

Form, Structure, and Sense

Question 1

On Guadalupe Peak, which _____ an elevation of 8,751 feet, one can find the highest point in Texas.

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

- ☐ A reaches
- ☐ B reach
- ☐ C reaching
- ☐ D to reach

Question 2

It is widely known that New York City's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) _____ a vast collection of oil paintings, including Franz Marc's *The World Cow* and Katherine S. Dreier's *Abstract Portrait of Marcel Duchamp*.

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

- ☐ A housing
- ☐ B to house
- ☐ C to have housed
- ☐ D houses

Question 3

In their 2021 study, geographers He Qing and others argue that, contrary to previous assumptions about rural development, the various stakeholders in land consolidation projects often prioritize different benefits, causing them to place _____ in opposition to one another, which complicates the resolution of human-land contradictions.

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

- ☐ A myself
- ☐ B herself
- ☐ C himself
- ☐ D themselves

Question 4

The samurai served as the warrior class in feudal Japan for centuries. In their role, these warriors had to alter their daily routines. Instead of fighting only on the battlefield, they trained when they needed _____ their martial skills.

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

- ☐ A will perfect
- ☐ B perfect
- ☐ C to perfect
- ☐ D perfecting

Question 5

In her 1983 book *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild first explored at length her conception of a “sociology of emotions”—the idea that the various cultural and ideological frameworks a person has internalized (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) _____ each emotional reaction that person has within a situation.

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

- ☐ A underlies
- ☐ B is underlying
- ☐ C underlie
- ☐ D has been underlying

Question 6

Constituting a peculiar geological phenomenon, the 'Sailing Stones' of Death Valley are rocks that move across the desert floor without any discernible cause. They _____ studied by geologist Ralph Lorenz starting in 2006.

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

- ☐ A has been
- ☐ B were
- ☐ C will be
- ☐ D was

Question 7

In 2003, a study led by the researcher Alison G. Boyer investigated the relationship between grassland arthropod populations and agricultural ____ macronutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, such fertilizers boost the productivity of crops, potentially offering more nutrients for arthropods.

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

- ☐ A fertilizers, which contain
- ☐ B fertilizers, containing
- ☐ C fertilizers containing
- ☐ D fertilizers. Containing

Question 8

The orchestra that _____ the singers in Claudio Monteverdi's 1607 opera *L'Orfeo* is one of the earliest known examples of a specified instrumental ensemble.

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

- ☐ A are accompanying
- ☐ B have accompanied
- ☐ C accompanies
- ☐ D accompany

Question 9

Karen E. Jenni, a decision scientist, _____ a key researcher who, along with George Loewenstein, investigated the 'identifiable victim effect' in a seminal 1997 study.

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

- ☐ A were
- ☐ B was
- ☐ C is
- ☐ D has been

Question 10

In Soviet art, the concept of *Socialist Realism* was the officially sanctioned style that dominated artistic production. The paintings *Morning of Our Motherland* by Fyodor Shurpin and *New Moscow* by Yuri Pimenov, each a celebrated example from a different decade, _____ among the most iconic works representing the ideals and aspirations of the Soviet state.

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

- ☐ A are
- ☐ B was
- ☐ C were
- ☐ D been

Question 11

The Mpemba effect, a counterintuitive phenomenon, is central to many scientific discussions. In the study by Avinash Kumar and John F. Bechhoefer, for example, the complex system of glass-forming liquids connects to its eventual glassy state through the temperature protocol it undergoes, while in a 2017 study, a team of researchers _____ a similar effect in polymers where the hotter sample cools faster.

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

- ☐ A had observed
- ☐ B will be observing
- ☐ C observes
- ☐ D observed

Question 12

Neuroscientist Michael Merzenich's groundbreaking research in the 1980s challenged the long-held belief that the adult brain was a fixed, unchangeable structure, but it is incorrect to state that Merzenich alone discovered neuroplasticity. _____ findings were built upon the foundational work of Polish neuroscientist Jerzy Konorski, who first proposed the concept of neural plasticity in his 1948 book, *Conditioned Reflexes and Neuron Organization*.

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

- ☐ A Their
- ☐ B His
- ☐ C Its
- ☐ D Her

Question 13

Ethnomusicologist John Blacking used the term “humanly organized sound” to explain how music is a product of social and cultural contexts, not just abstract notes. According to Blacking’s definition, the rhythm from a community clapping _____ in a ritual might eventually develop into a complex musical tradition.

