

Passage I

Question 1. The best answer is **C** because it appropriately uses the relative pronoun *who* to introduce the clause that modifies *students*—“who join our senior class.” Besides introducing that clause, the pronoun *who* also functions as the subject of the clause.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it creates a comma splice (two or more complete sentences separated only by a comma). The phrase “those teenagers” is the subject of the second complete sentence.

B because it, too, produces a comma splice. In addition, it creates grammatical disagreement between the plural *students* and the singular *he or she*.

D because it creates a run-on, or fused, sentence. There is no punctuation or conjunction (connecting word) between the two statements.

Question 2. The best answer is **G** because it provides the predicate *was*, which produces a complete sentence. Remember that a statement that has no predicate verb is a sentence fragment (an incomplete sentence).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it uses the verb form *being*, which is a participle. Because it is a verb form, a participle is often mistaken for the main verb in a sentence. This statement has no predicate, so it is a sentence fragment.

H because it has no predicate verb. Without a predicate, the statement is a sentence fragment and does not express a complete thought.

J because it lacks a verb and therefore creates another sentence fragment.

Question 3. The best answer is **A** because it correctly uses the pronoun *who* to introduce the clause that describes Ligia Antolinez. In this sentence, *who* is required because it refers to a person. The pronoun *who* is also appropriate because it functions as the subject of the clause.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it uses the object pronoun *whom* instead of the subject pronoun *who*.

C because it uses the pronoun *which* when the personal pronoun *who* is required. In general, *who* refers to people and *which* refers to objects, events, or animals.

D because it inserts an unnecessary pronoun, *she*. Because *who* is the subject of the descriptive clause, the pronoun *she* has no function in this sentence.

Question 4. The best answer is F because this short sentence expresses a complete thought and is clear, concise, and grammatically sound. It also logically fits between the preceding sentence and the sentence that follows.

The best answer is NOT:

G because it creates a statement that is not logical. The conjunction (connecting word) *therefore* suggests a cause-effect relationship that makes no sense. The fact that the narrator “was a junior then” was not the cause of her not being in classes with Ligia.

H because it makes no sense. It illogically suggests that the narrator was a junior because she “wasn’t in any of Ligia’s classes.”

J because it creates the same error as H does by illogically suggesting that the narrator was a junior because she “wasn’t in any of Ligia’s classes.”

Question 5. The best answer is C because it adds a relevant detail that fits with the point of the rest of the sentence. The narrator didn’t know Ligia but knew of her. The narrator “saw her at school events and had read a story about her.” Considering the other choices, C provides the most relevant information about the narrator’s familiarity with Ligia.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the phrase “which are sometimes supported financially by local business” is not relevant with regard to the narrator’s knowledge of Ligia.

B because the information that the school paper “is written by students interested in journalism” is irrelevant to the writer’s purpose here.

D because information about the narrator checking the paper “for local movie listings” is a detail that distracts the reader from main point of the sentence.

Question 6. The best answer is G because the plural possessive form *hosts’* is the correct punctuation here. The phrase “her hosts’ house” shows possession and requires an apostrophe.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it fails to use the required apostrophe to show possession.

H because again, it fails to use an apostrophe after the *s* in *hosts*.

J because although it does use the required apostrophe after *hosts*, it fails to use the required apostrophe to show possession in *Ligia’s*.

Question 7. The best answer is C because it correctly inserts a comma after the word *year*. Notice that this comma is necessary to set off the nonessential clause “who had volunteered to move.” A nonessential clause adds information that is not necessary to the main idea. Nonessential clauses are set off with commas on both ends.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma after *move*.

B because it fails to insert the required comma after *year*. This comma is necessary to set off the nonessential clause that begins with “who had volunteered. . . .”

D because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma after *volunteered*.

Question 8. The best answer is F because it provides the best explanation of the host family’s situation and why Ligia needed a place to stay. This choice provides relevant information to show that after the storm, the two brothers needed their upstairs room back—the same room that Ligia had been using.

The best answer is NOT:

G because it adds irrelevant information. The detail that the upstairs room “had been freshly painted” distracts the reader from the main point of the sentence, which is to show why Ligia needed another place to live.

H because the statement in parentheses, “it was a two-story house,” is also irrelevant to the writer’s purpose here.

J because if the sentence simply ended with “had to be moved,” it would not clearly explain why Ligia needed a new place to live.

Question 9. The best answer is D because, of the four choices, D makes the point in the clearest, most concise way.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant; that is, it repeats an idea that has already been stated. The sentence states that the narrator was aware of “Ligia’s problem.” Adding that this problem “needed to be solved” is overstating the obvious. It is better to end the sentence with the word *problem*.

B because it, too, is unnecessarily wordy. The word *problem* already implies a *dilemma*.

C because it is incorrect in the same way that A and B are. That Ligia’s problem “needed a solution” overstates the obvious and lacks conciseness.

Question 10. The best answer is J. You need to pay close attention to the stated question. It asks you for the choice that does *not* show that the narrator’s “family felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home.” In other words, the question tells you that the best answer is the *worst* word choice with respect to the writer’s purpose. The verb *supposed* is the only choice that does not show that “the family felt confident,” so it is the best answer to this question.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it does indicate the family’s confidence. Because the family *agreed* to host Ligia, they “felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home.”

G because it, too, does indicate the family’s confidence.

H because the word *knew* is appropriate in this context and, like F and G, does indicate confidence.

