

Boundaries

Question 1

At 3,020 years old, Patriarca da Floresta, a jequitibá-rosa (*Cariniana legalis*) located in Brazil, is one of the oldest known trees in the world. With over three millennia of climate data in its tree rings, a single tree like this, claims _____ Valerie Trouet, can tell the history of the world.

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

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

Question 2

Scholars have praised Gwendolyn Brooks's 1945 poem "Ballad of Pearl May Lee" for its nuanced portrayal of life in Brooks's South Side Chicago neighborhood. The poem shouldn't be regarded as being simply a product of Brooks's _____ the breadth of the poet's influences, which range from medieval English ballads to the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Langston Hughes.

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

- A surroundings, though, considering
- B surroundings; though, considering
- C surroundings, though, Considering
- D surroundings, though; considering

Question 3

Proto-Atlantic-Congo—a protolanguage, or ancestral language of a family of descendant (daughter) languages—is said to be the common ancestor of all Atlantic-Congo languages. This designation is _____ Proto-Atlantic-Congo is only postulated, its characteristics being inferred from the linguistic properties of its 1,453 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 4

The liquid compounds hexadecane ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{34}$) and tetrachloromethane (CCl_4) have molar masses of 226.41 and 153.80 _____ mass helps convert between the mass of the reactants and the mass of the product).

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

- A g/mol (respectively, in stoichiometry, molar
- B g/mol, respectively, (in stoichiometry, molar
- C g/mol, respectively (in stoichiometry, molar
- D g/mol. Respectively, in stoichiometry (molar

Question 5

Psychologists Roger Brown and James Kulik first proposed the concept of "flashbulb memory," a vivid and detailed memory of a surprising and consequential event. In 1977, the researchers introduced the _____ in the years that followed they studied memories of events like the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

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

- A theory and
- B theory,
- C theory
- D theory, and

Question 6

While language is often seen as a stable, defined system, it shifts when speakers navigate different social contexts. One such shift is a linguistic behavior called code-switching _____ sociologist John Gumperz famously used CS to describe how bilinguals alternate between languages.

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

- A (CS) and
- B (CS)
- C (CS),
- D (CS);

Question 7

It was the kind of challenge that would set any art curator's mind into _____ that elusive thread that could link artists as disparate as American abstract painter Anne Ryan, Romanian impressionist painter Micaela Eleutheriade, and Flemish mannerist painter Anthony van Dyck.

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

- A motion, finding:
- B motion. Finding
- C motion; finding
- D motion: finding

Question 8

Futurism was a revolutionary art movement that celebrated dynamism, speed, and technology in the early 20th century. However, a specific sub-genre known as Aeropittura, led by artist Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, used flight to capture new perspectives _____ 1929 CE, according to Marinetti, artists were officially embracing the machine age.

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

- A imaginatively in
- B imaginatively, in
- C imaginatively. In
- D imaginatively, which in

Question 9

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 10

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 11

Individuals who are assigned to a group based on arbitrary criteria may exhibit favoritism toward their own group over others even when no conflict exists. This concept is known as the minimal group _____ research by Henri Tajfel suggests that it has significant implications for intergroup relations and prejudice.

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

- A paradigm, and
- B paradigm
- C paradigm,
- D paradigm and,

Question 12

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 13

A study showed that microbial life exists deep beneath the seafloor, though the metabolic rates of these organisms are extremely slow. Before the drilling, the cell concentration at the seafloor was 10^9 cells per cubic centimeter of _____ drilling, the concentration at 2.5 kilometers below the seafloor was 10^2 cells per cubic centimeter of sediment.

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

- A sediment. After
- B sediment after,
- C sediment after
- D sediment, after

Question 14

Lithuanian philosopher Emmanuel Levinas's ethical work comes in a range of concepts and critiques. In 1961, Levinas used phenomenology to describe the encounter with the _____ in 1974, he analyzed the subject's responsibility for the Other and then developed his idea of substitution, creating the complex ethical-metaphysical notion of saying-otherwise-than-being.

