mentions that Franklin could have become one of the richest people in America had he patented his stove, but because he did not he was neither extremely rich nor interested primarily in making money. Therefore, choices b and c are not correct either. While the passage describes Franklin as a great inventor, it does not describe his life as a scientist or a politician, so the statement in choice e cannot be inferred.

32. c. The passage mentions that the Franklin stove burned less wood and generated more heat than previous designs. This means it was very efficient, choice c. The price, size, or style of the stove was never mentioned in the passage, so it cannot be inferred that the Franklin stove was expensive, small, or stylish, choices a, d, or e. The Franklin stove was designed to be much safer than other stoves, so choice b is not true.

33. d. The author's main argument is that human beings are unique for their ability to live almost everywhere on the planet. The statement in choice d describes one human settlement near the North Pole, thus supporting the main idea. A statement about animals would not support the main argument as directly, so choices a, c, and e are not correct. Choice b is not correct because the taxonomy of the species is not directly related to the argument.

34. b. The author lists three human settlements with extreme conditions: a city that receives virtually no rainfall would also reinforce the argument that the human species has impressive adaptability skills. Facts about the Mariana Trench or Venus do not relate to places where human beings live, so choices a and d cannot be correct. Choice c is about penguins, so it cannot be correct either. Choice e would not reinforce the argument because it does not relate to the argument in any significant way.
35. c. The author lists three animals and their specific habitats. The author then contrasts those limited habitats to human beings’ ability to live almost anywhere. Therefore, the role of mentioning the kangaroo’s habitat is to contrast with humanity’s spread. The role is not to contrast with the habitat of the polar bear; in fact, the habitat is similarly limited, so choice a is not correct. No mention is given of humanity’s encroachment or limited reach, so choices b and d are not correct. The mention of the kangaroos in Australia does not provide an extreme environment, so choice c is not correct either.

36. a. It cannot be proven that one player changed the game of soccer more than any other player. The other four choices provide statements that can be verified, such as the year and place of his birth (choice b), a league he played in (choice c), the number of goals he scored (choice d), and the fact that he was given a title from a large institution (choice e).

37. a. The main idea of the passage is that Pelé was an amazing soccer player who helped transform the sport. His name, place of birth, and year of birth do nothing to support that main idea. The fact that he played for 20 years, helped increase interest in the sport, scored 1,281 goals, and was called the “Athlete of the Century” all help support the main idea, so choices b, c, d, and e are not correct.

38. c. The passage focuses on Pelé’s talent and his impact on the game of soccer. Because he transformed his sport in a similar way, Babe Ruth is most similar to Pelé. Cristiano Ronaldo and Landon Donovan are great soccer players, but because they did not change the sport like Pelé did, choices a and e are not correct. Dilma Rousseff is from Brazil, but she did not influence a sport like Pelé did, so choice b is not correct. Charles Haley was a successful athlete, but he likewise did not have a lasting impact on his sport, so choice d is incorrect.

39. b. The author lists the numbering system for the U.S. presidents, then provides a more rational numbering system. Therefore, he or she most likely believes that the current system is illogical. That is the opposite of rational, so choice e is incorrect. There is no indication in the passage that he or she believes the numbering system to be humorous, reverential, or presidential, so choices a, c, and d are incorrect as well.

40. b. An anomaly is an abnormality or irregularity, which makes choice b the best option. The words in answer choices a, c, d, and e do not make sense in the context of the passage and do not share a close meaning to anomaly.

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. The median is the central number (or average of two central numbers) when the numbers are listed in increasing order (or least to greatest). In this case, the central two numbers are averaged to find the median: 8, 9, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17. The average of 10 and 12 is 11, so Boyd’s median fish was 11 inches. Choice a is the minimum. Choice b is the average, or arithmetic mean. Choice d is the mistaken median of the data when it is analyzed in the order presented, rather than in the order of least to greatest (10 and 14 are the center points in the given list, and the average of those is 12). Choice e is the mode, or the most frequently-occurring data point.

2. d. Since w is divisible by both 24 and 6, it must also be divisible by all the factors of 24 and 6. 18 is a multiple of 6, but not a factor of 24 or 6. For example, w could be 24, which is divisible by 12, 4, 3, and 8, but not divisible by 18.