Question 11. The best answer is B because it correctly uses the correlative conjunctions *not only* and *but*. Correlative conjunctions connect similar ideas and are always used in pairs. In this sentence, the pair is “*not only* did we have a room . . . , *but* . . . the house had seemed too quiet.” The conjunctions *not only* and *but* logically connect the two reasons that the family agreed to host Ligia.

The best answer is NOT:

A because “not only . . . and” does not logically connect the two reasons, and it is not idiomatic (it does not conform to standard written English).

C because it is incorrect in the same way that A is. It creates a statement that is not logical.

D because it is incorrect in the same way that A and C are. It also fails to use proper correlative conjunctions.

Question 12. The best answer is J because it is the clearest and most logical, and it is the most structurally sound. The two clauses in this sentence are parallel and logically follow one another. The second clause, “she started teaching me . . . dance steps,” logically follows “I introduced Ligia to my favorite music.”

The best answer is NOT:

F because using the passive voice (“I started being taught by Ligia”) makes the sentence confusing. It is difficult for the reader to tell what the subject and object of this sentence are. The arrangement of the sentence elements is also confusing and garbled.

G because it has an incorrect modifier. When a modifying phrase containing a verbal comes at the beginning of a sentence, the phrase is followed by a comma. The word that the phrase modifies should immediately follow the comma. In this case, the modifying phrase “Introducing Ligia to my favorite music, at top volume,” is followed by the pronoun *she*, instead of the pronoun *I* (to refer to the narrator).

H because the modifying word after the introductory phrase is correct, but the rest of the sentence is weak because it relies on the passive voice (“was introduced by me”). In addition, the phrase at the end of the sentence, “at top volume,” is misplaced.

Question 13. The best answer is B because it uses the correct verb form. The entire essay is in the past tense, so the past tense *took* is required here.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it uses an incorrect verb form here—the past participle *taken* without an auxiliary verb (for example, *had*).

C because *had took* is an incorrect verb form.

D because it uses an incorrect verb form—the past participle *begun* without an auxiliary (helping) verb.

Question 14. The best answer is H because it appropriately uses the past tense verb form (*went*) to show that the event (Ligia’s going home) occurred at a specific past time.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it inappropriately uses the past perfect tense. The perfect tenses are mainly used to show that one event happened before another event, which is not the case here.

G because it uses a future tense (in this case, the future perfect) to refer to a past event. You can tell that this is a past event by reading the sentence that follows.

J because it uses the present tense *goes* to refer to an event that happened in the past.

Question 15. The best answer is C because it concludes the essay by referring back to topics that were previously mentioned: that Ligia spoke Spanish and that she taught the narrator Colombian dance steps. In addition, it logically follows the preceding sentence by explaining how the narrator continues to make plans for a visit to Ligia.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it does somewhat follow the preceding sentence, but it does not refer back to any of the ideas mentioned in the essay. It is therefore a poor conclusion when compared with C.

B because this is a poor conclusion for the essay because it introduces an entirely new topic: joining the workforce.

D because although the essay does refer earlier to “senior activities,” this is also a weak conclusion because it is a vague generalization. In addition, it does not logically follow the statement that the narrator is “trying to save enough to go see my new sister next year.”

Passage II

Question 16. The best answer is H because it uses a comma after *attend* to appropriately set off the introductory phrase from the main clause. Without this comma, the reader might be confused and think that the narrator attended the laundromat.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it adds an unnecessary and confusing comma between *college* and *I*.
 G because it, too, adds an unnecessary and confusing comma between *college* and *I*. In addition, it fails to add the appropriate comma after *attend*.
 J because, like G, it omits the comma after *attend*, producing a potentially confusing statement for readers.

Question 17. The best answer is B because it appropriately uses the present tense to describe an event that is happening in the present time. Notice that the writer begins the essay in the present tense (“the Save-U Laundromat is always open”).

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it makes a confusing tense shift from present (*is*) to past (*was*).
 C because it makes another confusing tense shift—this time from the present tense to the past perfect tense.
 D because, like A, it makes a confusing tense shift from present to past.

Question 18. The best answer is J because no punctuation is needed here. The absence of punctuation creates the clearest and most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it places a semicolon between two descriptive phrases, which is a misuse of the semicolon.
 G because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between a preposition and its object.
 H because it places an unnecessary comma between the two descriptive phrases. There is no pause or separation between the phrases “across the street” and “from a drugstore.” They belong together as one description.

Question 19. The best answer is B because it is grammatically correct. In this sentence, *cool* is used as an adjective to modify the noun *magnificence*.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because *coolly* is an adverb, and an adverb cannot be used to modify a noun. (Adverbs generally modify verbs or adjectives.)
 C because it uses an adjective phrase—“magnificently cool”—where a noun is required. The complete phrase “The magnificently cool of the shade trees” is both ungrammatical and confusing.
 D because it uses an adjective phrase—“cool magnificent”—where a noun is called for. The phrase “the cool magnificent of the shade trees” is ungrammatical.

Question 20. The best answer is J because it states the idea most clearly and concisely. It does not repeat the same idea twice, and it does not add unnecessary words to the sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it is redundant (repeats the same idea) and wordy (adds unnecessary words). The descriptive phrase “who wrongfully enter the property” is really a repetition of the same idea expressed by the use of the word *trespassers*. In other words, the descriptive phrase restates the obvious.
 G because it has the same problem that F does. The phrase “who trespass by walking on private property” adds wordiness and redundancy.
 H because it, too, is wordy. It is not necessary to state the obvious. It is already clear to readers that people “who ignore the signs and walk on the grass” are trespassers.

