

Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a "NO CHANGE" option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Parks and Re-creation

In US cities, open space is difficult to come by. In New York, **1** likewise, nearly half of the districts have less than 1.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. For this reason, cities must creatively use what is available, including repurposing landfills. Transforming landfills into parks has its pitfalls, **2** however, it is well worth the effort for communities to invest in these spaces.

- 1**
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) on the other hand,
 - C) in addition,
 - D) for example,

- 2**
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) but
 - C) nonetheless
 - D) however

3 There is no official count of the number of parks built on landfills nationwide, but it could be as many as 1,000. Land formerly used for garbage is usually inexpensive to buy. It is also 4 prolific: the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the United States has at least 10,000 closed municipal landfills. By restoring the landscape, these parks also hold

3

Which choice best introduces the main idea of the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For many environmental and logistical reasons, not all landfills can be repurposed as parks.
- C) Reclaiming landfills for park space offers multiple advantages to urban areas.
- D) Americans generated 251 million tons of trash in 2012, only 34.5 percent of which was recycled.

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) abundant:
- C) magnanimous:
- D) excessive:

tremendous benefits for the environment; because they transform a blemish into an attractive asset, they have the added benefit of raising property values. A recent paper published by the Trust for Public Land notes that parks are a boon to communities in terms of both health and social development. Exercise, **5** play, and exposure to green space have all been linked to improved health.

6 The report also notes that community spaces, such as gardens and sports fields, are linked to reduced crime and a stronger bond among neighborhood residents.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) play, and,
- C) play, as well as
- D) play; and

6

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Interest in urban parks declined around the mid-twentieth century but has been revived during the past few decades.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides a detail that supports the main claim of the paragraph.
- B) Yes, because it effectively sets up the sentence that follows in the paragraph.
- C) No, because it includes information that contradicts the main idea of the paragraph.
- D) No, because it distracts from the focus of the paragraph by introducing irrelevant information.

One example of a successful landfill **7** park, is Freshkills, a space on the coast of Staten Island, New York, that was once a 2,200-acre dump. The park offers many recreational opportunities largely unavailable in the **8** city; these occur on layers of plastic, soil, and grass atop the garbage. Coastline restoration introduces water-absorbing plants, protecting residential areas from flood damage. **9** Its design also features a solar station that will produce enough energy **10** to power more than 2,000 homes.

The process of converting landfills into parks presents some challenges, but they are surmountable. When buried waste decomposes, it releases flammable gases such as methane, causing a potential health hazard. Also, while landfills are inexpensive to purchase, maintenance costs can be high. However, technological advances allow park designers to address both concerns. Turning the **11** disgusting problem into an advantage, Freshkills uses a gas-collection system that converts methane into enough energy to heat 22,000 homes, a process that will generate \$12 million in revenue to offset the cost of park construction. Clearly, the advantages of converting landfills into parks dramatically outweigh the drawbacks. With such innovations in place, there is little reason for communities not to create a park from what would otherwise be a wasteland.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) park is
- C) park is,
- D) park is:

8

Which version of the underlined portion provides the most relevant examples for the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) city, such as horseback riding, nature trails, and kayaking.
- C) city; the park's wetlands include coastal grassland and marshes.
- D) city, among such plants as switchgrass, purple coneflowers, and bugbane.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) It's
- C) Their
- D) The park's

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) so that it powers
- C) for powering of
- D) powering

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) noxious
- C) gross
- D) foul

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

A Swan Song for Sherlock Holmes

When Arthur Conan Doyle introduced the brilliant and eccentric London detective Sherlock Holmes in the 1887 novel *A Study in Scarlet*, relatively few readers took notice. Beginning in 1891, though, a steady stream of short stories published in the London magazine *The Strand* caused Holmes's fan base to grow exponentially, and by 1893, the character was an international sensation. With Holmes at the height of his popularity, readers who purchased *The Strand*'s December 1893 issue were taken aback by the shocking conclusion of the latest installment: **12** Holmes, having plunged from a waterfall in Switzerland while fighting his enemy Moriarty, was dead.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Holmes, having plunged,
- C) Holmes; having plunged
- D) Holmes having plunged