3. b. First, evaluate each statement by focusing on the totality of each sentence—the word all is very strong and must have complete backing. Statement I does not have to be a fact, since facts A and C do not guarantee that all dogs who like to swim also look like their masters. We only know that some dogs who like to swim will also look like their masters. This eliminates choices c and d. Since all dogs like to run and some dogs like to swim, statement II does have to be a fact, since the subset of dogs who like to swim are contained in the larger set of all dogs who like to run. Similarly, statement III must be a fact because it has been established by fact A that all dogs like to run, so therefore, it does not matter if a dog looks like its master or not, it will like to run. Since statements II and III are correct, choice b is the answer.
4. c. When a point is reflected over the x-axis, its x-coordinate stays the same, and the sign of its y-coordinate changes. Therefore, when $(8,-2)$ is reflected over the x-axis the resulting point will be $(8,2)$. Choice a is the resulting coordinate when $(8,-2)$ is reflected around the $y=x$ line. Choice b is the resulting point when R is reflected over the x-axis. Choice d is the resulting coordinate pair when $(8,-2)$ is reflected over the y-axis. Choice e is the resulting coordinate pair when $(8,-2)$ is rotated 180 degrees.

5. c. The perimeter of a house is the distance around the outside of the base of the house. Centimeters, inches, and millimeters would be too small to measure a house and would be better to measure the distance around a coffee table. Kilometers would be appropriate to measure the distance around a large farm or industrial property. A meter is approximately three feet, and this would be the proper unit to measure the perimeter of a house.

6. b. The word product means multiply. To multiply mixed fractions, it is necessary to change each fraction into an improper fraction before multiplying straight across. Turn the mixed fractions into improper fractions by first multiplying each whole number by the denominator in its adjoining fraction. Then add that product to the numerator and put it over the original denominator:

$$\frac{1}{8} = \frac{1 \times 8 + 1}{8} = \frac{9}{8}$$
$$\frac{3}{5} = \frac{3 \times 5 + 3}{5} = \frac{8}{5}$$

Then to multiply fractions, multiply the numerators and denominators straight across and then reduce the fraction to its lowest terms:

$$\frac{9}{8} \times \frac{9}{5} = \frac{9 \times 9}{8 \times 5} = \frac{81}{40} = \frac{9}{5}$$

Lastly, put $\frac{9}{5}$ back into a mixed fraction by dividing 9 by 5 (it goes in once) and putting the remainder of 4 over the denominator of 5: $\frac{9}{5} = 1 \frac{4}{5}$. Choice a multiplies the two whole numbers and incorrectly adds the numerators and denominators of the fractions. Choice c multiplies the whole numbers and fractions independently, which is incorrect since each mixed fraction must be converted to an improper fraction first before multiplying. Choice e is the sum (addition) of the two fractions, not the product.

7. c. Multiply the price by the mark-up percentage to get the mark-up amount (but remember to turn the percentage into a decimal by moving its decimal two times to the left).

$(12.20)(0.30) = 3.66$ (incorrect answer a, since this is only the mark-up). Then add that to $12.20 to get the selling price of $15.86. Choice b is incorrect since it is $12.20 just multiplied by the incorrect conversion of 30% (3.0 and not 0.30). Choice d is just 30 cents added onto the original price, not 30 percent. Choice e is just an estimate, but it is not backed up by any correct math.
8. c. According to the statement given, if someone has his or her driver's license in New York, then it is certain that he or she is either over 18 years old, or is over 16 years old and has passed driver's education class. It does not guarantee the reverse—that if you are over 18 then you have your driver's license (this rules out choice a). Choice b is incorrect since you can have your license if you are under 18, as long as you have passed driver's education. Choice c is incorrect since you can have your license without having passed driver's education, as long as you are over 18. If you are over 18 and you have passed driver's education, it is possible to have your license, but these two things do not guarantee that you have your driver's license, which rules out choice d.

9. a. Percentage means "out of 100." If you do not have 100 items, then you can divide the "part" of something over the "whole" of something, and the resulting percent will be the number out to the hundredths place. Therefore, since there are a total of 25 coins in Mario's pocket, and 8 of them are dimes, the percentage of dimes in Mario's pocket is: 
\[
\frac{\text{# of dimes}}{\text{total # of coins}} = \frac{8}{25} = 0.32 = 32\%.
\]
Choice b is the percentage of coins that are not dimes. Choice c is the number of coins in Mario's pocket, not the percentage of coins that are dimes. Choice d is the number of dimes in Mario's pocket, not the percentage of dimes. Choice e is the percentage of coins that are either nickels or dimes, since \( \frac{10}{25} = 40\% \).