Question 21. The best answer is D because placing Sentence 5 after Sentence 3 makes the paragraph logical and coherent. If you read Sentences 3, 4, and 5 carefully, you will notice that Sentence 4 does not logically follow Sentence 3. The opening clause in Sentence 4, “But no one is ever around to enforce the threats,” has no antecedent to connect it back to Sentence 3. The *threats* in Sentence 4 refer to the “signs . . . posted all over the lawn” that are referred to in Sentence 5. Therefore, Sentence 4 makes the best sense when it follows Sentence 5 rather than precedes it.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because leaving Sentence 5 where it is now is not logical for the reasons explained above.
 B because Sentence 5 would be a poor and illogical introduction to this paragraph because the reader would not know to what lawn the writer was referring. In addition, the paragraph would make no sense if Sentence 1 followed Sentence 5.
 C because this arrangement of the sentences is also illogical and would confuse the reader. Placing Sentence 5 after the description of the laundromat in Sentence 1 makes no sense because the signs on the lawn are on the grounds of a school and are not part of the laundromat.

Question 22. The best answer is F because the singular verb *has* agrees with the singular noun *paneling*. Remember that the verb must agree in number with its subject (in this case, *paneling*) and not the object of the preposition (in this case, the plural noun *walls*).

The best answer is NOT:

- G because the plural verb *have* does not agree in number with the singular noun *paneling*.
 H because, like G, it has an agreement problem. The plural verb *were* does not agree in number with the singular noun *paneling*.
 J because, like G and H, it has an agreement problem. The plural verb *are* does not agree in number with the singular noun *paneling*.

Question 23. The best answer is A because it provides the added detail asked for in the question. Pay close attention to the stated question. It asks for the sentence that would best accomplish the writer’s wish to “further describe the laundromat’s paneling.” A is the only choice that accomplishes this goal. It further describes the “artificial wood grain finish” by showing that it was intended to resemble wood grain but doesn’t.

The best answer is NOT:

- B because it does *not* provide a detail that further describes the paneling. Although B mentions the paneling, it does not offer a further description of it. Rather, it adds a detail that is irrelevant to the paragraph.
 C because it, too, fails to further describe the paneling. Instead, it offers an opinion about the color of the paneling.
 D because it is incorrect in the same way that C is. It offers an opinion about the person who “chose that color scheme,” but it does not further the description of the paneling.

Question 24. The best answer is H because it effectively links the new paragraph to the question implied by the preceding paragraph: Why does the neon sign promise friendly service? H also provides the most effective introduction to the information in the new paragraph.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it does not link the theme of friendly service that is questioned in the preceding paragraph to the description of the machines in this new paragraph. In addition, it shifts to a more formal tone.
 G because it makes no sense. Being “across the street from a park” has nothing to do with friendly service. Besides, in the first paragraph, the writer states that “the park isn’t really a park at all.”
 J because it misleads the reader into thinking that the topic of the new paragraph will be “washing machines.”

Question 25. The best answer is C because it provides the correct adjectives (*many*, *few*) to describe the quarters. The phrase “too many or too few quarters” describes a relationship of number.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it is ungrammatical. It incorrectly uses an adjective of quantity (*much*) when an adjective of number (*many*) is required.
 B because it incorrectly adds the modifier *too* to the comparative adjective *fewer*.
 D because it is incorrect in the same way that A is. It incorrectly uses an adjective of quantity (*much*) when an adjective of number (*many*) is required.

Question 26. The best answer is F because the phrase “mostly older people from around the neighborhood” specifically describes the group of “regular customers” mentioned in the first part of the sentence. If the phrase were deleted, specific descriptive material would be lost.

The best answer is NOT:

- G because the phrase is not a detail that provides a logical transition because the sentence that follows describes a different group of customers.
 H because the phrase does not foreshadow the conclusion. The writer does not conclude the essay with “older people from around the neighborhood”; rather, the essay ends with all the people who frequent the laundromat.
 J because this information is not understated. Also, it is not “important information”—essential to the essay—but, rather, an interesting and relevant side note.

Question 27. The best answer is D because it results in a complete sentence. The complete subject of the sentence is “a crowd of thirteen-year-old kids.” The predicate *is* immediately follows this subject.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it creates an incomplete sentence. It improperly inserts the pronoun *that* between the subject and predicate, which results in a sentence fragment.
 B because it is incorrect in the same way that A is. It inserts the relative pronoun *who* between the subject and the predicate and creates an incomplete sentence.
 C because the use of the comma and the conjunction *and* generally indicates that the sentence contains two independent clauses, but in this case, there is only one independent clause. “Usually a crowd of thirteen-year-old kids” is a phrase, not a clause, because it has no verb. Meanwhile, in the main clause, the predicate *is* is disagreeing in number with the subject *they*.

Question 28. The best answer is J because it is clear, concise, and structurally sound. It clearly expresses the idea that it is the writer who is imagining.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it has an ineffective sentence structure that results in a dangling modifier. When a modifying phrase containing a verbal comes at the beginning of a sentence, the phrase is followed by a comma (“Imagining all these people,”). Following the comma is the word that this phrase modifies. Notice in this sentence that the pronoun *it* incorrectly follows the introductory phrase. The modifying word should be the pronoun *I*.
 G because it creates a confusing and unclear statement. In the clause “It being that I imagine all these people,” the reader does not know to what the pronoun *It* refers.
 H because it has a dangling modifier. It has a problem that is similar to the one in F. The pronoun *I* should follow the introductory clause, not the pronoun *they*.

