

Boundaries

Question 1

Sociologist Alton Okinaka sits on the review board tasked with adding new sites to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, which includes Lo'alo'a Heiau, a Hawaiian temple built around 1730, and the Bishop National Bank of Hawaii, built in 1929. Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly, _____ historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A however. All
- B however and all
- C however all
- D however, all

Question 2

Over the years, dozens of architectural and archaeological sites important to Hawaiian history and culture--such as Grove Farm, Kilauea School, and the Hana Belt Road--have been added to an important _____ Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. New sites are added each year, as decided by a review board of experts including sociologist Alton Okinaka, architect Katle Stephens, and historian Bill Souza.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of standard English?

- A list: the
- B list. The
- C list; the
- D list the

Question 3

When someone's nonverbal behavior violates our expectations, we may perceive it positively or negatively depending on the violator's reward valence. For instance, a touch _____ a disliked coworker could be seen as a threat, a concept detailed in Judee Burgoon's theory.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A from,
- B from
- C from:
- D from—

Question 4

A sociolinguistic and pragmatic framework developed within the field of _____ politeness theory was proposed by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson to explain how people manage and negotiate social distance and rapport in conversation.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A linguistics
- B linguistics;
- C linguistics,
- D linguistics:

Question 5

In fluid dynamics studies, physicists often analyze the effects of Rayleigh-Taylor instability. What is Rayleigh-Taylor instability, and how _____ Part of fluid mechanics, Rayleigh-Taylor instability is an instability of an interface between two different fluids. In certain conditions, this “instability” can cause the fluids to mix together.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A it does affect fluid interfaces?
- B does it affect fluid interfaces.
- C it does affect fluid interfaces.
- D does it affect fluid interfaces?

Question 6

Cut, bent, and welded from discarded metal materials, the sculptures of London-based Nigerian artist Sokari Douglas Camp are meant to challenge viewers to consider their own relationships to material _____ her thought-provoking works in the 1999 exhibition *Sokari Douglas Camp* at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC, were no different.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A wastes;
- B wastes and to
- C wastes,
- D wastes

Question 7

The Hawthorne effect is a well-known phenomenon in social science, a reactivity whereby subjects improve an aspect of their behavior. To researcher Henry A. Landsberger, this effect suggests a key problem: people can change _____ modify their typical actions during studies, and act in ways that don't reflect their normal habits.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A their behavior;
- B their behavior,
- C their behavior
- D their behavior. And

Question 8

Studied in human psychology, mood-congruent memory describes our tendency to recall information. Gordon H. Bower researched this effect, for example. His 1981 study showed this bias. Another researcher, though, is known _____ a similar concept in this field: Joseph P. Forgas.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A for,
- B for;
- C for—
- D for

Question 9

The concept of the "rhetorical situation" was introduced by three key figures in communication studies: influential rhetorician Lloyd Bitzer, who first proposed the concept in 1968; Richard E. Vatz, a critic of Bitzer's theory at _____ and Scott Consigny, a scholar at Iowa State University in the US.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A Towson;
- B Towson,
- C Towson
- D Towson:

Question 10

In theater, the concept of the “fourth wall” suggests a separation, the idea of an invisible barrier between the actors on stage and the audience members watching them so intently that it feels almost like an act of voyeurism. When this convention is broken, however, the performance becomes a _____ audience directly acknowledged as part of the shared, live event.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A dialogue, the
- B dialogue, and the
- C dialogue. The
- D dialogue; the

Question 11

In Los Angeles County, California, bicycle paths such as the San Gabriel River bicycle path—which is 28 miles long—have become an increasingly popular means of travel. Moreover, lawyer and cycling _____ has identified several features of the Los Angeles landscape, like its temperate climate and mostly flat roads, that make the city naturally bike-friendly.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,
- B advocate, Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,
- C advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez
- D advocate, Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,

Question 12

Archaeologist Cornelius Holtorf has argued, “the past is a cultural construction of the present.” Heritage’s meaning comes from its contemporary use and interpretation by different groups. Specifically, public archaeology (the practice of presenting archaeological data) is _____ local communities engage with their own histories, as seen in the work of researcher K. Anne-pyburn, to create a shared understanding of the past.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A viewed, whenever
- B viewed. Whenever
- C viewed; whenever
- D viewed whenever