10. b. Since Bren worked 13 days at 8 hours each, he worked 104 hours. When the total amount of money paid ($10,400) is divided by 104, it comes out to $100 per hour (incorrect choice a), but this does not take into account the expenses Bren had for supplies. When those expenses are subtracted from $10,400, Bren's net income was $6,240. This divided by 104 hours yields $60 per hour. When Bren's expenses of $4,160 are divided by 104 hours, the answer is $40, but this is incorrect since it uses the expenses and not Bren's income, so choice c is not correct. Choice d is also not correct since it represents Bren's net income of $6,240 divided by 13 workdays of only 6 hours, and not 8 hours. Choice e is a good educated guess, but it is not based on any exact calculations.

11. d. To find the volume of a box, multiply the length, width, and height dimensions. First, $3 \times 3 = 9$, then multiply 9 by $2\frac{1}{2}$. To do this, turn the $2\frac{1}{2}$ into the improper fraction $\frac{5}{2}$, and multiply this by $\frac{9}{2} \times \frac{5}{2}$. This is equivalent to $22\frac{1}{2}$. Choice e is an incorrect conversion of $\frac{5}{2}$ into an improper fraction. Choice a multiplies 9 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ incorrectly (the $\frac{1}{2}$ is treated independently in this multiplication). Choice b is the volume of a box that measured 3 by 3 by 3, since $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$. Choice c is a good educated guess, but it is not based on any exact calculations using the dimensions given.
12. c. Looking at this graph, you can see that the approximate rate of growth of the amount of carbon dioxide found in the atmosphere has been about 10 parts per million each decade. In 1960, there were about 330 ppm, and approaching 2000, the approximation was close to 370 ppm. Therefore, the best estimate for 2012 would be 380 ppm. Choices a and b are incorrect since this would show a steady decline or leveling off of carbon dioxide, which is not the trend illustrated here. Choices d and e both estimate too high.

13. a. A good estimate for 1990 would be approximately 360 ppm. Written as a fraction this is $\frac{360}{1,000,000}$ which is reduced first by ten to $\frac{36}{10,000}$ and then by four to $\frac{9}{2,500}$. Choice b is a better estimate for a year before 1970, and choice c is a good estimate for the year 2000 ($\frac{370}{1,000,000} = \frac{37}{100,000}$). Choice d would be 360 parts per 1,000, since $\frac{360}{1,000} = \frac{36}{100}$, which is equivalent to 36%. Choice e is one decimal point off, since $\frac{360}{1,000,000} = 0.00036$ and not 0.0036.

14. d. Choices a and c are not correct since the graph does not show a trend of slowing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the twenty-first century or from 1970 to 1980. Choice b is not correct since although the graph does show a jagged curve, there is a clear trend of increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as time progresses. Choice e is not correct since no inferences on the levels of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere can be made based on the graph. It is likely that the expanding human population has lead to practices which have increased the levels of carbon dioxide found in the atmosphere, so choice d is an accurate statement.

15. c. Seven times the number of skateboards Steve owns should be expressed as "7s". Choice a is incorrect because it is just the expression for the 7 times the number of skateboards that Steve owns. Next, consider that "less than" means subtraction, but remember that the tricky thing when translating "less than" into an algebraic expression is that the order of the terms is flipped. This means that the "3" will come after the "7s" in the subtraction expression: $7s - 3$. Choice b is the expression for "7s less than 3," while choice e is the expression for three more than seven times the number of skateboards that Steve owns. Choice d is three times seven times the number of skateboards that Steve owns.

16. c. The data set 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10 has the same mode as the data set 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 10, since 8 is the most commonly occurring number in both sets. The mean, or average, will become slightly lower since a new minimum has been added to the data set. The median, which is the middle number when the numbers are arranged from least to greatest, is 7.5 in the original set (the average of 7 and 8). In the new set the median is 7, so this has changed. Adding 4 to the data set changes the range from 5 to 6.
17. a. The formula for perimeter is \( P = 2l + 2w \), and since you are given the perimeter and the width, substitute these values into the formula and solve for \( l \):
\[
P = 2l + 2w \\
50 = 2l + 2(10) \\
50 = 2l + 20 \\
30 = 2l \\
l = 15 \text{ feet}
\]
Choice b is not correct since 40 feet is just the difference of the perimeter of 50 feet and one of the widths—it does not take into consideration that there are two widths and two lengths. Choice c considers the two widths of 10 feet and subtracts those from the perimeter, but then forgets to divide 30 feet by 2. Choice d just divides the perimeter by 2, which gives the length of 1 width plus 1 length, but then forgets to subtract the width of 10 from 25. Choice e incorrectly assumes that the rectangle is a square and divides the perimeter into 4 equal sides of 12.5 feet.