Question 29. The best answer is B because it is grammatically correct, and the verbs in the sentence are parallel (maintain the same verb tense). The appropriate verbs here are “nod and smile” because they correctly follow the auxiliary (helping) verb *would*: “someone *would* look up . . . and [would] nod and smile at me.” Although the helping verb *would* is not repeated before “nod and smile,” it is implied.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is ungrammatical. It incorrectly uses the third-person singular verb form (“nods and smiles”) after the implied helping verb *would*.

C because the use of the present participle (“nodding and smiling”) after the helping verb *would* is ungrammatical. Note also that that sentence lacks parallelism: “someone would look up . . . and nodding and smiling at me.” There is an illogical tense shift from the present tense (“would look”) to the present participle (“nodding and smiling”).

D because it makes the same mistake as A. In addition, it results in an illogical statement.

Question 30. The best answer is J because it is the only choice that is a complete sentence with appropriate sentence structure. Notice that this sentence has a compound subject (“the Save-U Laundromat” and “its people”). This construction makes the subject of the sentence clear.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it inserts incorrect punctuation (a period) that results in two sentence fragments (incomplete sentences).

G because it also inserts incorrect punctuation. The clause after the period does create a complete sentence, but the opening phrase “It is comforting to know that the Save-U Laundromat” is *not* a complete sentence; the relative clause does not contain a predicate.

H because it has a confusing and ineffective sentence structure. Inserting the relative pronoun *that* between the conjunction *and* and the pronoun *its* results in a sentence with faulty parallelism. The first of these two relative clauses (“that the Save-U Laundromat”) is incomplete.

Passage III

Question 31. The best answer is B because it correctly uses the relative pronoun *whose* to introduce the clause that describes the company that the narrator admires. The pronoun *whose* indicates possession and is appropriate here.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it uses a contraction (*who's*) instead of the required pronoun (*whose*). The contraction *who's* means “who is” and does not indicate possession.

C because it has a problem that is similar to the one in A. It incorrectly uses the contraction *that's*, which means “that is.”

D because it creates an unclear statement, and it fails to use the proper relative pronoun *whose* to indicate possession.

Question 32. The best answer is J because it provides the best punctuation to set off the appositive “Bill Williams.” An appositive is a noun or pronoun that identifies and follows another noun or pronoun. In this sentence, “Bill Williams” identifies “Glory Foods’ president and founder.” Appositives are set off by commas (except when the appositive is restrictive, such as in the phrase “my sister Sue” when I have three sisters).

The best answer is NOT:

F because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between *president* and *and*. In addition, it fails to set off the appositive with a necessary comma between *founder* and *Bill*.

G because, like F, it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between *president* and *and*.

H because it fails to set off the appositive by adding the necessary comma between *founder* and *Bill*.

Question 33. The best answer is C because the third-person plural pronoun *they* clearly refers back to the plural noun *foods*.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the singular pronoun *it* has no logical antecedent. An antecedent is the word or phrase to which a pronoun refers. In this sentence, the antecedent *foods* is plural and requires a plural pronoun (*they*).

B because it has the same problem described in A.

D because it creates faulty coordination and a confusing statement. The phrase “and that they” does not effectively coordinate with “that while he knows.”

Question 34. The best answer is F because it provides the clearest, most concise statement, and it uses modifiers correctly. Note that the pronoun *he* directly follows and correctly modifies the adjective phrase “as a young adult.”

The best answer is NOT:

G because it creates a dangling modifier. The phrase “as a young adult” does not logically refer to or modify the noun phrase it precedes (“his cooking skills”). This arrangement of sentence elements results in a confusing statement.

H because although the wording is somewhat different, the problem here, a dangling modifier, is the same as that in G. Here, “his skill” is not “a young adult.”

J because the problem is much like that in both G and H. In this statement, “the refinement of his cooking skills” is not “a young adult.”

Question 35. The best answer is D because it is the clearest and most concise statement. The writer logically describes the Culinary Institute of America as “prestigious.”

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant. That is, it repeats the same idea twice: *prestigious* and *acclaimed* mean the same thing.

B because it, too, is redundant. It repeats the same idea three times: *famed*, *renowned*, and *notable* all have similar meanings.

C because the adjective *luscious* makes no sense in this context. Food might be “luscious,” but an institute would not be.

Question 36. The best answer is G because the sentence parts are arranged in a logical order so that they modify the appropriate elements. This results in the clearest word order for this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the clauses are put together in a way that confuses the reader. The noun phrase “a line of Southern-inspired cuisine” doesn’t connect logically with the noun and the clause that immediately follows it—“a time when there were no convenience foods designed for African American consumers.”

H because it is ambiguous. It is unclear what is meant by the opening clause “He came up in 1989.”

J because, like F, it strings clauses together in a confusing way.

Question 37. The best answer is B because it creates the clearest, most logical, and most concise statement. This is another case (like question 35) where the least wordy choice is best.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it is redundant. It repeats the same idea twice. The introductory word *Initially* is redundant because the sentence later states that “Glory Foods were first offered for sale in Ohio in 1992.”