Question 13

The scientific method's development was a gradual process, building on earlier philosophical traditions. The work of Aristotle, an ancient Greek philosopher, emphasized empirical observation and logical _____ is often considered one of the earliest figures to lay the groundwork for systematic inquiry.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A reasoning, Aristotle
- B reasoning Aristotle
- C reasoning. Aristotle
- D reasoning and Aristotle

Question 14

Eleanor of Aquitaine was a patroness of the literary arts. Her court at Poitiers/Aquitaine in France—a center for troubadours, lyric poetry and _____ became a fertile ground for the development of courtly love.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A song
- B song—
- C song;
- D song,

Question 15

With songs like “We Shall Overcome”, the Civil Rights Movement utilized music and _____ or freedom songs, as they were commonly called—to foster a sense of unity and shared purpose. Scholar Candie substantial work on the topic, has documented how these songs bolstered morale, communicated messages, and mobilized participants.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A song,
- B song
- C song—
- D song:

Question 16

The editors of *Home Ground: A Guide to the American Landscape* turned to the _____ to craft the entry about “muskeg,” a term referring to terrain containing peat bogs and stunted trees.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A essayist, Carolyn Servid
- B essayist, Carolyn Servid,
- C essayist Carolyn Servid,
- D essayist Carolyn Servid

Question 17

In 1981, psychologist Daniel Batson proposed that feelings of empathy for another person lead to altruistic behavior. This is known as the empathy-altruism _____ and remains influential today.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A hypothesis
- B hypothesis—
- C hypothesis,
- D hypothesis:

Question 18

Physicists have named Frank Wilczek the “discoverer of axions,” a concept that has appeared in thousands of papers about them since the 1970s. Wilczek himself proposed the axion _____ realizing that it didn’t just solve the strong CP problem in quantum chromodynamics but also “axion,” the name he suggested.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A particle, however
- B particle; however,
- C particle, however;
- D particle, however,

Question 19

In 1959, social psychologist Leon Festinger asked seventy-one male students, all of whom had just completed a boring task, to describe “their genuine enjoyment” in glowing terms. Festinger paired payments for these endorsements with questionnaires—both of the participants and the confederates they _____ to groundbreaking effect in his experiment Cognitive Dissonance.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A convinced: from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing
- B convinced, from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing
- C convinced, from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing—
- D convinced—from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing,

Question 20

A key cognitive principle, the testing effect, enhances long-term memory not only by showing students what information they have successfully learned but also by revealing what material requires further study for future _____ to a study by psychologist Henry L. Roediger III, retrieving information from memory produces better retention than restudying the same information, a finding that has significant implications.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A assessments according
- B assessments, according
- C assessments. According
- D assessments and according

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly'
- 'historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts.'

Both clause 1 and clause 2 are independent clauses. As a result, a period is needed to separate them. Choice (A) is the correct answer.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the rules of punctuation around essential and non-essential information. The phrase 'the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places' identifies the specific 'important list' mentioned just before it. Because this information is essential to the meaning of the sentence—we need to know which list is being talked about—no punctuation should be used to separate it from the noun it describes. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer as it correctly integrates the essential phrase into the sentence without any punctuation.

Question 3

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "For instance, a touch from a disliked coworker"
- "could be seen as a threat"

The first part is not a complete clause—it's just a noun phrase ("a touch from a disliked coworker") that serves as the subject. The second part contains the predicate "could be seen as a threat." Together, they form one complete sentence with the structure: **subject + predicate**.

In the SAT, when we have a simple subject connected to its predicate, we **do not use any punctuation** between them. The word "from" is a preposition that connects "touch" to "a disliked coworker," and prepositions should not be preceded or followed by punctuation marks.

Therefore, **(B) from** is the correct answer.

Remember: Never place punctuation between a subject and its verb, or immediately before or after prepositions.

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "A sociolinguistic and pragmatic framework developed within the field of linguistics"
- "politeness theory was proposed by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson to explain how people manage and negotiate social distance and rapport in conversation"

The first part is a dependent clause because it lacks a main verb for the subject "framework." The phrase "developed within the field of linguistics" is a participial phrase modifying "framework," but there's no predicate to complete the thought.

The second part is an independent clause with "politeness theory" as the subject and "was proposed" as the predicate.

In the SAT, to separate a dependent clause and an independent clause, we have to use a comma. The dependent clause provides introductory information that leads into the main independent clause.

Therefore, **(C)** is the correct answer.

Question 5

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the proper use of question marks with direct versus indirect questions.

The sentence contains two questions joined by "and": "What is Rayleigh-Taylor instability, and how does it affect fluid interfaces?" Both parts are **direct questions**—they are asking for information in question form.