18. c. One million is written as 1,000,000, and eight million is 8,000,000. 8.9 million is eight million plus 900,000 which is 8,900,000 (choice c). Choice a is incorrect because it is never acceptable to put a decimal point in a number unless it is separating the whole numbers from the partial tenths, hundredths, thousandths, etc. Choice b is eight hundred ninety thousand, choice d is eighty-nine million, and choice e is eight hundred ninety million.

19. a. In this problem, the @ symbol is representing an operation where the first term is multiplied by 3 and the second term is subtracted from that product. Therefore \((w@z)@z\) will equal \((3w - z)@z\). This means that you will need to re-substitute \((3w - z)\) in for \(w\) in the expression \(3w - z\) \(= (3w - z)\) \(= z\). Next you must distribute the 3 to both terms within the parenthesis and then subtract the \(z\): \(9w - 3z - z = 9w - 4z\). Choice d is only the first step of distributing the 3 to \((3w - z)\), but it forgets about subtracting the second \(z\). Choice e remembers to subtract the \(z\) but does this subtraction incorrectly to get \(9w - 3z - z = 9w - 2z\). Choice c forgets to distribute the three and just does \(3w - z - z = 3w - 2z\). Choice b incorrectly distributes the 3 to get \(6w\) instead of \(9w\).

20. b. First, evaluate (A), (B), and (C): (A): \(\frac{1}{3}\) of 12 = \(\frac{1}{3} \times 12 = 4\); (B): 4% of 100 = "4 out of 100" = 4; (C): \(\frac{1}{2}\) of 10 = \(\frac{1}{2} \times 10 = 5\). Choice a is not correct since 4 is not less than 2. Choices c, d, and e are also all incorrect statements.

21. e. Since there are \(m\) men in a class of \(n\) students, the number of women in the class must be \(n - m\). So, the ratio of men to women in the class is therefore \(\frac{m}{n-m}\). Choice a is the ratio of men to the entire class. Choice b is the ratio of the total number of students in the class to the number of men in the class. Choice c is the ratio of men to the negative of the number of women (since \(m - n\) would give you a negative number). Choice d is the ratio of total number of students in the class to the number or women.
22. c. Each term is a combination of a letter and a number. The letter part of each pairing is skipping ahead by 1, and the number part of each pairing is decreasing by 3. Choices a and b fail to see that Q should be skipped over, and choices d and e go one letter too far. Choice c has the correct combination of 1 letter skipped and a number that is decreased by 3.

23. d. If the radius of the circle is 12 units, the area of the full circle is \( A = \pi r^2 = \pi (12)^2 = 144\pi \). You are looking for the sector that has an approximate area of 45\( \pi \), and since 43 is approximately one-third of 144, the correct answer will be the sector that contains about \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the circle. Just by looking at the circle, it is obvious that sector COB is the closest to representing \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the circle. Sector EOD only represents \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the circle since \( \frac{60^\circ}{360^\circ} = \frac{1}{6} \), so choice a is incorrect. Sector EOA only represents \( \frac{2}{9} \) of the circle since \( \frac{80^\circ}{360^\circ} = \frac{2}{9} \), so choice b is incorrect. Sector AOC represents \( \frac{7}{36} \) of the circle since \( \frac{70^\circ}{360^\circ} = \frac{7}{36} \), so choice c is incorrect. Sector DOB only represents \( \frac{1}{9} \) of the circle since \( \frac{40^\circ}{360^\circ} = \frac{1}{9} \), so choice e is incorrect.

24. c. Each of Molly’s three orders uses a different price per CD. As the quantity goes up, the price per CD goes down. Her first order of 800 CDs cost her 800($1.50) = $1,200 (incomplete and incorrect answer choice a). Her second order of 1,200 CDs cost her 1,200($1.00) = $1,200. Her third order of 2,100 CDs cost her 2,100($0.75) = $1,575 (incomplete and incorrect answer choice b). Together these three orders cost Molly $3,975 (incomplete and incorrect answer choice e). In total she ordered 4,100 CDs. If she had bought all these at once, she would have paid 4,100($0.50) = $2,050 (incomplete and incorrect answer choice d). Her savings would have been $3,975 - $2,050 = $1,925 (choice c).

25. e. Using the order of operations stated in PEMDAS, first perform division: \( 4x^3 \div x = 4x^2 \) (when dividing variables with different exponents, subtract their exponents). Then combine like terms by adding or subtracting only the coefficients of terms that have the exact same variables and exponents: \( x^3 - 4x + 4x^2 - 2 = 5x^2 - 4x - 2 \). Choice a accidentally makes the 4x term positive. Choice b accidentally adds the exponents when trying to incorrectly combine \( 4x^2 + 4x \). Choice c incorrectly combines \( x^2 - 4x + 4x^2 - 2 \) to get \(-3x^2\) (by thinking that the minus sign after the \( x^2 \) came with the squared terms). Choice d makes several mistakes with combining exponents and only has the constant term, \(-2\), correct.