C because it is redundant. In this case, the words *originally* and *first* mean the same thing.

D because it is both wordy and redundant. The phrases “At the outset” and “the earliest” both imply the same thing.

Question 38. The best answer is G because it most effectively concludes this paragraph by continuing the theme of Glory Foods’ business success. That Glory Foods “were being distributed in twenty-two states” logically follows the information that “sales were twice the original projections.”

The best answer is NOT:

F because it changes the topic by discussing recipes instead of the company’s success.

H because it shifts to an entirely new topic, that of “several other companies.”

J because the use of the word *however* makes this statement illogical. As it is used here, *however* indicates that this sentence is going to contradict the statement in the preceding sentence, but this sentence does not do that.

Question 39. The best answer is A because no punctuation is needed here. The absence of commas makes this the clearest sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it adds unnecessary commas and incorrectly treats “professional, advisors, and subcontractors” as if they were items in a series, but *professional* functions as an adjective modifying the noun *advisors*.

C because the unnecessary comma between the two parts of the compound direct object “advisors and subcontractors” adds confusion to the sentence.

D because it inserts an inappropriate and confusing semicolon between *advisors* and *and*.

Question 40. The best answer is F because without the qualifying phrases the sentence would give the impression that all the subcontractors and farmers were African Americans. These phrases clarify the writer's point that Glory Foods employs African Americans "whenever possible."

The best answer is NOT:

G because even without the phrases, Paragraph 4 clearly explains Glory Foods' attempt to employ African American contractors.

H because the phrases "whenever possible" and "much of" are not examples of wordiness; rather, they clearly inform the reader.

J because the phrases do not describe the subcontractors or farmers yet they are essential to the meaning of the sentence.

Question 41. The best answer is A because it correctly uses the infinitive form of the verb (*to evoke*) after the verb of intention (*is meant*).

The best answer is NOT:

B because the verb phrase "is meant at evoking" is not an idiom of standard written English and confuses the reader.

C because it is incorrect in a way that is similar to the problem in B. The verb phrase "is meant in evoking of" is not idiomatic English and results in an unclear statement.

D because omitting the infinitive *to evoke* also results in a phrase that is not standard written English. The verb *is meant* needs to be followed by an infinitive verb form—in this case *to evoke*.

Question 42. The best answer is J because it is the clearest, most logical statement. The prepositional phrase "during the Civil War" clearly modifies "a black regiment." Modifying phrases should be placed as near as possible to the words they modify, which is why "during the Civil War" is best placed at the end of this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

F because the phrase "during the Civil War" appears to modify "the movie." This placement wrongly suggests that the movie was filmed and shown during the Civil War. In addition, the phrase "of the same name" appears to modify "the Civil War" instead of "the movie."

G because the phrase "during the Civil War" appears to modify "the same name," which makes no sense.

H because the phrase "during the Civil War" appears to modify "of a black regiment." Again, the resulting statement "which tells the story during the Civil War of a black regiment" reads as though the movie was shown during the war.

Question 43. The best answer is C because it clearly explains why the writer should not add the information about the actor who starred in the film *Glory*. This information is not in keeping with the main point of the paragraph, which is to explain how the company got its name. Adding information about an actor distracts the reader from the focus of the paragraph and the essay as a whole.

The best answer is NOT:

A because it suggests that the sentence belongs in the paragraph when it clearly does not. Information about the actor who starred in *Glory* is not relevant at this point in the essay.

B because it, too, wrongly suggests that the sentence belongs in the paragraph.

D because even though it does indicate that the writer should not add the sentence, the reason given for not making this addition makes no sense. Including additional information saying that Bill Williams had met the actor Denzel Washington would also be irrelevant to the essay.

Question 44. The best answer is J because it maintains the present tense (*are*). Notice that present tense is used throughout the essay. A tense shift here would be illogical.

The best answer is NOT:

F because it makes an illogical and confusing shift from present tense to past tense.

G because it makes an illogical and confusing shift from present tense to past perfect tense.

H because it makes an illogical and confusing shift from the present tense to the past conditional.

Question 45. The best answer is A because it provides the most effective introductory paragraph. This is the best opening for the essay because it introduces the main topic, which is Bill Williams and his company, Glory Foods.

The best answer is NOT:

B because Paragraph 2 would be an ineffective and confusing opening for this essay. Look at its first sentence: "Even as a child, Williams loved to prepare food." The clue that this is not a good opening sentence is that most essays would not begin this abruptly. The reader would not know who this Williams person was.

C because it has the same problem that B does. Placing Paragraph 1 after Paragraph 3 makes Paragraph 2 the opening paragraph, but that paragraph begins too abruptly to provide an effective introduction.

D because it is incorrect for the same basic reason that B and C are.

Passage IV

Question 46. The best answer is J because the paragraph is more focused when the underlined portion is omitted. Mentioning the writer's trip to the movies diverts the reader's attention from the focus of the paragraph, which is a description of the game arcade.

The best answer is NOT:

F because adding information about the writer's trip to the movies is irrelevant to this paragraph and should be omitted. If you read the entire paragraph, you will see that this information does not belong.

G because it is incorrect in the same way that F is. It adds information that distracts the reader from the main focus of this introductory paragraph.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that F and G are. Even though this information is set off by parentheses, it still distracts the reader and is irrelevant.

Question 47. The best answer is B because the past tense (*was*) is consistent with the rest of the paragraph. In addition, the singular verb *was* is in agreement with the singular subject *one*.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the subject and verb do not agree in number. The subject *one* is singular and therefore requires a singular verb. The verb *were* is plural.