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

- ☐ A it's hand's
- ☐ B its hands
- ☐ C it's hands'
- ☐ D its hands'

Question 14

In his 1435 treatise *De Pictura*, Italian humanist Leon Battista Alberti laid out his revolutionary theory of linear perspective. Alberti's groundbreaking work was the first _____ a mathematical system for creating the illusion of three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface.

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

- ☐ A to codify
- ☐ B codified
- ☐ C codify
- ☐ D codifies

Question 15

Dr. Peter Wason was a cognitive psychologist. This means that Dr. Wason didn't just study how people think in general. He designed experiments _____ how people test hypotheses.

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

- ☐ A to study
- ☐ B to research
- ☐ C to examine
- ☐ D to learn

Question 16

If the specific hand gestures known as emblems _____ by a speaker from a different culture—a concept researcher David McNeill explored in his 1992 work—the gestures could have been misinterpreted by the audience, leading to a breakdown in communication that is difficult to repair.

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

- ☐ A use
- ☐ B will use
- ☐ C had been used
- ☐ D are using

Question 17

Political scientists studying the "backfire effect," the observed phenomenon where corrections of misinformation can paradoxically strengthen a person's misperceptions, were intrigued to discover that the presentation of evidence contradicting a core belief, despite the validity of the source, often _____ an individual more certain of his or her original stance.

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

- ☐ A make
- ☐ B makes
- ☐ C made
- ☐ D making

Question 18

In 1995, psychologists Henry L. Roediger III and Kathleen McDermott introduced a procedure for studying false memories. The Deese-Roediger-McDermott (DRM) paradigm is a cognitive psychology method in which a participant who is presented with a list of related words _____ a thematically related but non-presented word.

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

- ☐ A will be recalling
- ☐ B will recall
- ☐ C is likely to recall
- ☐ D have recalled

Question 19

To illustrate Arlie Russell Hochschild's concept of emotional labor, picture two flight attendants: one managing a difficult passenger on a turbulent flight, the other serving drinks during a calm, routine trip. The requirement to display institutionally-mandated emotions is identical for both _____ actual feelings. But what, Hochschild wondered, about the psychological cost?

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

- ☐ A attendants, regardless of there
- ☐ B attendants', regardless of they're
- ☐ C attendants, regardless of his or her
- ☐ D attendant's, regardless of their

Question 20

In the 1960s, a biologist named Ad Kalmijn was studying the behavior of weakly electric fish when his colleague Sven Dijkgraaf encouraged him to investigate the animal's unique ability, a remarkable sense for detecting distortions in its self-produced electric field, as a form of active perception. In addition, Dijkgraaf _____ calling this sensory modality by a specific term: electrolocation.

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

- ☐ A proposed
- ☐ B proposes
- ☐ C had proposed
- ☐ D was proposing

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

The subject of the clause 'which _____ an elevation of 8,751 feet' is 'which', referring to 'Guadalupe Peak'. Since 'Guadalupe Peak' is a singular noun, the verb must also be singular. The singular form of the verb 'to reach' is 'reaches'.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

This question tests your ability to identify the correct verb form needed to create a complete sentence.

The clause beginning with "that" requires a main verb to agree with the subject, "*New York City's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)*". The subject is singular, and the sentence describes a current fact about the museum's collection.

Therefore, the simple present tense, singular verb "**houses**" is required to form a grammatically correct and complete clause. (D) is the correct answer.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

This question tests *subject-pronoun agreement*. Specifically, it tests the use of *emphatic pronouns* (pronouns ending in *-self* or *-selves*).

The subject that the pronoun refers to is "the various stakeholders." This is a **plural noun**, so the pronoun must also be **plural** to maintain agreement.

Among the answer choices, only **(D) themselves** is plural. The other options—myself, herself, and himself—are all singular and therefore cannot agree with the plural subject "stakeholders."

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

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

This question tests the correct use of **infinitive vs. gerund** after the verb "needed."

The verb "need" in English is followed by an infinitive (to + base verb) when expressing purpose or necessity. The sentence indicates that the samurai trained *in order to* perfect their martial skills—this expresses the purpose of their training.