26. a. Since 40 plants are red-veined, 24 plants are flowering, and 14 of those 64 plants are both, 14 needs to be subtracted from 64 so that those 14 red and flowering plants are not counted twice. Therefore the total number of red-veined and/or flowering plants in the shop is \( 40 + 24 - 14 = 50 \). Since 14 of the 40 red-veined plants are also flowering, 26 of the red-veined plants are not flowering \( (40 - 14 = 26) \). In addition to the 50 flowering and/or red-veined plants, there are also 10 plants that are not flowering or red-veined. This means that in total, there are 60 plants in the store. So the probably that Alexis bought a red-veined plant that is not flowering is \( \frac{26}{60} = \frac{13}{30} \). Choice b is the probability that Alexis bought a flowering plant since \( \frac{24}{60} = \frac{2}{5} \). Choice c is the probability that Alexis bought a plant that was neither flowering nor red-veined since \( \frac{10}{60} = \frac{1}{6} \). Choice d is the probability that Alexis bought a flowering, red-veined plant since \( \frac{14}{60} = \frac{7}{30} \). Choice e is the probability that one of the red-veined and/or flowering plants was just a red-veined plant and not flowering since \( \frac{24}{40} = \frac{3}{5} \).
27. a. In total the team will play $65 + 30 = 95$ games. If the team wants to win 60% of their games, then find 60% of 95 by using multiplication: $0.60 \times 90 = 57$ games (incomplete and incorrect answer choice e). Since the team must win 57 games in total in order to have a record of 60% and they have already won 45 games, the team needs to win 12 more games. Choice b would give them 63 wins, which is over 66% when compared to a total of 95 games. 18 more wins would give a higher winning percentage than 60%, so 18 wins and anything above that is too many wins, making choices c and d incorrect.

28. c. The easiest way to approach this question is to substitute in real numbers that satisfy the requirements of each variable. Choice a could be true since 2 is a prime number and 2 times any odd number will give an even number. Choice b could be true since $1 + 2 = 3$, which is a prime number. Choice c could never be true since any number times any even number will always give an even number. Choice d could be true since 10 is an even number and dividing it by an odd number like 5 gives 2, which is prime. Choice e could be true, since 15 is an odd number, and 15 added to prime number 7 is 22, which is even.

29. d. Plug each answer choice into the inequality so that the first coordinate in the pair goes in for $x$ and the second coordinate goes in for $y$. Identify the coordinate pair that results in a true statement. Using $(0, -4)$ gives $-10 > 15$, which is false, so choice a is incorrect. Using $(3, 4)$ gives $22 > 24$, which is false, so choice b is incorrect. Using $(4, 3)$ gives $18 > 27$, which is false, so choice c is incorrect. Using $(4, 6)$ gives $30 > 27$, which is true, so choice d is correct. Using $(5, 6)$ gives $30 > 30$, which is false, so choice e is incorrect.

30. d. The formula for the perimeter of Laura and Freddy's garden is $P = 2l + 2w$, and since you are given the dimensions for the length and the width, substitute these values into the formula and solve for the perimeter. $P = 2l + 2w \Rightarrow P = 2(14) + 2(8) = 44$ feet (incomplete and incorrect answer choice a). The next task is to turn this into yards. Do this by dividing by 3, since there are 3 feet in a yard: $44 \div 3 = 14\frac{2}{3}$ yards. 14 yards will not be enough fencing (incorrect answer choice c), so they will need to purchase 15 yards and have a little left over. Answer choice b incorrectly divides the 44 feet by 2 in order to convert it into yards. Answer choice e incorrectly finds the area of the garden by multiplying 14 by 8 to get 112 and then divides that by 3 to try to convert it into yards.

31. d. An inscribed angle is always half the measure of the arc it defines. The 60-degree angle defines an arc of 120 degrees. Notice that the x-degree angle defines the arc that makes up the remainder of the circle and that the circle contains a total of 360 degrees. Therefore, the arc that the x-degree angle makes must measure $360 - 120 = 240$ degrees (incorrect answer choice c). That 240-degree arc defines an angle that is half of its measure, which is 120 degrees. Answer choice a is the measure of the arc created by the 35-degree angle. Answer choice b is the measure of the angle opposite angle x.

