

# 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

The *djeser*, which is written as a horizontal hieroglyph shaped like a bent arm holding a short stick, and the *heqat*, which is written as a hieroglyph that looks like four oval items pouring out of a barrel, were ancient Egyptian units of \_\_\_\_\_ to record length and volume, respectively, the *djeser* and *heqat* have since fallen out of use.

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

- A measurement, used
- B measurement used
- C measurement. Used
- D measurement and used

## Question 3

The Austronesian language family includes Samoan, Palauan, and some 1,200 other languages throughout the Pacific, making it one of the largest language families in the world and of keen interest to \_\_\_\_\_ of UC Santa Cruz.

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

- A linguist, Sandra Chung.
- B linguist, Sandra Chung
- C linguist: Sandra Chung
- D linguist Sandra Chung

## Question 4

Julia Alvarez's 1994 novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal \_\_\_\_\_ can serve as a starting point for those wanting to explore how the rule of dictator Rafael Trujillo has been represented in Dominican American literature.

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

- A sisters, and
- B sisters and
- C sisters,
- D sisters

## Question 5

In the thought-provoking 2010 exhibition *Relative Pelican* at the Stux Gallery in New York, Sokari Douglas Camp presented sculptures that had been \_\_\_\_\_ welded from recycled metal materials, such as oil drums. In doing so, the London-based Nigerian sculptor challenged viewers to imagine new uses and futures for the material wastes of the past.

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

- A cut, bent, and,
- B cut, bent, and
- C cut, bent; and
- D cut bent, and

## Question 6

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 7

The Austronesian language family includes Balinese, Bikol, and some 1,200 other languages throughout the Pacific, making it one of the largest language families in the world and of keen interest to \_\_\_\_\_ of UC Santa Cruz.

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

- A linguist Sandra Chung
- B linguist, Sandra Chung,
- C lingu.st: Sandra Chung
- D ling.ist, Sandra Chung

## Question 8

Olaudah Equiano's narrative about his enslavement was crucial to the abolitionist movement in Britain, in the late 1700s. Seeking to expose the horrors of the slave \_\_\_\_\_ Equiano published his autobiography, a work detailing his experiences as an enslaved person.

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

- A trade
- B trade.
- C trade,
- D trade;

## Question 9

In their research, behavioral \_\_\_\_\_ integrate methods from psychology and economics to analyze how and why people make particular choices and to examine the broader implications of those choices for the economy.

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

- A economists Laura Gee and Muriel Niederle,
- B economists Laura Gee and Muriel Niederle
- C economists, Laura Gee and Muriel Niederle,
- D economists, Laura Gee and Muriel Niederle

## Question 10

Though he's performed on many respected albums, including *Low Blow* by Victor Bailey, drummer Dennis Chambers may be best known for his time as house drummer for the hip-hop label Sugar Hill Records. He did not play drums on the label's classic song "Rapper's \_\_\_\_\_ he joined the label after the song's release.

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

- A Delight," however,
- B Delight." However,
- C Delight" however
- D Delight," however;

## Question 11

In 1951, while conducting research on bacterial genetics, scientist Esther Lederberg observed a surprising phenomenon, discovering a new virus. When Lederberg analyzed the unexpected results, she realized that she \_\_\_\_\_ process of genetic exchange between bacteria.

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

- A witnessed; a
- B witnessed a
- C witnessed, a
- D witnessed. A

## Question 12

In Los Angeles County, California, bicycle paths such as the Arroyo Seco bicycle path—which is 2.27 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 13

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 14

The two-step flow of communication \_\_\_\_\_ was first introduced by sociologist Paul Lazarsfeld (1944) in a study on the 1940 presidential election.

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

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

## Question 15

Proto Omotic—a protolanguage, or ancestral language of a family of descendant (daughter) languages—is said to be the common ancestor of all Ta-Ne-Omotic languages. This designation is \_\_\_\_\_ Proto Omotic is only postulated, its characteristics being inferred from the linguistic properties of its nineteen daughters.

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

- A hypothetical: however,
- B hypothetical, however,
- C hypothetical. However,
- D hypothetical, however.

## Question 16

The formation of basalt columns varies greatly by location. For instance, the smaller Devil's Postpile columns (in California) can measure just under a \_\_\_\_\_ the Giant's Causeway columns (in Northern Ireland) boast a maximum height of about thirty-nine feet.

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

- A foot: while
- B foot; while
- C foot. While
- D foot, while

## Question 17

Until the research of Roger K. Smith was published in 1982, understanding the dynamics of these rare cloud formations remained largely speculative and was based on anecdotal reports. By linking the land breeze to sea \_\_\_\_\_ study explained their formation and defined their unique meteorological properties.