According to SAT conventions, direct questions must end with a question mark. Since the blank completes the second part of a direct question that begins with "how," it must end with a question mark.

Additionally, in direct questions that begin with question words like "how," we use inverted word order: the auxiliary verb "does" comes before the subject "it." This gives us "how does it affect" rather than "how it does affect."

Therefore, **(D) does it affect fluid interfaces?** is the correct answer because it uses the proper inverted word order for a direct question ("does it affect") and ends with the required question mark.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

'the sculptures of London-based Nigerian artist Sokari Douglas Camp are meant to challenge viewers to consider their own relationships to material wastes'

'her thought-provoking works in the 1999 exhibition Sokari Douglas Camp at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC, were no different'

The first clause is an independent clause because it has a subject ('the sculptures...') and a verb ('are meant') and can stand alone as a complete sentence. The second clause is also an independent clause because it has a subject ('her thought-provoking works...') and a verb ('were') and can also stand alone as a complete sentence. The transition word 'and' joins these two related independent clauses.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction like 'and', we must use a comma before the conjunction.

Therefore, (B) is the correct answer.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "people can change their behavior"
- "modify their typical actions during studies"

The first clause is an independent clause with a subject ("people") and a complete verb phrase ("can change"). The second clause, however, is not independent—it lacks a subject and begins with the verb "modify." This is a dependent clause that shares the same subject ("people") as the first clause.

In the SAT, when two clauses share the same subject and the second clause is dependent (lacking its own subject), we connect them with a comma when they form a compound predicate. This creates a structure where one subject performs two actions: "people can change... *and* modify..."

The word "and" appears after the blank, which confirms that these two verb phrases are being joined as a compound predicate. A comma before "and" in a compound predicate is the correct punctuation in Standard English.

Therefore, **(B) their behavior**, is the correct answer.

Question 8

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Another researcher, though, is known for [something]"
- "a similar concept in this field: Joseph P. Forgas"

The first clause is an independent clause with the subject "Another researcher" and the predicate "is known for." However, what follows the blank is not a complete clause at all—it's simply a noun phrase "a similar concept in this field" followed by an appositive (the name "Joseph P. Forgas").

The phrase "is known for" is incomplete without its object. The preposition "for" requires an object to complete its meaning, and that object is "a similar concept in this field." There should be no punctuation separating a preposition from its object.

The colon after "field" is correct because it introduces an appositive that identifies who the "another researcher" is.

Therefore, **(D)** is the correct answer.

Remember: Never place punctuation between a preposition and its object. The phrase "known for" needs to flow directly into what the researcher is known for.

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "influential rhetorician Lloyd Bitzer, who first proposed the concept in 1968; Richard E. Vatz, a critic of Bitzer's theory at Towson"
- "Scott Consigny, a scholar at Iowa State University in the US"

Both clauses are **independent clauses**. The first clause has the structure "Lloyd Bitzer [description]; Richard E. Vatz [description]" which forms a complete thought listing two figures. The second clause introduces the third figure, "Scott Consigny [description]."

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we can use a **semicolon or period**. Looking at the answer choices, only the semicolon appears as an option.

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer.

Note: This sentence uses semicolons to separate items in a complex list where the items themselves contain commas. The pattern is: "figure 1, description; figure 2, description at location; and figure 3, description." The semicolon before "and Scott Consigny" maintains parallel structure with the earlier semicolon after "1968."

Question 10

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "When this convention is broken, however, the performance becomes a dialogue"
- "the audience directly acknowledged as part of the shared, live event"

The first clause is an independent clause—it contains a subject ("the performance") and a complete verb ("becomes") and expresses a complete thought.

The second clause is a dependent clause. It lacks a main verb and cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. The phrase "audience directly acknowledged" is a noun phrase with a past participle modifier, not an independent clause.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and a dependent clause that provides additional description, we need to use either a comma or no

punctuation at all. Since the dependent clause here is non-essential information (an appositive phrase that renames "dialogue"), we use a comma.

Additionally, this sentence does not require a coordinating conjunction like "and" because the second part is not an independent clause that needs to be connected to the first.

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer.

Question 11

Correct Answer: C

This question tests the use of commas to separate essential and non-essential information, specifically with names and titles. The rule is that if a name is necessary to identify the person being talked about, it is considered **essential** information and should not be set off by commas. If the name is extra information and could be removed without changing the sentence's core meaning, it is **non-essential** and must be set off by a pair of commas.