32. e. In order to answer this question, look at the line that is dotted with circles, which shows how women’s salaries changed as their years of completed schooling changed. The five-year period that has the steepest slope will be the period that had the largest influence on the salary that a South African woman made in 1993. This period was 10 to 15 years of schooling.
33. c. Choice a is supported by the graph since women who completed 9 years of schooling did indeed earn less than women who completed only 8 years of schooling. Choice b is also supported by the graph since males who completed 0 years of education had the same earnings as males who completed 2 years of education. The prediction in choice c that after 17 years of schooling the women’s salaries would surpass the men’s salaries is not supported. This is not likely since in all the other years the men are earning more than the women. Additionally, the women are not seeing any spike in earnings that is significantly greater than the increase in the men’s earnings. Choice d is supported by the graph since the gap between men’s and women’s salaries lessens as the number of years of completed education increases. Lastly, choice e is supported by the graph since the mean income for women with 12 years of schooling completed was less than the mean income for men with just 10 years of schooling completed.

34. b. The thousandths place is three places to the right of the decimal point. In order to round a number to the nearest thousandth, you must look at the number that is four spaces to the right of the decimal point in order to determine if the thousandths number should be rounded up (if it is 5 or greater) or stay the same. In the case of 327.3785, the critical number to look at is the “5”—this indicates that the number in the thousandths place, the 8, must be rounded up to 9. This results in 327.379. Choice a mistakenly (but accurately) rounds 327.378 to the nearest thousand and not to the nearest thousandth. Choice c mistakenly and incorrectly rounds 327.378 up to 1,000 and not to the nearest thousandth. Choice d does not round the 8 in the thousandth place up but keeps it the same, and choice e rounds the given number to the nearest hundredth and not to the nearest thousandth.

35. c. Remember that the sum of the interior angles of a triangle is 180°. We know that since ∠1 is 30° and ∠2 is 90°, the measure of ∠3 must be is 60°. Since ∠2 is a right angle and is also a corresponding angle to the right angle at the base of the triangle, it can be deduced that the line segment is parallel to the base of the triangle. Therefore, ∠3 and ∠4 are also corresponding and congruent. This means that ∠4 is 60° (incorrect choice b). Since ∠4 and ∠5 make a straight angle, which has 180°, ∠5 must measure 120°. Choice a cannot be correct since 30° is an acute angle, and angle 5 is obviously an obtuse angle. Choice d would make a straight angle with ∠1 (since 150° + 30° = 180°), but angles 5 and 1 are not related.
36. c. If the height of a triangle is 6 more than twice its base, \( b \), then the height should be represented as \( 6 + 2b \) (incorrect answer choice a). To write an algebraic expression representing the area of the triangle, use \( A = \frac{1}{2} \text{(base)} \times \text{(height)} \): \( A = \frac{1}{2}(b)(6+2b) \). Next, distribute \( \frac{1}{2}(b) \) to both terms in the parenthesis: \( \frac{1}{2}(b)(6) + \frac{1}{2}(b)(2b) \). This simplifies to \( 3b + b^2 \). Incorrect answer choice b forgot the \( \frac{1}{2} \) in the area formula, so both terms are double what they should be. If the height of 6 more than twice its base is incorrectly represented as \( h = (6 + 2 + b) \) then this would simplify to \( (8 + b) \) and result in an area of \( 4b + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)b^2 \), which is the incorrect answer given in choice d. Choice e gives the perimeter of an isosceles triangle with a base of \( b \) and a leg that is 6 more than twice its base: \( (6 + 2b) + (6 + 2b) + (b) = 12 + 5b \).

37. b. Since 11 is not a number that has a whole square root, choose the closest two numbers above and below 11 that do have perfect square roots. Since 9 and 16 have perfect square roots, we know that \( \sqrt{9} < \sqrt{11} < \sqrt{16} \). This means \( \sqrt{11} \) must be between 3 and 4, since \( \sqrt{9} = 3 \) and \( \sqrt{16} = 4 \). Therefore, point K is the best estimate for \( \sqrt{11} \). Using the same reasoning, since point J falls between 2 and 3, it must stand that \( J \) is between \( \sqrt{4} \) and \( \sqrt{9} \) since \( \sqrt{4} < \sqrt{J} < \sqrt{9} \), so \( J \) cannot be equal to \( \sqrt{11} \) and answer choice a is incorrect. The same reasoning rules out point L since that must be a number between \( \sqrt{16} \) and \( \sqrt{25} \). Lastly, \( M \) is not a possible answer since \( M \) is 6, and the \( \sqrt{11} \) does not equal 6.