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

- A Other;
- B Other,
- C Other later,
- D Other, later,

Question 15

In a 1968 book, historian Roberta Wohlstetter documented a fascinating failure in American intelligence. Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. _____ the very institution designed to protect the nation—possessed enough information to anticipate the Japanese strike.

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

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

Question 16

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 17

The concept of language, studied by linguist Wallace Lambert, involves the social stereotypes associated with different languages or dialects. Fueled by _____ these attitudes can affect social perception, thus influencing educational opportunities without regard for an individual's actual linguistic competence.

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

- A biases linked to specific speech patterns
- B biases linked to specific speech patterns,
- C biases, linked to specific speech patterns,
- D biases linked, to specific speech patterns,

Question 18

In 2020, internationally renowned Slovak photographer Mária Švarbová exhibited her work at the Contessa Gallery and the Art Angle Gallery in the United States and _____ utilizing vivid pastel colors, overexposed tones, and mirrorlike symmetry, Švarbová's photographs evoke a Socialist-era aesthetic that she describes as "minimalistic but also futuristic."

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

- A Japan, respectively,
- B Japan, respectively;
- C Japan; respectively,
- D Japan, respectively

Question 19

To chemists, it was not obvious that acoustic cavitation causes high-energy chemical _____ the powerful phenomenon was thought to simply agitate the solutions in which the ultrasonic waves were applied. Researcher Kenneth S. Suslick has demonstrated that the implosion of bubbles creates localized hot spots.

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

- A reactions, instead,
- B reactions, instead;
- C reactions instead,
- D reactions; instead,

Question 20

The liquid compounds tetradecane ($C_{14}H_{30}$) and dodecane ($C_{12}H_{26}$) have molar masses of 198.39 and 170.33 _____ mass helps convert between the mass of the reactants and the mass of the product).

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

- A g/mol (\text{respectively, in stoichiometry, molar})
- B $\text{g/mol, respectively, (in stoichiometry, molar)}$
- C $\text{g/mol. Respectively, in stoichiometry (molar)}$
- D $\text{g/mol, respectively (in stoichiometry, molar)}$

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the punctuation of titles and names. The phrase "dendrochronologist Valerie Trouet" functions as a subject with an essential title. "Dendrochronologist" is the profession of Valerie Trouet and is essential information that cannot be removed. Therefore, no punctuation is needed between the title and the name.

Question 2

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'The poem shouldn't be regarded as being simply a product of Brooks's surroundings'
- 'the breadth of the poet's influences, which range from medieval English ballads to the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Langston Hughes.'

Clause 1 is an independent clause. Clause 2 is a dependent clause because it lacks a main verb and is introduced by 'considering' acting as a participial phrase. Therefore, the 2 clauses combine only makes 1 sentence. As a result, only 2 commas are needed to separate the transitional adverb 'though' from the rest of the sentence.

(A) is the correct answer.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'This designation is hypothetical'
- 'Proto-Atlantic-Congo is only postulated, its characteristics being inferred from the linguistic properties of its 1,453 daughters.'

Clause 1 is an independent clause. Clause 2 is also an independent clause. To connect two independent clauses, we need a period, a semicolon, or a comma + FANBOYS. The word 'However' is a conjunctive adverb, not a FANBOYS conjunction. Therefore, 'hypothetical. However,' is the correct punctuation. A period correctly separates the two independent clauses, and 'However,' then introduces the second clause as an independent clause.

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

This question tests the correct use of commas and parentheses to set off non-essential information and adverbs. The relevant rule is that non-essential information, such as the explanation provided in the parentheses, should be clearly separated from the main sentence. Additionally, adverbs like "respectively" are often set off by commas when they appear at the end of a clause.

The correct answer is (C) because it correctly places a comma before "respectively" to separate it from the preceding list. It then uses an opening parenthesis to begin the non-essential explanatory phrase. Finally, it correctly uses a comma after the introductory phrase "in stoichiometry" within the parenthetical information.