13 Having introduced Moriarty in the same story, Conan Doyle in fact had long desired to end the series.

14 “I am weary of his name,” the author declared: devising the intricate plots of the stories took a great deal of time and effort, and Conan Doyle wanted to dedicate

15 one’s energies elsewhere. Believing the Holmes stories to be lowbrow work, **16** instead, a focus on writing historical epics was what he wanted. Lucrative publishing contracts had made it difficult to walk away from the series, but by 1893 the author had made up his mind. “If I had not killed him, he would certainly have killed me,” Conan Doyle remarked ominously.

13

Which choice provides the best transition from the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Having given Holmes the ability to adopt a variety of costumes and disguises,
- C) Not knowing that his works would later be adapted for stage and screen,
- D) Though Holmes’s death seemed sudden to readers,

14

Which choice provides a quotation from Conan Doyle that best sets up the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) “It was still the Sherlock Holmes stories for which the public clamored,” the author complained:
- C) “He takes my mind from better things,” the author lamented of Holmes:
- D) “I was amazed at the concern expressed by the public,” the surprised author declared:

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) his
- C) its
- D) their

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) focusing on writing historical epics was what he wanted to do instead.
- C) writing historical epics was what he wanted to focus on instead.
- D) he wanted to focus on writing historical epics instead.

17 Young readers were especially saddened at the loss of their hero. Making headlines around the world, the death of such a beloved character spurred a public outcry. The author received an abundance of angry letters petitioning for Holmes's return, and **18** they were not enough to make him change his mind. It is even said that Londoners donned **19** black armbands in solidarity. Such armbands are a traditional symbol of mourning. Conan Doyle's decision was a serious blow not only to the public but also to the magazine—*Strand* editors panicked as 20,000 people canceled **20** it's subscriptions.

17

Which choice best introduces the topic of this paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) The periodicals of the time played an important role in expressing the public's feelings.
- C) It had been only eighteen months since *The Strand* published its first Holmes story, but the magazine's success was already dependent on the detective.
- D) While Conan Doyle was more than ready to part with the character, legions of fans were not.

18

Which choice provides an additional example that is most similar to the one already in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) "Keep Holmes Alive" clubs formed.
- C) those writing to him came from all parts of society.
- D) he turned his attention to other forms of writing.

19

Which choice best combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) such black armbands in solidarity, a traditional symbol of mourning.
- B) black armbands, these being a traditional symbol of mourning, in solidarity.
- C) black armbands, a traditional symbol of mourning, in solidarity.
- D) traditionally symbolic black armbands in mourning and solidarity.

20

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) its
- C) there
- D) their

After nearly eight years, however, Conan Doyle **21** caved. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a novel set before Holmes's death, was serialized in *The Strand* from August 1901 to April 1902. Soon after, exorbitant sums offered by the magazine convinced Conan Doyle to reverse Holmes's death sentence and continue the series indefinitely. In "The Adventure of the Empty House," he wrote that Holmes had actually faked his death and spent several years traveling. "The explanation may be thin, / But . . . we don't care a pin," proclaimed P. G. Wodehouse in a comic poem hailing the detective's return. Readers were thrilled to have Holmes back. Though Conan Doyle would always harbor ambivalence about the **22** series, but it is the large body of Holmes stories and countless adaptations for stage and screen that have been responsible for the author's lasting legacy.

21

Which choice best maintains the tone of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sold out.
- C) loosened up.
- D) relented.