38. b. The average of three terms is the sum of those terms divided by 3. The sum of Joan's first 3 tests must be \( 72(3) = 216 \) since conversely, \( \frac{216}{3} \) will equal a 72 average. Since Joan's first two tests sum to 152 (84 + 68 = 152), the score of her third test must be \( 216 - 152 = 64 \). Choice a is the average of Joan's first two tests, but that cannot be used because all three tests must be added together at the same time when calculating the average. Choice c is a mistake made when the average of the given scores is calculated first and then averaged with a final score. While it is true that the average of the first two scores is 76 and that a score of 68 would combine with a score of 76 to make an average of 72, this would be a weighted average, where the third score counts more than the first two scores. Choice d cannot work because 84, 68, and 70 have an average of 74 and not 72. Similarly, choice e is incorrect since a third test score of 73 results in an average of 75, not 72.
39. d. Angles $b$ and $e$ are equal since they are vertical angles. Therefore, if $b + c = e + f$ were true, this would mean that $\angle c$ would have to equal $\angle f$. Although angles $c$ and $f$ are part of the family of angles connected to parallel lines, these two angles are made with two different transversals, so there is no way to prove any congruence about these angles. This means that choice d is not necessarily true. Choice a is certainly true since straight angles $(a + b + c)$ have the same 180-degree measure that the sum of the interior angles of a triangle $(d + e + f)$ have. Choice b is true: since $a$ and $b$ are vertical angles, they are also congruent, and since $a + b + c = a + e + c = 180$, it follows that $a + c = 180 - e$. Choice c is true based on the previous statements that support choice b. Choice e is true since it has already been established previously that $a + b + c = 180$ and $d + e + f = 180$, so therefore, $a + b + c + d + e + f = 360$.

40. d. 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 16 “desired events” ($7 + 9 = 16$ knives and forks) and 20 total events (total number of pieces of silverware). $\frac{16}{20}$ reduces to $\frac{4}{5}$. Choice a gives the probability that a piece of silverware will be a spoon since $\frac{4}{20} = \frac{1}{5}$. Choice b considers the probability that a randomly chosen piece of silverware will not be a knife since there are 13 spoons and forks. Choice c shows the probability of grabbing a knife. Choice e gives the number of non-spoons in the drawer, but doesn’t relate this to a probability.

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 within a sentence. If choice a is past tense (visited), then choice c must be past tense (saw) also.

2. b. Choice b is incorrect because we must use a colon, not a comma, to introduce a formal quotation.

3. d. The adverb in choice d is misplaced. From the first part of the sentence we know the mother-to-be didn't want anesthesia, so that implies she wants to give birth naturally. That is different from the meaning taken from naturally in its current position. The sentence would be clear if we changed the second part to "she wanted to give birth naturally."

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

5. a. Choice a is an incorrect word choice. Prosecuted means to take legal action against. Hitler did not convict Jews through litigation—he persecuted (mistreated) them.

6. d. When comparing two entities, they must appear in the same form. In this sentence, if we replace a job with holding a job, both entities will match.

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

8. a. Choice a should be replaced with regardless. There is no such word as irregardless.

9. d. Choice d is a poor word choice. So or consequently would be better because they indicate a result.

10. c. It is incorrect to describe a present condition (he is very tall) in the past tense. So, choice c must be changed to is even though in the previous part of the sentence, we are talking about a past event (met).

11. b. Choice b is incorrect because dates that include just the month and year do not need commas.

12. b. Than must be used when referring to comparison, like this sentence is. Then refers to time or a sequence of events. Choice b must be changed to than because the sentence is comparing feeling relaxed before and after moving to the countryside.

13. a. When using an apostrophe to form a possessive form of a word, we add 's to plural words not ending in -s. Choice a is a plural noun that does not end in -s, so the plural form is men's.

14. d. The pronoun they does not have an antecedent. Therefore, we do not know who they are. We can fix this sentence by changing the pronoun into a noun. We might say, but the customer service representative never answered.

15. c. The verb forms in this sentence's compound predicate should be consistent in form. Choice c must be changed to launched to match the verb stormed.

16. d. In this sentence, good is used as an adverb to describe how Marco speaks. Good is an adjective; well is an adverb. Choice d must be changed to the adverb well.

17. c. The noun following a modifier must be the subject performing the action in the modifier. In this sentence we'd have to insert a noun that could be stunned (Lucille realized this was turning into . . .).

18. b. Choice b must be changed to complement, which means to match. Compliment refers to praise.