C because, again, the subject and verb do not agree. The subject *one* is singular, and the verb *were* is plural and therefore incorrect.

D because the past conditional tense (*would have been*) is inappropriate and confusing. In addition, adding the adjective *actual* would make the sentence unnecessarily wordy.

Question 48. The best answer is H because it provides the predicate *are*, which produces a complete sentence. A statement that has no predicate is a sentence fragment (an incomplete sentence).

The best answer is NOT:

F because placing the relative pronoun *which* between the subject ("Video screens") and predicate ("have been populated") creates a sentence fragment.

G because it is incorrect in the same way that F is. In this case, the relative pronoun *that* is placed between the subject and predicate.

J because it fails to provide a predicate, which creates another incomplete sentence.

Question 49. The best answer is A because it provides the most logical sequence of sentences for this paragraph. Sentence 4 provides a necessary link between the description of the video games in Sentences 1 through 3 and the description of the pinball machines in Sentence 5. In Sentence 4, the phrase "on the other hand" signals that this sentence is going to provide a contrasting point of view. In this case, the writer contrasts video games and pinball machines.

The best answer is NOT:

B because if Sentence 4 were placed right after Sentence 1, the paragraph would be incoherent, illogical, and confusing. Placing Sentence 4 here would interrupt the description of the video games with a comment about pinball machines.

C because placing Sentence 4 after Sentence 5 would confuse readers. They would not understand that the phrase "Some machines" in Sentence 5 actually refers to pinball machines. Also, the transitional phrase "on the other hand" in Sentence 4 does not logically follow the information in Sentence 5.

D because omitting Sentence 4 would confuse readers. The transition that Sentence 4 provides is a necessary link between the description of the video games in Sentences 1 through 3 and the description of the pinball machines in Sentence 5.

Question 50. The best answer is J because information about the durability of video games is not relevant to the writer's argument in this paragraph. The main point of the paragraph is that video games are more predictable than pinball machines. Adding information about how video games are "built to last" or are "constructed durably" distracts the reader.

The best answer is NOT:

F because, as stated above, information about how the machines have been "built to last" diverts the reader from the main focus of the paragraph.

G because it is incorrect in the same way that F is. Adding the irrelevant information that the machine "is constructed durably" is distracting to the reader.

H because it is incorrect in the same way that G and F are.

Question 51. The best answer is C because it maintains the second-person (*You*) perspective that is used throughout this paragraph. It is important to note that the writer is using the second-person point of view in this paragraph to speak directly to and draw in the reader. Consider the sentence preceding this one: "As you guide your character through the game's challenges, you come to know how the machine will respond to your every move."

The best answer is NOT:

A because it fails to maintain a consistent viewpoint. It makes an illogical shift from the second person (*You*) to the third person singular (*He or she*).

B because it makes an illogical shift from the second person (*You*) to the first person plural (*We*).

D because it not only shifts from second person (*You*) to third person (*People*), but it also illogically shifts from present tense (*learn*) to past tense (*learned*).

Question 52. The best answer is F. Notice that this question asks for the *least* acceptable answer. In other words, the best answer is the weakest choice. If you read the paragraph carefully, you will see that the idea presented in this sentence (pinball is unpredictable) is meant to contrast with the idea in the preceding sentence (video games are predictable). Given this context, using the transitional word *therefore* at this point is illogical and confusing.

The best answer is NOT:

- G because it is an acceptable alternative to *though*, providing the same logical transition.
- H because it also provides an acceptable alternative to *though*.
- J because, along with G and H, it provides an acceptable alternative to *though*.

Question 53. The best answer is B because the absence of a comma here creates the clearest and most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it places an unnecessary and distracting comma between the subject clause ("a ball you thought was lost") and the predicate ("will . . . bounce").
- C because it sets off the auxiliary (helping) verb *will* for no logical reason.
- D because it places an unnecessary and distracting comma between the auxiliary verb *will* from the main verb *bounce*.

Question 54. The best answer is F because it most effectively links the topic of Paragraph 3 (pinball is less predictable than video games) and the topic of Paragraph 4 (the element of chance makes pinball more interesting than video games).

The best answer is NOT:

- G because it fails to provide an effective link between the topics of the two paragraphs, as described above. This choice undermines the writer's argument by saying that pinball games are similar to video games.
- H because it, too, fails to provide an effective transition from Paragraph 3 to Paragraph 4. H also contradicts the writer's previously stated point that pinball is challenging.
- J because, like G and H, it provides an ineffective transition between the ideas presented in the two paragraphs. In addition, if you inserted this sentence at the beginning of Paragraph 4, the next sentence would not logically follow.

Question 55. The best answer is D because it results in the clearest and most concise response. In other words, it avoids redundancy (repeating the same idea) and wordiness.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it is redundant. At this point in the sentence, it is already clear that the writer is referring to "these video games."
- B because it is incorrect for the same reason that A is.
- C because it is incorrect in the same way that A and B are.

Question 56. The best answer is F because it maintains the second-person (*you*), present tense perspective that is used in the surrounding text. Notice that the preceding sentence establishes the second-person point of view: "Once *you* have mastered a game." (This question is similar to question 51.)