Question 5

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "In 1977, the researchers introduced the theory"
- "in the years that followed they studied memories of events like the

assassination of John F. Kennedy"

Both clauses are **independent clauses**—each contains a subject and verb and can stand alone as complete sentences.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use a **period, semicolon, or comma + FANBOYS** (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So).

Looking at the answer choices, only option (D) provides "comma + and," which follows this rule.

The word "and" is a FANBOYS conjunction that belongs to the second clause, connecting it logically to the first clause.

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

Question 6

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "One such shift is a linguistic behavior called code-switching (CS)"
- "sociologist John Gumperz famously used CS to describe how bilinguals alternate between languages"

Both clauses are **independent clauses**. The first clause has the subject "one such shift" and the predicate "is a linguistic behavior called code-switching (CS)." The second clause has the subject "sociologist John Gumperz" and the predicate "famously used CS to describe how bilinguals alternate between languages."

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we have to use either a semicolon or a period. Since a period is not among the answer choices, we must use a semicolon.

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

Question 7

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the correct use of punctuation to introduce an explanation. The rule is that a colon can be used to introduce an explanation, elaboration, or example that follows an independent clause (a complete sentence).

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'It was the kind of challenge that would set any art curator's mind into motion'
- 'finding that elusive thread that could link artists...'

The first clause is an independent clause because it can stand on its own as a complete sentence. The second phrase, starting with 'finding,' is a participial phrase that explains the nature of the challenge mentioned in the first clause. A colon is the most appropriate punctuation to connect an independent clause to a phrase that explains it.

Therefore, (D) is the correct answer.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "However, a specific sub-genre known as Aeropittura, led by artist Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, used flight to capture new perspectives imaginatively"
- "1929 CE, according to Marinetti, artists were officially embracing the machine age"

The first clause is an independent clause—it contains a subject ("a specific sub-genre") and a complete predicate ("used flight to capture new perspectives imaginatively"). The second clause is also an independent clause, with the subject "artists" and the predicate "were officially embracing

the machine age."

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 need here.

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

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- '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 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.'

Both clauses are independent because they both contain a subject and a verb and can stand alone as complete sentences.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and an independent clause, we have to use a semicolon.

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

Note that using a comma alone (as in *C*) would result in a comma splice, and using no punctuation at all (as in *D*) would create a run-on sentence.

Question 10

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 11

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'This concept is known as the minimal group paradigm'
- 'research by Henri Tajfel suggests that it has significant implications for intergroup relations and prejudice'

The first clause is an independent clause with a subject ('This concept') and a complete predicate ('is known as the minimal group paradigm'). The second clause is also an independent clause with a subject ('research by Henri Tajfel') and a complete predicate ('suggests that it has significant implications for intergroup relations and prejudice').

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we have to use either a period, a semicolon, or a comma + FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

Since the word "and" (a FANBOYS conjunction) appears in the answer choices and connects the two independent clauses, we need a comma before it.

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

Question 12

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 13

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Before the drilling, the cell concentration at the seafloor was 10^9 cells per cubic centimeter of sediment."
- "After drilling, the concentration at 2.5 kilometers below the seafloor was 10^2 cells per cubic centimeter of sediment."

Both clauses are **independent clauses**—each contains a subject and predicate and can stand alone as complete sentences.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use a **period or semicolon**. The word "After" is a transition that belongs to the second clause because it describes when that clause's action occurs.

Since we need to separate two independent clauses and "After" begins the second sentence, we need a period after "sediment" and a capital "A" in "After."

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

Note: Be careful not to create a comma splice. Option (D) incorrectly uses only a comma to separate two independent clauses, which violates standard punctuation rules.

Question 14

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'In 1961, Levinas used phenomenology to describe the encounter with the Other'
- 'in 1974, he analyzed the subject's responsibility for the Other'

Both clauses are **independent clauses**—each contains a subject and predicate and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use either a **period** or a **semicolon**. These two punctuation marks are interchangeable on the SAT when joining independent clauses.

The word "later" in choices (C) and (D) would create a grammatical issue because it would make the second clause begin with an adverb without proper punctuation separation between the two independent clauses.