Therefore, the correct answer must use the infinitive form "to perfect." **(C) to perfect** is the correct answer.

Note that while "need" can sometimes be followed by a gerund in British English constructions like "needs perfecting" (meaning "needs to be perfected"), the context here requires an infinitive because the samurai themselves are performing the action of perfecting their skills, not receiving the action.

Question 5

Correct Answer: C

This question tests Subject-Verb Agreement. To determine whether we need a singular or plural verb, we must identify the subject of the clause. In this sentence, the subject is the plural noun phrase "**various cultural and ideological frameworks.**"

Although there is additional information placed in parentheses (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) and a relative clause between the subject and the verb, the core subject remains "**frameworks**." Therefore, the correct answer must also be plural to match.

(C) underlie is the correct answer because "underlie" is the plural form of the verb. In contrast, (A), (B), and (D) are all singular verb forms.

When a sentence places complex structures or lists between the subject and the verb, focus solely on the main noun to ensure the agreement is correct.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "They," which refers back to the plural noun "rocks" (the Sailing Stones). Since the subject is plural, we need a plural verb form.

Let's examine the context: the sentence indicates that the studying began "starting in 2006," which is a point in the past. We need a verb that agrees with a plural subject and fits the past time frame established by "starting in 2006."

(B) "were" is the correct answer because it is the plural past tense form that agrees with the plural subject "They" and matches the past time reference.

Note: While this question may appear to test verb tenses primarily, it is fundamentally about subject-verb agreement. The key is recognizing that the plural subject "They" requires a plural verb form, which eliminates (A) "has been" and (D) "was" as they are singular forms.

Question 7

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-modifier placement. As a rule of thumb, modifiers should be placed right next to the words or phrases they modify.

In the context of the sentence, the phrase following the blank describes what the agricultural fertilizers consist of (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium). To maintain a clear and logical connection, the modifier must directly follow the noun it describes.

(C) fertilizers containing is the correct answer. It uses a participle phrase to modify "fertilizers" without creating a run-on sentence or a comma splice. This structure correctly identifies that the macronutrients are what the fertilizers contain, providing a smooth transition to the explanation of how such fertilizers boost crop productivity.

Note that when evaluating these types of modifiers, the goal is to ensure that the noun being described is the one immediately adjacent to the modifying phrase to avoid ambiguity.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "the orchestra," which is a singular collective noun. In SAT grammar, collective nouns are always considered singular and require singular verbs.

The verb must agree with "the orchestra," not with "the singers," even though "the singers" appears closer to the blank. The phrase "that _____ the singers" is a relative clause modifying "the orchestra," and the verb in this clause must match the singular subject.

Since the subject is singular, we need a singular verb form. **(C) "accompanies"** is the correct answer because it is the singular form of the verb that agrees with "the orchestra."

Note that this question also involves verb tense. The context refers to a 1607 opera that still exists today as a historical example, so the simple present tense is appropriate for describing this enduring relationship between the orchestra and singers in the composition.

Question 9

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "Karen E. Jenni, a decision scientist," which is singular. The phrase "a decision scientist" is additional information set off by commas that describes the subject but does not change its number.

Since the subject is singular, we need a singular verb. Looking at the options, (A) "were" is plural, so it can be eliminated. Options (B) "was," (C) "is," and (D) "has been" are all singular forms.

The context clue "in a seminal 1997 study" indicates that the action occurred in the past. Therefore, we need the simple past tense. **(B) "was"** is the correct answer because it is both singular and in the simple past tense, which matches the singular subject and the past time frame of the sentence.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the phrase "a decision scientist" between the subject and verb. Always identify the main subject to ensure proper agreement.

Question 10

Correct Answer: A

This question tests *subject-verb agreement*. To answer correctly, we need to identify the subject and determine whether it is singular or plural.

The subject of this sentence is "The paintings Morning of Our Motherland by Fyodor Shurpin and New Moscow by Yuri Pimenov." This is a compound

noun—two individual paintings joined together. According to the rules of subject-verb agreement, compound nouns are always considered plural.

Since the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Among the answer choices, (A) *are* is the only plural verb form that correctly agrees with the plural subject.

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

Note: Don't be distracted by the phrase "each a celebrated example from a different decade" that appears between the subject and the verb. This additional information doesn't change the fact that we're talking about two paintings, which requires a plural verb.