In this sentence, the phrase *'lawyer and cycling advocate'* is a general description. Without the name *'Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,'* we would not know which specific advocate is being discussed. Therefore, the name is essential to the meaning of the sentence.

Because the name is essential, no commas should be used to separate it from the title that precedes it or the verb that follows it. The correct answer is **(C)** because it correctly treats *'Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez'* as essential information by not placing any commas around it, making the entire phrase *'lawyer and cycling advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez'* the complete subject of the verb *'has identified'*.

Question 12

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- '*public archaeology (the practice of presenting archaeological data) is _____ local communities engage with their own histories*'
- '*local communities engage with their own histories*'

The word "whenever" is a subordinating conjunction that creates a dependent clause. This means '*whenever local communities engage with their own histories*' is a dependent clause that cannot stand alone.

The first part, '*public archaeology (the practice of presenting archaeological data) is viewed*', is an independent clause—it has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.

In the SAT, to connect an independent clause with a dependent clause that follows it, **no punctuation is needed** when the dependent clause is essential to the meaning. Since '*whenever local communities engage with their own histories*' is essential to explaining *when* public archaeology is viewed (it's not just generally viewed—it's viewed in the context of communities engaging with their histories), no comma or other punctuation should separate them.

Therefore, **(D) is the correct answer.**

Question 13

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'The work of Aristotle, an ancient Greek philosopher, emphasized empirical observation and logical reasoning'
- 'Aristotle is often considered one of the earliest figures to lay the groundwork for systematic inquiry'

The first clause is an independent clause—it has a subject ('The work of Aristotle') and a complete predicate ('emphasized empirical observation and logical reasoning'). The second clause is also an independent clause with its own subject ('Aristotle') and predicate ('is often considered...').

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we have to use a **period** or a **semicolon**. Since only a period appears in the answer choices, that is what we must use.

Therefore, **(C) reasoning. Aristotle** is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to confuse this with (D), which uses "and" to connect the clauses. While "and" can connect independent clauses when preceded by a comma, in this case, "reasoning and Aristotle" would create a list structure that doesn't make logical sense—you cannot list "reasoning" and "Aristotle" as parallel items being emphasized by Aristotle's work.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

'Her court at Poitiers/Aquitaine in France—a center for troubadours, lyric poetry and song'

'became a fertile ground for the development of courtly love.'

The first clause is a dependent clause because it lacks a main verb (the phrase "a center for troubadours, lyric poetry and song" is an appositive that renames "Her court"). The second clause is an independent clause with a subject ("Her court") and predicate ("became a fertile ground").

This question tests the use of **non-essential information**. The phrase "a center for troubadours, lyric poetry and song" is non-essential information that provides additional detail about the court. When non-essential information is set off in the middle of a sentence, it must be enclosed by **matching punctuation marks**.

Notice that the non-essential phrase begins with a dash after "France." According to SAT conventions, we must use the same punctuation mark to close this non-essential phrase. Since it opens with a dash, it must close with a dash.

Therefore, **(B) song—** is the correct answer because it provides the matching dash needed to properly enclose the non-essential information.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "With songs like 'We Shall Overcome', the Civil Rights Movement utilized music and song"
- "or freedom songs, as they were commonly called—to foster a sense of unity and shared purpose"

The second part beginning with "or freedom songs" is **non-essential information**—it provides an alternative name for what was just mentioned but can be removed without changing the core meaning of the sentence.

In the SAT, non-essential information must be set off by matching punctuation pairs: two commas, two dashes, or two parentheses.

Looking at the end of the non-essential clause, we can see it already ends with a dash ("—to foster"). This means the beginning must also use a dash to match.

Therefore, **(C) song—** is the correct answer because it creates the matching pair of dashes needed to properly set off the non-essential information "or freedom songs, as they were commonly called."

Note: Be careful not to confuse this with a colon. While colons can introduce explanations, they cannot be used to set off non-essential information in the middle of a sentence, and they must be paired with matching punctuation when used this way.

Question 16

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the punctuation rules for names and titles. The relevant rule is that if a title or description (such as *essayist*) is essential to the identity of the noun it precedes, no commas should be used. If the name can be removed without making the sentence grammatically incomplete or ambiguous, it is considered non-essential and should be set off by commas.

In this sentence, "essayist" is used as a specific title or descriptor for the individual who crafted the entry. If we were to remove "Carolyn Servid" from the phrase "the essayist Carolyn Servid," the reader would not know which specific essayist is being referred to. Therefore, the name is essential information.