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer because the semicolon properly separates the two independent clauses.

Note: Be careful not to use just a comma between two independent clauses, as this creates a comma splice error—one of the most common punctuation mistakes tested on the SAT.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government"
- "the very institution designed to protect the nation—possessed enough information to anticipate the Japanese strike"

The first clause is not independent because it lacks a complete predicate (there's no verb for "U.S. government"). The second clause begins with "the very institution designed to protect the nation," which is an **appositive**—a noun phrase that renames or explains "U.S. government." This appositive is **non-essential information** that could be removed, leaving "the U.S. government possessed enough information to anticipate the Japanese strike," which is still a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to set off non-essential information like appositives, we must use **matching punctuation pairs**: two commas, two dashes, or two parentheses. Since the phrase ends with a dash (after "nation"), we must begin it with a dash as well to maintain parallel punctuation.

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

Question 16

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 17

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'Fueled by biases linked to specific speech patterns'
- 'these attitudes can affect social perception, thus influencing educational opportunities without regard for an individual's actual linguistic competence.'

The first part is a **dependent clause** (a participial phrase beginning with

"Fueled"). The second part is an **independent clause** with the subject "these attitudes" and the verb "can affect."

In the SAT, to separate a dependent clause and an independent clause, we have to use **a comma**. The dependent clause comes first in the sentence, so we need a comma after it to introduce the independent clause that follows.

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

Note that *within* the phrase "biases linked to specific speech patterns," we should **not** use commas. The phrase "linked to specific speech patterns" is **essential information** that specifies which biases we're talking about—it cannot be removed without changing the meaning. Essential information should not be separated by commas.

Question 18

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'In 2020, internationally renowned Slovak photographer Mária Švarbová exhibited her work at the Contessa Gallery and the Art Angle Gallery in the United States and Japan, respectively'

- 'utilizing vivid pastel colors, overexposed tones, and mirrorlike symmetry, Švarbová's photographs evoke a Socialist-era aesthetic that she describes as "minimalistic but also futuristic.'"

The first part of the sentence is an independent clause (a complete sentence). The second part is also an independent clause, but it begins with a long introductory participial phrase ('utilizing...symmetry,'). An independent clause cannot be directly joined to another independent clause with only a comma (this creates a comma splice error).

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we have to use a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a FANBOYS conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). Since the second clause is not introduced by a FANBOYS

conjunction, a semicolon is the correct punctuation to join them.

Therefore, (B) is the correct answer.

Question 19

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "To chemists, it was not obvious that acoustic cavitation causes high-energy chemical reactions"
- "the powerful phenomenon was thought to simply agitate the solutions in which the ultrasonic waves were applied"

Both clauses are **independent clauses**—each has a subject and predicate and can stand alone as complete sentences.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use a **period, semicolon, or comma + FANBOYS** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). Since none of the answer choices include a period or comma + FANBOYS, we must use a semicolon.

The word "instead" is a **transition word** that belongs to the second independent clause. It introduces a contrasting idea to the first clause. When a transition word begins an independent clause following a semicolon, it should be followed by a comma.

Therefore, **(D) reactions; instead,** is the correct answer because it properly separates the two independent clauses with a semicolon and correctly punctuates the transition word "instead" with a comma after it.

Question 20

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the use of commas and parentheses for non-essential information and lists. The sentence provides specific values for the molar

masses of two compounds followed by a parenthetical explanation regarding stoichiometry.

First, the word *respectively* is used to link the two values to the two compounds mentioned earlier. In this context, *respectively* acts as a parenthetical or non-essential adverb that clarifies the order of the figures. Since it follows a list of values at the end of the main clause, it should be preceded by a comma.

Second, the information about stoichiometry is an aside that explains the utility of molar mass. Parentheses are used to set off such non-essential or explanatory information from the rest of the sentence. The opening parenthesis must come after *respectively* to properly enclose the secondary explanation.

The correct answer is **(D)** because it correctly places a comma before *respectively* and begins the parenthetical phrase immediately after, ensuring the sentence structure is clear and grammatically sound.