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

- A breeze (the
- B breeze: the
- C breeze, the
- D breeze; the

## Question 18

When the United States started using the Saffir-Simpson scale developed by Herbert Saffir and Robert Simpson in 1971, hurricane-intensity classification improved by over ninety \_\_\_\_\_ scale is subject to what meteorologists call the “intensity problem”: as the storm becomes organized, hurricane-wind speed starts to build back up.

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

- A percent and This
- B percent This
- C percent. This
- D percent, This

## Question 19

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 20

In his influential work “A First Language,” linguist Roger Brown identified stages \_\_\_\_\_ language acquisition, child development, and grammar by analyzing the speech of three children, Adam, Eve, and Sarah, over the course of several years, documenting their linguistic progress.

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

- A of
- B of:
- C of—
- D of,

# 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.

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## Question 2

**Correct Answer: C**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'The djoser...and the heqat...were ancient Egyptian units of measurement'
- 'the djoser and heqat have since fallen out of use.'

Clause 1 is an independent clause. Clause 2 is also an independent clause. Two independent clauses must be separated by a period or a semicolon.

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## Question 3

**Correct Answer: D**

This question tests the punctuation of names and titles. When a name or title is essential to the meaning of the sentence and directly follows the noun it describes, no punctuation is needed. In this case, "Sandra Chung" is directly identified as the "linguist" of UC Santa Cruz. The information is essential and flows directly without interruption.

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## Question 4

**Correct Answer: D**

This question tests the use of commas with appositives. The phrase "a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal sisters" is an appositive that describes the novel. In this sentence, the appositive is essential information because it identifies *which* novel by Julia Alvarez is being discussed. Therefore, no comma is needed between "Mirabal" and "sisters".

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## Question 5

**Correct Answer: B**

This question tests the use of commas to separate items in a list. The relevant rule is that when a list contains three or more items, commas should be placed between each item to ensure clarity. The final comma before the conjunction 'and' (known as the Oxford or serial comma) is conventional in Standard English. The correct answer is (B) because it correctly places a comma after 'cut' to separate the first and second items in the list of actions performed on the sculptures: 'cut, bent, and welded'.

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## Question 6

**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.

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## Question 7

**Correct Answer: A**

This question tests the punctuation rules for names and titles. The relevant rule is that if a name is essential to the meaning of the sentence, it should not be separated from its title by any punctuation. In this case, the name 'Sandra Chung' is essential because it specifies which linguist is being referred to. Removing the name would make the sentence unclear ('of keen interest to linguist of UC Santa Cruz'). The correct answer is (A) because it correctly treats 'Sandra Chung' as essential information by not using any commas.

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## Question 8

**Correct Answer: C**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Seeking to expose the horrors of the slave trade"
- "Equiano published his autobiography, a work detailing his experiences as an enslaved person"

The first clause is a **dependent clause** because it begins with a participial phrase ("Seeking to expose..."). This phrase cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

The second clause is an **independent clause** because it contains a subject ("Equiano") and a predicate ("published his autobiography") and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate a dependent clause and an independent clause when the dependent clause comes first, we have to use a comma.

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

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## Question 9

**Correct Answer: B**

This question tests the punctuation of essential and non-essential information. The relevant rule states that information essential to the meaning of the sentence should not be set off by commas, while non-essential information should be enclosed in a pair of commas.

The phrase 'Laura Gee and Muriel Niederle' specifies which 'behavioral economists' are being discussed. Without these names, the sentence would refer to behavioral economists in general, which changes the core meaning. Therefore, the names are essential information.

Because the names are essential, no commas should be used to separate them from the rest of the sentence. The correct answer is (B) as it correctly integrates the names as an essential appositive without any separating punctuation.

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## Question 10

**Correct Answer: B**

This question tests clause separation and the use of conjunctive adverbs. Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank: 'He did not play drums on the label's classic song "Rapper's Delight"' and 'he joined the label after the song's release.' Clause 1 is an independent clause. Clause 2 is also an independent clause. When connecting two independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb like 'however,' the conjunctive adverb must be preceded by a period or a semicolon, and followed by a comma. In this case, 'Delight.' provides the necessary period before 'However,' and the comma after it. The correct answer is B because it correctly separates two independent clauses with a period, and uses a comma after the conjunctive adverb 'However' to introduce the second independent clause.

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## Question 11

**Correct Answer: B**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "she witnessed"
- "process of genetic exchange between bacteria"

The first part "she witnessed" is an independent clause with a subject ("she") and a verb ("witnessed"), but it's incomplete because "witnessed" is a transitive verb that requires a direct object. The second part "process of genetic exchange between bacteria" is not a clause at all—it's simply a noun phrase that serves as the direct object of "witnessed."