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 entities, they both have to be in the same form. In this case we could finish the sentence with as much as they had been engaged in studying history.

Skills Test in Writing—Section 1,
Part B

22. b. Choices a, c, and e are incorrect because they fail to capitalize the title of the book accurately. The first, last, and any other important words of a title must be capitalized. Choice d uses the wrong spelling for role. It uses roll, as in a portion of bread. Choice b correctly capitalizes the book title, includes a comma to separate the two independent clauses, and uses the correct spelling of role (as in a part played by a performer).

23. d. No one, couldn’t, and nowhere are negatives. We can’t use double negatives in the same sentence. Choices a, b, c, and e use double negatives. Choice d is correct because no one is the only negative used.

24. d. Choice d provides parallel construction; that is, each item in the list appears in a consistent form. These are all prepositional phrases. Choices a, b, c, and e do not provide parallel construction because they do not have consistent forms.

25. c. Choice c relays the clearest meaning here. We understand with no doubt that it’s the salads that will be packed away. Choices a and b could be incorrectly interpreted that the picnickers will be packed away instead of the salads. Choices d and e change the meaning of the sentence.

26. b. The pronoun it at the end of the original sentence (choice a) has an unclear antecedent. We can’t tell if the diamond was sold or if the dresser was sold. Choice b is the only sentence in which we know it was the dresser that was sold.

27. b. The adjective unique does not have a comparative or superlative form. We can’t have degrees of uniqueness. A flower is unique (one of a kind), or it is not. Therefore, no matter what order you put the phrases in, choices a, c, d, and e are incorrect because they contain most or more, which are comparative terms.

28. d. Choice d is correct because the plural forms of equipment and furniture do not end in -s. Also, when using between to identify a range of years, we describe the range using and instead of to. Choices a, b, c, and e incorrectly include plural endings for equipment and furniture that end with -s and use to instead of and to state the range of years.

29. b. Choices a, c, and e represent errors in correlation; they are sentence (question) fragments. Choice d changes the meaning of the question. Choice b is correct because it adds the subject what.

30. b. Choice b contains correct parallelism because it matches the form of the noun drink to the noun cake. None of the other four choices match the form of the noun cake.

31. b. Choices a and e contain a dangling modifier because the person doing the action in the first part of the sentence doesn’t match the noun following the clause. We know this because Mrs. Lewis does not match the pronoun his. Choice b is correct because it correctly identifies the son as the one gulping the orange juice. The sentence is clear and coherent. Choice c begins with a sentence fragment. Choice d sounds like Mrs. Lewis is drinking her son’s juice.
32. d. Choice d correctly uses the adjective form of angry because—although it sounds strange—the sister didn’t actively look with her eyes in a particular way. We are really describing her appearance, which takes an adjective. Also, the sequence of the phrases makes a difference in meaning. Choices b and c might be interpreted as saying the jacket had been borrowed from the sister while she was at the beach. Choices a, b, and e incorrectly use the adverb form of angry.

33. c. Two negatives do not result in a positive, as in mathematics. Couldn’t, barely, and hardly are all negatives and must not be used together in the same sentence. Choices a, b, d, and e use double negatives; so they are incorrect. Choice c uses only one negative (hardly).

34. d. Choices a, c, and e are incorrect because they sound like the dog was cackling. Choice b is incorrect because it sounds like the yard is cackling. Choice d has all the modifiers placed correctly so that the meaning is clear.

35. a. Because we’re comparing the condition of animals now and what the condition would be if everyone became vegetarian, we use the comparative forms for good and bad. The comparative forms are better and worse. The superlative forms are used in choice c, and choices b and d inaccurately mix comparative and superlative forms. Choice c changes or to and, which changes the meaning of the question.

36. d. There are several recurring errors in these choices: Nambians should be plural, not possessive, so no apostrophe is needed; a comma should appear after Jamaica to offset the introductory clause; the pronoun identifying the luggage should be plural (their not his) because it replaces the Nambians; and, luggage is plural without the -s ending.

37. e. Choices a, c, and d are incorrect—no matter where we put the comma—because both parts of the sentence are subordinate clauses and there is no independent clause. Choice b does not make sense. Choice e, in taking out the word because, changes the second part of the sentence to an independent clause and corrects the sentence.

38. c. The adverb fortunately must be placed in its correct position within the sentence to sound right. Choice c shows the best placement for this adverb—at the beginning of the sentence set off with a comma. Choices a, b, d, and e place the adverb inappropriately. Also, choice c includes the pronoun it to further clarify it is the home that was on the market, not the Wheelers.

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 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 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