The best answer is NOT:

- G because it makes a confusing tense shift in this sentence from the present perfect tense ("you have mastered") to the past tense ("you then looked").
- H because it makes an illogical shift from the second-person plural (*you*) to the third person (*one*).
- J because it, too, makes an illogical shift from the second-person plural (*you*) to the third person (*one*).

Question 57. The best answer is B because the comma between these two noun phrases ("sometimes your enemy" and "sometimes your ally") provides clarity for this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because without the comma there, the statement becomes ambiguous and confusing. It's hard to tell whether the second *sometimes* is modifying *your enemy* or *your ally*.
- C because it improperly uses a semicolon between these two noun phrases. By the way, those phrases are called "predicate nouns" because they follow the linking verb *is*.
- D because even though the conjunction *and* could be used between these two sentence elements, setting off the conjunction with commas is inappropriate and confusing.

Question 58. The best answer is G because it provides the most concise way to make the writer's point.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because it is vague and unnecessarily wordy. In addition, it creates a clause that lacks subject-verb agreement. The subject *times* is plural and requires a plural verb, not the singular verb *is*.
- H because it is redundant (it repeats the same idea). In this sentence, *each*, *single*, and *unique* all mean the same thing.
- J because the phrases "every single time" and "each" make this sentence wordy and repetitive.

Question 59. The best answer is C because it provides an adjective (*continual*) for the noun that it precedes (*challenge*).

The best answer is NOT:

- A because the adverb *continually* lacks a neighboring sentence element that it can modify (a verb or an adjective).
- B because the adverb *continuously* faces the same problem of lacking something to modify.
- D because the verb form *continue* is simply out of place here between the article *a* and the noun *challenge*.

Question 60. The best answer is J because throughout the essay, the writer suggests that "pinball is superior" by making the argument that pinball requires more skill and is more challenging than video games. It is reasonable to conclude, then, that this essay fulfilled the writer's goal.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because the writer does suggest in this essay that video games "might seem more attractive than pinball," but this has nothing to do with the writer's goal of writing an essay that shows pinball as being superior to video games.
- G because this choice can be ruled out for two reasons: first, the essay does fulfill the writer's goal, and second, the writer does not say that video games challenge the skills of the player.
- H because this answer states that the essay does fulfill the writer's goal, but the reason given is not accurate. The writer never states that pinball games "are more visually attractive than video games."

Passage V

Question 61. The best answer is D because the absence of commas here creates the clearest and most understandable sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the noun *letters* and the preposition *in*. The phrase "in front of you" modifies *letters*, and these elements should not be separated by any punctuation.
- B because it inappropriately and confusingly inserts a comma between the verb *tumbles* and the preposition *to*.
- C because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma between the complete subject phrase ("each of the letters in front of you") and the verb *tumbles*.

Question 62. The best answer is H because it effectively and logically uses the coordinating conjunction (linking word) *and* to connect the two independent clauses in this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- F because the use of the conjunction *unless* here creates an illogical statement. It makes no sense to say, "The computer is probably sick, *unless* . . . [it] has a virus."
- G because the use of the conjunction *except* also creates an illogical statement. A computer with a virus is *not* an exception to a computer being sick.
- J because the use of the conjunction *as if* creates a confusing and ambiguous sentence.

Question 63. The best answer is D because it appropriately sets off the conjunctive adverb *however* with commas. When a conjunctive adverb or transitional expression interrupts a clause, *as however* does in this sentence, it should usually be set off with commas.

The best answer is NOT:

- A because it places a comma after *however* but omits the corresponding comma before the word.
- B because it inappropriately uses a semicolon instead of a comma before the adverb *however*.
- C because it is incorrect because it places a comma before *however* but omits the corresponding comma after the word.

Question 64. The best answer is G because it provides the most effective introductory sentence for Paragraph 3. The topic of the paragraph is the serious computer viruses known as "bombs." Notice that the second sentence in this paragraph logically follows and further defines these "bombs."

The best answer is NOT:

- F because the information is too broad. The topic of the paragraph is not all computer viruses; rather, it is the much narrower topic of viruses called "bombs." In addition, if this sentence opened the paragraph, the reader would not understand, later in the paragraph, what "these bombs" referred to.
- H because it introduces a topic other than the "bombs." If you read the paragraph with this sentence as the introduction, the paragraph makes no sense.
- J because it, too, strays from the main topic of the paragraph, which is the computer viruses referred to as "bombs."

Question 65. The best answer is A because it most clearly and concisely expresses the point being made in this sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

- B because the phrase "devastative disaster" is redundant (repeating information). In this case, the use of the adjective *devastative* is redundant because the noun *disaster* expresses the same thought.
- C because this phrasing is confusing if not nonsensical. How can something be "devastation to the operating of a computer"?
- D because it is redundant and unclear. The redundancy occurs in the phrase "can be possibly." Also, the phrase "operating of a computer" is not idiomatic English; that is, it's not the way English speakers would normally say or write the phrase.

Question 66. The best answer is F because it is the clearest and most concise of the four choices given.

The best answer is NOT:

G because the phrase “that detect computer viruses” is redundant. The phrase is not necessary because the reader already knows that detection programs, by definition, “detect computer viruses.” In addition, the phrase “computer viruses” appears a second time at the end of the sentence.

H because it is also unnecessarily wordy and redundant. The phrase “computer viruses” appears twice in this short sentence.

J because it, too, unnecessarily repeats the phrase “computer viruses.”