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) series;
- C) series,
- D) series, while

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

Ancient Acoustics

Built in southern Greece in the fourth century BCE and rediscovered in the late nineteenth century CE, the outdoor amphitheater of Epidaurus is renowned for allowing performers' voices to carry even to the last of its fifty-five rows. The source of this acoustic quality, **23** therefore, has long been misunderstood. It **24** is not until 2007 that a study by Nico Declercq and Cindy Dekeyser of the Georgia Institute of **25** Technology demonstrated that the theater's seating arrangement is the source of its excellent acoustics.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) however,
- C) instead,
- D) consequently,

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had not been
- C) would not have been
- D) was not

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Technology—
- C) Technology. It
- D) Technology, which

Before Declercq and Dekeyser's study, many explanations had been proposed for the sound quality at the Epidaurus theater. Observers speculated that the direction in which the wind blows, the rhythm of performances in ancient Greece, or the amplifying properties of actors' masks allowed sound from the stage to reach the entire audience. But while these factors may have had some effect, **26** the Greek soprano Maria Callas performed at the theater in 1960, and actors have performed there without special enunciation or augmentation. Since actors remained audible under all of these **27** conditions and circumstances, the mystery of the theater's acoustics endured.

26

Which choice most effectively addresses the theories presented in the previous sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the theater provides a fitting venue for the annual Epidaurus Festival, which features stagings of ancient Greek classics,
- C) audience members continue to enjoy the beautiful view of a lush landscape beyond the stage,
- D) modern plays have been staged at Epidaurus on windless days,

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) conditions and in these situations,
- C) conditions and were able to be heard,
- D) conditions,

28 In considering the primary source of the theater's sonic properties, Declercq and Dekeyser suspected that the key might be the way sound waves reflect or break apart when they encounter ridged surfaces. Applying mathematical models derived in part from Declercq's earlier research, which had examined the ways sound waves reflect off a step pyramid at Chichén Itzá in Mexico, they found that the tiered rows of limestone benches in the Epidaurus theater affect sound waves in an unusual way. **29** The waves encounter the theater's seats. As this happens, sounds with frequencies lower than 500 hertz are significantly dampened while higher-frequency sounds are reflected with little diminution.

28

Which choice most effectively introduces the information in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Sensing that the ancient Greeks and Romans had admired the theater's design,
- C) Even though evidence suggests that the Greek builders of the theater did not understand the acoustic principles that account for the quality of sound in the theater,
- D) Curious about the effects of background noise on the sound quality of an ancient outdoor venue such as the Epidaurus theater,

29

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) After an encounter between the waves and the theater's seats,
- B) When the waves encounter the theater's seats,
- C) The waves happen to encounter the theater's seats, and
- D) The waves encounter the theater's seats—thus,

[1] This filtering effect explains why performers are so easy to hear in the theater. [2] Low-frequency sounds such as wind, rustling trees, and other noises coming from the area around the theater are reduced when they bounce off the seats, whereas the high-frequency sounds coming from the actors remain relatively unchanged. [3] Performers' voices also contain low tones, and these too are muted by the theater's seats. [4] But this sound reduction doesn't impair actors' audibility because of a neurological phenomenon called "virtual pitch." [5] This capacity helps people hear human voices more clearly than **30** hearing less important sounds. [6] When exposed to speech that lacks **31** their typical lower tones, the human brain automatically reconstructs the missing frequencies. [7] At Epidaurus, the combination of virtual pitch and the sound-dampening effect of the seats **32** allow performers' voices to be heard fully and clearly from any seat. **33**

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) less
- C) having heard less
- D) those of less

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it's
- C) its
- D) they're

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have been allowing
- C) are allowing
- D) allows

33

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 7 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 1.
- D) after sentence 2.

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

A Ray of Sunshine for the US Economy

The solar-power industry in the United States has seen dramatic growth during recent years as energy consumers have sought to become more self-sufficient, diminish their environmental **34** impact. And lowering their energy bills. As a result of increased demand for solar energy, the solar-power industry now offers one of the fastest-growing career paths in the country. From 2010 to 2014, the overall number of solar jobs in the US economy **35** held steady, with the addition of approximately 80,000 jobs in manufacturing, sales and distribution, installation, and more.

