

Multiple-Choice Questions, Set 1

(Questions 1–35, 25 minutes)

Improving Sentences

The following sentences are questioning you about sentence correctness and expression of information. Part, or all, of each sentence is underlined. Following the sentence, five versions of the underlined portion are presented. Choice **A** repeats the original; the other choices are different. If you think a better sentence can be found in Choices **B–E**, then choose one of them. If the sentence is correct as stated, your answer will be **A**.

1. The food industry has introduced many low carbohydrate foods; although many believe this is just one more of many such type of diet fads.
 - A. ; although many believe this is just one more of many such type of diet fads.
 - B. , although many believe this is just one more of many diet fads.
 - C. ; although many diet fads are being tried by many people.
 - D. , many diet fads, however, are being explored by many people.
 - E. ; however, many believe this is just one more diet fad.
2. I thought I heard a soft footstep behind me walking my dog.
 - A. I thought I heard a soft footstep behind me walking my dog.
 - B. Walking my dog behind me I heard I soft footstep.
 - C. While walking my dog, I thought I heard a soft footstep behind me.
 - D. Hearing a soft footstep behind me, I thought I would walk my dog.
 - E. Thinking I would walk my dog, I heard a soft footstep behind me.
3. In the past, many women made their own clothing, a practice that is fast being lost.
 - A. a practice that is fast being lost.
 - B. in as much as this showed attention to individual detail, it is being lost.
 - C. this makes their own clothing being lost.
 - D. a practice that is fast being lost in making their own clothing.
 - E. homemade clothing is a practice that is fast being lost.
4. We were appalled by what we found when we opened the door. The room reeking with a foul odor, graffiti sprayed on the walls and the room vandalized beyond recognition.
 - A. The room reeking with a foul odor, graffiti sprayed on the walls and the room vandalized beyond recognition.
 - B. Reeking with a foul odor, walls sprayed with graffiti and vandalizing the room beyond recognition.
 - C. The room reeked with a foul odor; graffiti was sprayed on the walls, and the room was vandalized beyond recognition.
 - D. The room was vandalized beyond recognition, smelling badly, with graffiti spraying on the walls and vandalizing the room.
 - E. The room vandalized the foul odor, the walls graffiti covered and unrecognizable.

5. For sale: several vintage hats from great aunt who has passed on with feathers.
- A. several vintage hats from great aunt who has passed on with feathers.
 - B. great aunt who has passed on with several vintage hats having feathers.
 - C. several vintage hats with feathers from great aunt who has passed on.
 - D. several feathers from great aunt who has passed on with vintage hats.
 - E. hats with feathers from several great aunts who has passed on in vintage.
6. The university, once known for its outstanding football team, is now struggling to find just the right coach to bring it back into the limelight.
- A. The university, once known for its outstanding football team,
 - B. The university was once known for having an outstanding football team,
 - C. The university, that once was known for an outstanding football team,
 - D. The university, because it once had an outstanding football team,
 - E. The university had once an outstanding football team,
7. Many socially prominent citizens are reluctant to find themselves in the media limelight, less prominent citizens are more anxious to be recognized.
- A. , less prominent citizens are more anxious to be recognized.
 - B. ;but less prominent citizens are more anxious to be recognized.
 - C. ; prominent citizens are more or less anxious to be recognized.
 - D. ; however, less prominent citizens are more anxious to be recognized.
 - E. ; recognition is anxiously desired by less prominent citizens.
8. Henry Ford an innovative thinker who developed many things is better known as the originator of the assembly line.
- A. Ford an innovative thinker who developed many things is better known as
 - B. Ford, an innovative thinker, who developed many things, is better known as
 - C. Ford, is an innovative thinker who developed many things, is best known as
 - D. Ford as an innovative thinker who developed, many things, especially
 - E. Ford, an innovative thinker who developed many things, is best known as
9. James Joyce absorbed the sights and sounds of Dublin, his native city, and, despite his personal protestations to the contrary, these are impressions that are included in his best-known writing.
- A. these are impressions that are included
 - B. the inclusion of these impressions is
 - C. these impressions are included
 - D. his inclusion of these impressions
 - E. included these impressions
10. Not unlike the experience Nida had suffered in her homeland; the violence she viewed in the hallways of her high school was not as upsetting to her as it was to others.
- A. Not unlike the experience Nida had suffered in her homeland;
 - B. Unlike other experiences Nida had experienced earlier;
 - C. Other experiences not unlike this one Nida had suffered so
 - D. The homeland where Nida had suffered is like
 - E. Because Nida had witnessed daily violence in her homeland,

11. Running around madly, not knowing anything about team strategy, the pee-wee soccer team with hopes of winning their game.
- A. with hopes of winning their game.
 - B. winning their game being their hope.
 - C. their game was not as important as their hope of winning.
 - D. hoped to win their game.
 - E. hoped to, maybe, if there was a chance, to perhaps win their game

Identifying Sentence Errors

These sentences will test your ability to recognize grammar and usage errors. Some are basic; a very few are obscure. Each sentence contains an error or no error at all (Choice E). Remember, your correct answer is actually identifying what is wrong with the sentence. If there is nothing wrong, then the answer will be E, No error.