Question 11

Correct Answer: C

The question asks us to complete a sentence about a 2017 study with the correct verb form. The correct answer is (D) *observed*.

This question tests verb tenses. To determine the correct verb form, we need to examine the context carefully. The sentence refers to "a 2017 study," which indicates a specific event that occurred in the past. The study was completed at a definite time in the past.

When describing research or events that happened at a specific time in the past, we use the simple past tense. Since the researchers conducted and completed their observations in 2017 (a past time), we need the simple past tense form "observed."

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

Note: Be careful with verb tense questions that include specific time markers like "in 2017" or "in the 1960s." These contextual clues clearly indicate that the simple past tense is needed, not more complex constructions like past perfect or future progressive.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

This question tests subject-pronoun agreement. The pronoun must agree in number and gender with the subject it refers to.

The key is identifying whose findings are being discussed. The sentence states that "_____ findings were built upon the foundational work of Polish neuroscientist Jerzy Konorski." Looking at the previous sentence, we see that it discusses "Michael Merzenich's groundbreaking research" and mentions "Merzenich" specifically. Therefore, the pronoun must refer to **Merzenich**, a singular male subject.

Since Merzenich is a singular male noun, we need a singular masculine pronoun. **(B) His** is the correct answer because it is the singular masculine possessive pronoun that correctly refers back to Merzenich.

(A) is incorrect because "Their" is a plural pronoun, and we're only referring to one person—Merzenich. (C) is incorrect because "Its" refers to things, not people. (D) is incorrect because "Her" is a feminine pronoun, while Merzenich is male.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

This question tests the use of apostrophes, specifically distinguishing between contractions, possessives, and plurals.

First, let's examine "it's" versus "its." The word "it's" is a contraction meaning "it is" or "it has." If we substitute "it is" into the sentence—"the rhythm from a community clapping **it is** hand's"—the sentence doesn't make sense. Therefore, we need the possessive form "its," which shows that the hands belong to the community. This eliminates **(A)** and **(C)**.

Next, we need to determine whether "hands" should be possessive or plural. Since "hands" is followed by the prepositional phrase "in a ritual" rather than another noun, "hands" is simply describing what the community is clapping—it's not possessing anything. We need the plural form "hands," not the possessive "hands'." This eliminates **(D)**.

(B) its hands is the correct answer because it uses the possessive "its" (showing the community's hands) and the plural "hands" (since a community has multiple hands).

Question 14

Correct Answer: A

The question asks which verb form correctly completes the sentence about Alberti's treatise *De Pictura* being the first to establish a mathematical system for linear perspective.

This question tests **verb forms**, specifically the use of **infinitives**. The phrase "the first" is followed by a verb that describes what Alberti's work accomplished. In Standard English, when describing the first, second, third, or last to do something, we use the infinitive form (to + base verb).

The sentence structure requires: "the first *to codify* a mathematical system." This construction—"the first to [verb]"—is the standard way to express being the first to accomplish something.

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

Note: While the other options represent different verb forms (past tense, base form, and present tense), none of them fit the grammatical pattern required after "the first." This is a common SAT pattern, so remember that ordinal phrases (first, second, last) typically require the infinitive form.

Question 15

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **verb forms**, specifically the use of infinitives to express purpose.

The sentence describes what Dr. Wason designed experiments *for*—the purpose behind his experiments. When expressing purpose or intention in English, we use the infinitive form "to + verb."

All four answer choices use the infinitive form ("to study," "to research," "to examine," "to learn"), so they are all grammatically correct in terms of structure. However, the question asks which choice conforms to the conventions of Standard English in this specific context.

The phrase "study how" is the most natural and conventional collocation in English when referring to systematic investigation of a process or phenomenon. We say "study how something works" or "study how people behave" as a standard expression in academic and scientific contexts.

Therefore, **(A) "to study"** is the correct answer because it provides the most conventional and natural expression for describing the purpose of Dr. Wason's experiments in examining how people test hypotheses.

Question 16

Correct Answer: C

This question tests *verb tenses and aspects*.

The key to solving this question lies in understanding the conditional structure and timeline of events. The main clause uses "could have been misinterpreted," which is a past conditional perfect form. This indicates we're discussing a hypothetical situation in the past.