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) impact, plus they can lower their
- C) impact—with lower
- D) impact, and lower their

35

Which choice most effectively interprets data from the table to set up the information provided in the rest of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) increased at a rate of 72 percent,
- C) skyrocketed by nearly 86 percent,
- D) fluctuated between 30 and 121 percent,

Comprising just over half of solar jobs in 2014, installation is the largest single sector of the solar-power industry. Job opportunities in installation have soared: from 2010 to 2014, the number of solar-installation jobs increased 121 percent, **36** to 20,185 jobs in 2014, more than the number of manufacturing jobs. These jobs are open to people at a variety of experience levels. While many solar installers have taken courses at technical schools or community colleges, the only requirement beyond a high school diploma is usually an apprenticeship or other on-the-job training. **37** With California leading the country in solar jobs, jobs in this sector of the solar industry are quite profitable. In 2013, solar installers' wages averaged \$23.63 per hour, comparable to **38** those of skilled electricians and plumbers.

Solar Jobs by Sector, 2010–2014

Sector	2010	2012	2014	Growth rate, 2010–2014
Installation	43,934	57,177	97,031	121%
Manufacturing	24,916	29,742	32,490	30%
Sales and distribution	11,744	16,005	20,185	72%
Project development	N/A	7,988	15,112	N/A
Other	12,908	8,105	8,989	N/A
Total	93,502	119,016	173,807	85.9%

Changes in the number of jobs in "Other" over the years are not necessarily a reflection of actual increases or decreases in employment but may instead be due to changes in the types of jobs included in this category.

Adapted from The Solar Foundation, National Solar Jobs Census 2014. ©2015 by The Solar Foundation.

36

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support the point made in the first part of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) from 43,934 jobs in 2010 to 97,031 jobs in 2014.
- C) less than the growth rate for jobs in manufacturing.
- D) from 11,744 jobs in 2010 to 15,112 jobs in 2014.

37

Which choice best introduces the material that follows in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) In addition to being abundant and accessible,
- C) Though they are less plentiful in some areas,
- D) Also requiring some knowledge of maintenance,

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) a skilled electrician or plumber.
- C) wages earned by a skilled electrician and plumbers.
- D) skilled electricians and plumbers.

The rapid proliferation of well-paying jobs in solar installation **39** are largely attributable **40** to: the falling price of solar energy. Technological innovation has made components less expensive, while tax subsidies and other governmental incentive programs have offset some of the costs of installation for businesses and individuals. Also, the efficiency of solar-installation companies has increased as the industry has matured, reducing costs still further. All of these factors have driven down the cost of equipment and installation for solar-power systems, which fell by more than 50 percent between 2010 and 2013. Solar power is now competitive with other energy sources in many **41** markets. This leads corporations, utility companies, and private homeowners to use it. Indeed, the primary reason most consumers cite for installing new solar-power systems is not to benefit the environment but to save money.

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have been
- C) is
- D) are being

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to,
- C) to
- D) to—

41

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) markets, a development that has led
- B) markets, an aspect of solar power that has led
- C) markets; such competition has led
- D) markets, with this competition leading

42 Because some power companies don't provide information about saving money over helping the environment, technological and economic developments in the solar-power industry ensure they are doing both. Consumers are not the only ones for whom solar power is a win-win scenario, 43 though as a result of their own efforts, industry employees can meet demand for an environmentally friendly service while 44 also making a good living for themselves.

42

Which choice provides the best transition from the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Even though consumers of solar-power systems may prioritize
- C) While it remains unclear whether people in urban areas prefer
- D) Since just installing solar panels doesn't immediately guarantee that people will prioritize

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) though, as a result,
- C) though: as a result
- D) though—as a result,

44

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they also, meanwhile, make a good living for themselves.
- C) simultaneously making a good living for themselves at the same time.
- D) making a good living for themselves is something they can do at the same time.

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**