The correct answer is **(D)** because it contains no commas between the title "essayist" and the name "Carolyn Servid," nor does it place a comma after the name. This maintains the flow of the sentence, which continues directly into the infinitive phrase "to craft the entry."

Be careful with answer choices like (A) or (B) that place a single comma between a title and a name; on the SAT, you should either have no commas (if essential) or two commas (if non-essential). A single comma between a title and a name is almost always incorrect.

Question 17

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "In 1981, psychologist Daniel Batson proposed that feelings of empathy for another person lead to altruistic behavior. This is known as the empathy-altruism _____"

- "and remains influential today"

The first clause is an independent clause (a complete sentence). The second clause beginning with "and" is a dependent clause because it starts with a coordinating conjunction that connects it to the previous thought.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and a dependent clause that continues the same sentence, we don't need any punctuation when the dependent clause starts with a coordinating conjunction like "and."

However, we need to consider what comes before "and." The word "hypothesis" is simply completing the noun phrase "the empathy-altruism hypothesis." Since "and" is connecting this complete thought to what follows, no punctuation is needed between "hypothesis" and "and."

A dash in **(B)** would incorrectly separate parts of a continuous sentence. A comma in **(C)** would create an unnecessary pause before a coordinating conjunction in a simple compound predicate. A colon in **(D)** would incorrectly suggest that an explanation or list follows.

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer.

Question 18

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Wilczek himself proposed the axion particle"
- "realizing that it didn't just solve the strong CP problem in quantum chromodynamics but also 'axion,' the name he suggested"

The first clause is an independent clause with a subject ("Wilczek") and a complete predicate. The second clause is a dependent clause because it begins with a participial phrase ("realizing"), which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and a dependent clause, we can use either no punctuation or a comma. However, this question includes the transition word "however," which belongs to the independent clause and

interrupts the flow between the subject and the participial phrase.

When a transition word like "however" appears in the middle of a sentence (not at the beginning), it must be set off by commas on both sides because it is non-essential information. This creates the structure: "particle, however, realizing..."

Therefore, **(D) particle, however**, is the correct answer.

Note that options (B) and (C) incorrectly use semicolons. A semicolon can only separate two independent clauses, but "realizing that it didn't just solve..." is a dependent clause that must remain attached to the main sentence.

Question 19

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Festinger paired payments for these endorsements with questionnaires—both of the participants and the confederates they convinced"
- "from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing"

The first part is an independent clause (a complete sentence). The second part, "from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing," is a dependent phrase that provides additional information about the payments—it specifies the range of payment amounts.

In the SAT, when we need to introduce explanatory or clarifying information that expands on what came before, we can use a colon or a dash. However, we need to look at the full context of the sentence.

Notice that the sentence already contains a dash before "both of the participants." This dash opens a piece of non-essential information. The phrase "from one dollar to twenty dollars to nothing" continues to add detail about the payments, and then the sentence needs to close the non-essential information before ending with "to groundbreaking effect in his

experiment Cognitive Dissonance."

Therefore, **(C)** is the correct answer because it uses a comma after "convinced" to separate the additional descriptive phrase, and then uses a closing dash after "nothing" to match the opening dash that appears earlier in the sentence (before "both"). This creates the proper punctuation pair (dash...dash) to set off the non-essential information, allowing the sentence to continue smoothly to its conclusion.

Question 20

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "A key cognitive principle, the testing effect, enhances long-term memory not only by showing students what information they have successfully learned but also by revealing what material requires further study for future assessments"
- "According to a study by psychologist Henry L. Roediger III, retrieving information from memory produces better retention than restudying the same information, a finding that has significant implications"

The first clause is an independent clause—it contains a subject ("the testing effect") and a complete predicate, expressing a complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence.

The second clause is also an independent clause—it has a subject ("retrieving information from memory") and a predicate ("produces better retention"), forming a complete sentence. The phrase "According to a study by psychologist Henry L. Roediger III" is an *introductory phrase* that modifies the independent clause but doesn't change its fundamental independence.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we can use a **period** or a **semicolon**. Since only a period appears in the answer choices, that's what we need.

When a sentence begins with an introductory phrase like "According to a study," we should place a comma after that phrase to separate it from the main clause. This is why (C) includes both the period after "assessments" and the comma after "III."

Therefore, **(C) assessments. According** is the