The sentence describes a sequence where the use of emblems would have occurred before *the potential misinterpretation*. *Since we need a past event*

that happened before another past event, we must use the past perfect tense.

Additionally, the subject "emblems" is being acted upon (they are used by a speaker), so we need the passive voice. The past perfect passive form is "had been used."

Therefore, (C) *had been used* is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful with complex conditional sentences like this one. When you see "could have been" or "would have been" in the main clause, you typically need a past perfect tense (had + past participle) in the conditional clause to maintain proper sequence of tenses.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. To solve it, we need to identify the subject of the sentence and ensure the verb agrees with it in number.

The main subject of this sentence is "the presentation of evidence contradicting a core belief." While this phrase is long and complex, the core subject is "the presentation," which is **singular**. The phrase "of evidence contradicting a core belief" is a prepositional phrase that modifies "presentation" but doesn't affect the number of the subject.

Since the subject "the presentation" is singular, we need a singular verb form. Looking at our options, **(B) makes** is the only singular verb form that fits. The verb must agree with "presentation" (singular), not with "evidence" or "belief," which might distract us as they appear closer to the verb.

(B) makes is the correct answer.

Note: This question contains a common trap where additional information between the subject and verb can distract you. Always identify the main subject (in this case, "presentation") and ignore the modifying phrases when

checking agreement.

Question 18

Correct Answer: C

This question tests *verb forms*. We need to determine the correct verb form based on the context of the sentence.

The sentence describes what happens in the DRM paradigm—it's explaining a general procedure or tendency that occurs when participants are tested using this method. The phrase "is a cognitive psychology method in which" introduces a description of what typically happens during this procedure.

When describing what generally occurs in a scientific procedure or method, we use present tense to indicate a recurring pattern or likelihood, not a one-time future event. The context suggests that participants tend to recall non-presented words as part of how this paradigm works.

(C) is likely to recall is the correct answer because it appropriately expresses the typical outcome of the procedure in present tense while conveying that this is a probable result rather than a certainty.

Note: While (B) might seem tempting because it's simpler, "will recall" suggests a definite future action rather than describing the general tendency that characterizes this psychological method. The phrase "is likely to" better captures the scientific nature of describing experimental outcomes.

Question 19

Correct Answer: C

This question tests *subject-pronoun agreement*. The key is identifying what subject the pronoun is referring to and ensuring it matches in number (singular or plural).

The sentence discusses "two flight attendants" initially, but then shifts to describing a general rule that applies to each individual attendant: "The requirement to display institutionally-mandated emotions is identical for both _____. " The word "both" indicates we're talking about the attendants individually, not as a group.

Looking at the structure, we need a pronoun that refers back to each individual attendant. When referring to a singular person whose gender is unknown, the SAT accepts "his or her" as the correct form.

(C) attendants, regardless of his or her is the correct answer because:

- "attendants" correctly uses the plural form without apostrophe (not possessive)
- "his or her" properly refers to each individual attendant in a gender-neutral way

Note: While modern English increasingly accepts "their" as a singular pronoun, the SAT still requires "he or she" (or "his or her") when referring to a singular person of unknown gender. Additionally, the question is about individual attendants' feelings, not a possessive relationship, so no apostrophe is needed on "attendants."

Question 20

Correct Answer: A

Question Restatement:

The question asks which verb form correctly completes the sentence about Dijkgraaf's action regarding the term "electrolocation."

Explanation:

This question tests **verb tense**. To determine the correct answer, we need to look at the context provided by the surrounding verbs in the passage.

The passage establishes a clear time frame in the past: "In the 1960s, a biologist named Ad Kalmijn *was studying*..." and "his colleague Sven

Dijkgraaf *encouraged* him to investigate..." Both of these verbs indicate completed actions in the past.

The sentence continues with "In addition, Dijkgraaf _____ calling this sensory modality by a specific term." Since this action occurred during the same time period as the other past events described (the 1960s), we need a simple past tense verb to maintain consistency.

(A) proposed is the correct answer because it uses the simple past tense, which matches the timeframe and maintains parallel structure with the other verbs in the passage.

Note: While (C) "had proposed" and (D) "was proposing" are also past tense forms, they are unnecessarily complex for this context. The simple past tense is the most straightforward and appropriate choice when describing a completed action in a specific past time period.