In the SAT, when a verb directly takes its object with no separation needed, **no punctuation should be placed between them**. Adding any punctuation (semicolon, comma, or period) would incorrectly separate the verb from its direct object, creating a sentence fragment.

Therefore, **(B) witnessed a** is the correct answer.

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## Question 12

**Correct Answer: C**

This question tests the punctuation of appositives, which are phrases that rename a nearby noun. The specific rule tested is how to punctuate a name that follows a title or description.

The rule is that if the name is essential to identify the person being discussed, no commas should be used. In this sentence, the phrase "lawyer and cycling advocate" is a general description. The name "Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez" is essential because it specifies which particular advocate is being referred to. Without the name, the sentence would be unclear.

Since the name "Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez" is essential information, it should not be separated from the title "advocate" by any commas. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer because it correctly integrates the name as part of the subject without using unnecessary punctuation.

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## Question 13

**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.*

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## Question 14

**Correct Answer: A**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'The two-step flow of communication theory'
- 'was first introduced by sociologist Paul Lazarsfeld (1944) in a study on the

1940 presidential election'

The first part is not a complete clause—it's just a noun phrase that serves as the subject. The second part contains the verb 'was first introduced' and completes the sentence, making it the predicate.

Since we have a subject followed by its predicate in a single sentence, **no punctuation should separate them**. Adding any punctuation mark between a subject and its verb creates a grammatical error.

Therefore, **(A) theory** is the correct answer because it allows the subject to connect directly to its verb without interruption.

*Attention: Never place punctuation between a subject and its verb. This is one of the most common punctuation errors tested on the SAT.*

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## Question 15

**Correct Answer: C**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'This designation is hypothetical'
- 'However, Proto Omotic is only postulated, its characteristics being inferred from the linguistic properties of its nineteen daughters.'

'This designation is hypothetical' is an independent clause because it has a subject ('This designation') and a verb ('is') and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

The second clause, 'Proto Omotic is only postulated...', is also an independent clause. The transition word 'However' belongs to this second clause, introducing a contrast or clarification.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use a period, a semicolon, or a comma followed by a FANBOYS conjunction. Since 'However' is not a FANBOYS conjunction, the only correct way to separate these two complete sentences from the options provided is with a period. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer.

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## Question 16

**Correct Answer: D**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "the smaller Devil's Postpile columns (in California) can measure just under a foot"
- "while the Giant's Causeway columns (in Northern Ireland) boast a maximum height of about thirty-nine feet"

The first clause is an independent clause—it contains a subject ("the smaller Devil's Postpile columns") and a predicate ("can measure just under a foot") and expresses a complete thought.

The second clause begins with "while," which is a subordinating conjunction. This makes it a dependent clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and a dependent clause that begins with a subordinating conjunction like "while," we can use either a comma or no punctuation at all. Among the answer choices, only **(D)** uses a comma, which correctly connects these two clauses.

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

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## Question 17

**Correct Answer: C**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "By linking the land breeze to sea breeze"
- "the study explained their formation and defined their unique meteorological properties"

The first clause is a **dependent clause** beginning with the preposition "By," which describes how something was accomplished. This is a prepositional

phrase that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

The second clause is an **independent clause** with a subject ("the study") and a predicate ("explained their formation and defined their unique meteorological properties"), making it a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate a **dependent clause and an independent clause**, we have to use **a comma**. When a dependent clause (especially one beginning with a preposition or subordinating conjunction) comes before an independent clause, a comma must separate them.

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

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## Question 18

**Correct Answer: C**

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "When the United States started using the Saffir-Simpson scale developed by Herbert Saffir and Robert Simpson in 1971, hurricane-intensity classification improved by over ninety percent"

- "This scale is subject to what meteorologists call the 'intensity problem': as the storm becomes organized, hurricane-wind speed starts to build back up"

The first clause is an **independent clause**—it contains a subject ("hurricane-intensity classification") and a verb ("improved") and expresses a complete thought. The second clause is also an **independent clause**—it has a subject ("This scale") and a verb ("is") and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

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

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

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## Question 19

**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.

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## Question 20

**Correct Answer: A**

Look at the structure around the blank:

"Roger Brown identified stages \_\_\_\_\_ language acquisition, child development, and grammar by analyzing..."

The word "of" is a preposition that shows the relationship between "stages" and what follows. The phrase "language acquisition, child development, and grammar" is simply a list of items that describes what kind of stages Brown identified.

According to SAT punctuation rules, **we do not use commas, colons, or dashes after prepositions**. The preposition "of" directly connects to its

object (the list that follows), and no punctuation should interrupt this connection.

The phrase flows naturally as: "stages of language acquisition, child development, and grammar." The commas in this section are only separating items in the list, not setting off any non-essential information.

Therefore, **(A) is the correct answer** because the preposition "of" should not be followed by any punctuation mark.