

15. C Big Picture Purpose

The focus of the essay is the self-discovery process that students must go through when determining their college major. No reference is made to a school's size. Therefore, C is correct.

PRACTICE SET 5: ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. B Idioms

Cast in stone, B, is a saying that means something is fixed and cannot be changed. The writer is pointing out that college majors can be altered.

2. H Big Picture Purpose

The writer discusses how the college experience helps students learn what truly interests them. The example of Susan illustrates the idea that students often enter college assuming they want to pursue one career, but after taking classes, they discern that their interests may lie elsewhere. Therefore, H is correct.

3. A Sentence Reorganization

The underlined section conveys its meaning clearly and is grammatically correct. The other answer choices offer different ways to reword the sentence, but none improve the original.

4. J Additional Detail and Evidence

Paragraph 2 is about high school students taking the time to determine their interests and skills before selecting a college. The statement about sports determining college selections does not relate to the paragraph's topic, so J is correct.

5. B Transitions and Topic Sentences

Paragraph 2 discusses the first steps of choosing a major, while paragraph 3 elaborates further on the same idea. The topic sentence of paragraph 3 should make a connection between the self-discovery process that occurs in both high school and college. B is the best answer.

6. H Periods, Question Marks, and Exclamation Points
 A dash, in H, is needed in this sentence to emphasize the idea that college students sometimes go through big changes. The dash adds more emphasis than a comma, but the statement is not emotional enough to deserve an exclamation point.

7. D Subordinate or Dependent Clauses
 The purpose of the underlined sentence is to contrast Susan's diverse interests. While Susan's skills could be listed out in a series, emphasizing the differences in her abilities makes the sentence flow better with the entire paragraph. D is correct.

8. G Comma Splices
 The comma in the underlined section causes the sentence to form a comma splice, in which two independent clauses are joined with only a comma. One way to correct the sentence is to place a period after *years* in order to stop the first sentence and begin the next, so G is correct.

9. A Connecting and Transitional Words
 In the original, the word *however* is correctly separated from the rest of the sentence with two commas. *However* is a transitional word, and it needs a comma on both sides to indicate that it is interrupting the sentence.

10. J Parallelism
 For the clearest sentence, two or more items in a sentence should be parallel and expressed with words of similar form. In the underlined section, the parallel words should be *her passion* and *her verbal and cognitive abilities*, as in J.

11. C Redundancy
 The sentence first states that Susan *ultimately* determined what major was best for her. Words such as *eventually*, *finally*, and *at last* would be redundant here, so C is correct.

12. J Subject-Verb Agreement
 The phrase *including family and cultural expectations* separates the subject and verb of the sentence. The subject (*factors*) and the verb must agree, so the correct expression would be *factors contribute*, J.

13. B Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement
 Pronouns in a sentence need to match, and the underlined section should agree with *one*, which is used at the beginning of the sentence. The section should be rewritten as *one's choice of study*, with an apostrophe before the *s* to indicate ownership. So, B is correct.

14. J Redundancy
 The sentence states that Susan is glad she *briefly* investigated computer science. The phrase *for a short time* is redundant here, so the correct answer is J.