12. Bravery, the trait mainly Harry shows, which plays a big role in his life, is the focus of most of his multitudinous adventures. No error.
13. Sam was so angry at his job situation that not one of his friends wanted to be near him; in addition, Laura, who hated conflict, decided not to go out with him that evening. No error.
14. Young readers identify with the character, Harry Potter, because they, whom this series actually targets, can relate to the hero in so many ways; he is basically kind, courageous, honest, and altruistic towards others. No error.
15. The principal of the high school, who was only in his second year, was dismayed by the number of students who had not past the basic standards exam because these results were giving the school its negative reputation. No error.
16. Dr. Martini was accompanied with an intern who is specializing in orthopedic surgery at the university medical school, which was featured in the news recently. No error.
17. Carlos had always been afraid of heights, so when he flew for the first time from Los Angeles to Atlanta, he was both terrified and exhilarated simultaneously. No error.
18. So many Americans would not be overweight and a danger to themselves and to our health care system if they would only choose their lifestyles more wiser. No error.
19. Since there wasn't much chance of rain on the day planned for the picnic, Paula reserved the picnic shelter just in case. No error.

20. Yesterday was my friend's birthday, so I decided to surprise her with a bouquet of early spring flowers that I planted and had nurtured in my own garden. No error.
21. The junior league on the field wondered about the grown up's odd, noisy behavior during their critical, championship game. No error.
22. Even though Charles had to direct the moving of the entire office, his salary was no greater than a clerk. No error.
23. Queen Elizabeth a powerful monarch who ruled England in the late 16th and early 17th Centuries, wielding a powerful influence that spread throughout Europe. No error.
24. Having little concern for others, as well as a lack of true compassion, patience and understanding, the woman made an ineffectual nurse. No error.
25. A good research paper requires diligent research skills, good manuscript skills, and a valid reference base, irregardless of the number of sources or amount of time a student has taken. No error.
26. Sitting in the doctor's waiting room, reading a three year old magazine, Bertrand dozing while he waited to be called for his appointment with the arthritis specialist. No error.
27. Not only did the baby need a nap, he needed to be feeding and to be changed. No error.
28. Aldi became so angry at his brother that he had to leave the room because he was afraid he would punch him because he was being so stubborn. No error.
29. Everyone needs to bring their book to class tomorrow, so we can review for the upcoming exam. No error.

Improving Paragraphs

The following is an early draft of a short essay. Some parts need to be revised. Read the passage, paragraph by paragraph and choose the best answers for the questions that follow. In choosing answers, follow the rules of standard written English.

- 1) Though Magna had been interested in writing a novel, since she was in high school.
- 2) She was reluctant to take herself seriously. 3) Instead, she worked as an English teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District. 4) She participated in many writing classes, and even spent the summer at the University of Iowa in the famous Iowa Writer's Workshop.

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5) After 32 years of teaching, Magna retired. 6) Once she had more time on her hands, she took out all of the pieces of manuscript that she had written during her working years.

7) After months and hours dedicated to the computer, she finished a short novel for readers in their adolescent years

8) Magna was, however, very reluctant to send it to anyone. 9) Magna's close friends and family urged her to send her manuscript to several publishers. 10) Finally, she gave out and sent it. 11) Soon after, she took a lengthy trip. 12) Several National Parks were visited. 13) When she returned from her sojourn, she became busy with family matters. 14) One Tuesday, receiving letters from three different publishers. 15) She was amazed to discover, anticipating three rejections, that all three of them wanted to publish her book. 16) Never did she dream that her biggest problem would be determining which offer to accept!

30. Sentence 1 can best be stated:

- A. As it is now.
- B. Interested since high school Magna had wanted to write a novel.
- C. Since high school writing a novel was Magna's interest.
- D. Since high school, Magna had always wanted to write a novel.
- E. Wanting to write a novel since high school Magna always wished.

31. Sentence 7 can be most concisely stated:

- A. As it is now.
- B. After long months dedicated to adolescent readers, she completed a short novel.
- C. After long months dedicated to the computer, she completed a short novel for adolescent readers.
- D. After long dedicated months, she completed a novel of short length for adolescent readers.
- E. After months and hours dedicated to writing, she completed a short novel for adolescence.

32. Sentence 8 is best placed:

- A. where it is now.
- B. before sentence 10.
- C. after sentence 9.
- D. after sentence 10.
- E. after sentence 13.

33. Sentences 11 and 12 can BEST be combined:

- A. Soon after, Several National Parks were visited on her lengthy trip.
- B. Soon after, she took a lengthy trip visiting several National Parks.
- C. She soon after took a lengthy trip, visiting several National Parks.
- D. Several national parks were visited soon after on a lengthy trip.
- E. On a lengthy trip soon after, she visited several National Parks.

34. Sentence 15 can BEST be expressed:

- A. As it is now.
- B. She was amazed to discover all three of them wanted to publish her book, anticipating three rejections.
- C. All three of them wanted to publish her books, anticipating three rejections she was amazed to discover.
- D. Anticipating three rejections, she was amazed to discover all three of them wanted to publish her book.
- E. Anticipating three rejections, all three of them wanted amazingly to publish her book.

35. Sentence 16, the last sentence can BEST be stated:

- A. As it is now.
- B. Now she had an even bigger problem to deal with.
- C. Determining and dreaming of the best to choose is now her problem.
- D. No sooner did she get one problem solved than she had another to deal with.
- E. Determined to make the best decision, Magna debated on which publisher to choose.

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