Question 67. The best answer is D because both verbs in the subordinate, or dependent, clause of this sentence agree in number with the subject *programs*, which the clause modifies. The subject *programs* is plural, so the verbs *search* and *destroy* must also be plural.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the singular verb forms (*searches*, *destroys*) do not agree with their plural subject, *programs*.

B because it is incorrect in the same way that A is; the singular verb forms do not agree with their plural subject.

C because it is ungrammatical. Although the verb *search* is plural and agrees with the subject *programs*, the verb *destroys* is singular and does not agree.

Question 68. The best answer is G because it provides a predicate verb (*is found*) for the main clause of this sentence. (“Evidence . . . is found in the names of their programs.”)

The best answer is NOT:

F because it creates an incomplete sentence, a fragment. The participle *being found* cannot function as the predicate verb of the main clause of this sentence.

H because, like F, it creates a fragment because the participle *having been found* cannot function as a predicate verb.

J because, in this case, the verb form *found* reads as if it were a past participle, not a predicate verb. This too is a sentence fragment because it lacks a predicate for the sentence’s main clause.

Question 69. The best answer is A because it appropriately uses a colon to introduce the list of names of the programs. Introducing a list is one function of the colon.

The best answer is NOT:

B because it improperly uses the semicolon, which is generally used to separate two independent clauses.

C because it omits the necessary punctuation. The colon is needed here to signal to readers that a list of “the names of their programs” will follow.

D because the comma is not a “strong” enough punctuation mark here. Is this comma the same as or part of the series of commas that follow in this sentence?

ENGLISH ■ PRACTICE TEST 1 ■ EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

Question 70. The best answer is F because it is the clearest and most logical of the four choices. It also provides a proper idiom of standard written English. The phrase “As with all diseases” indicates that the best cure for computer viruses is that same as that for all diseases: prevention.

The best answer is NOT:

G because it results in an ambiguous and illogical statement. It states that “the best cure” is “similarly to all diseases,” which is illogical and ungrammatical.

H because it is unclear. The use of the phrase “In the same way as” suggests that the writer is trying to compare apples (“all diseases”) and oranges (“the best cure”).

J because “According with” is not an idiom of standard written English. Even if the sentence began “According to all diseases,” which *is* idiomatic, the sentence still wouldn’t make sense.

Question 71. The best answer is C because the question states that the writer’s intention is to recommend “ways to protect computer data against viruses.” C provides a recommendation by advising the reader to use antivirus programs frequently.

The best answer is NOT:

A because stating that many “viruses are quite sophisticated” does not provide a recommendation and, thus, does not accomplish the writer’s stated intention.

B because it does provide a recommendation of sorts, but not the recommendation stated in the question. Adding software that checks spelling does not “protect computer data against viruses.”

D because although this choice makes a broad recommendation (“be aware of the various ways to prevent viruses”), it does *not* recommend “specific ways to protect to protect computer data,” which is the writer’s stated intention.

Question 72. The best answer is H because placing the word *better* into the phrasing “you had better hope” provides the clearest statement and best clarifies the meaning of the sentence.

The best answer is NOT:

F because here, *better* inappropriately modifies *responds*, which confuses the meaning of the sentence. Also, the resultant phrase “you had hope” sounds wrong in this sentence along with its two present tense verbs (*is* and *responds*).

G because in this arrangement, *better* modifies *system* and implies a comparison that does not exist. “If there is a virus in your *better* system” wrongly suggests that there are two systems.

J because it is incorrect for the same reason that F is.

Question 73. The best answer is C because the most logical and effective placement for this sentence is after Paragraph 4. The last sentence of this paragraph lists the names of the virus detection programs; the new sentence, which refers to those names, logically follows. Also, this new sentence states that the “Names . . . suggest that the problem is serious.” The names identified in Paragraph 4 (*Vaccine*, *Checkup*, *Antitoxin*, and *Disinfectant*) do imply a level of seriousness.

The best answer is NOT:

A because Paragraph 2 provides a description of what a computer virus can do and does not refer to any “names” of viruses. Adding the sentence here makes no sense.

B because the main topic of Paragraph 3 is computer “bombs.” As with A, there is no reference to particular “names.”

D because it, too, would be an illogical placement. Although there are “names” in the last sentence of Paragraph 5 (*Internet* and *World Wide Web*), these names do not suggest a serious problem in the way that the “names” in Paragraph 4 do.

Question 74. The best answer is H because the second-person pronouns (*you*, *your*) do directly address the reader. Revising the essay so that it used the third-person pronouns *one* and *one’s* would sacrifice that sense of addressing and advising the reader.

The best answer is NOT:

F because, although shifting to the third-person pronouns *one* and *one’s* may change the tone of the essay, a polite and formal tone is clearly not appropriate to the purpose of this piece.

G because changing the pronouns in the essay from second to third person would not suggest that the writer is “speaking to a broader and more inclusive audience.”

J because, in this essay, the setting is not a prominent element, and a shift in pronouns from second to third person would not change the sense of that setting.

Question 75. The best answer is D because the essay does limit itself “to describing computer viruses and the basic precautions to be taken against them.” The essay does not discuss the ethics of tampering with a computer system, so it would not meet the writer’s goal as described in this question.

The best answer is NOT:

A because the essay does not explain any moral or ethical consequences resulting from computer viruses.

B because the process of ridding a computer system of viruses is not explained in detail.

C because a reader would not necessarily have to know how a virus is programmed in order to make a judgment about the morality or ethics of programming a virus.