

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

The word "robot" _____ first used in the 1920 play R.U.R. by Czech author Karel Capek.

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

- ☐ A were
- ☐ B were being
- ☐ C was
- ☐ D have been

Question 3

The writer Audre Lorde, along with others such as Haki Madhubuti and Quincy Troupe, _____ commonly associated with the Black Arts movement, a loose-knit group of writers and artists active in the 1960s and the 1970s who were interested in exploring the Black American experience through their work.

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

- ☐ A are
- ☐ B have been
- ☐ C were
- ☐ D is

Question 4

Anthropologist Livia Barbosa, of the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Brazil, _____ food and sociability in contemporary Brazil—specifically, how foods such as carne-de-sol (a cured meat dish) and pé-de-moleque (a traditional peanut brittle candy) function as central mechanisms in building social relationships, values, and identities.

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

- ☐ A have studied
- ☐ B studies
- ☐ C study
- ☐ D are studying

Question 5

Scholars Tammy Kernodle and Stephanie Shonekan have lent their expertise on Black history and music to an important new project: the Timeline of African American Music, a digital _____ through a rich combination of text, images, and music clips, traces the development of specific musical genres (such as jazz and bebop).

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

- ☐ A resource, that,
- ☐ B resource that
- ☐ C resource, that
- ☐ D resource that,

Question 6

In 2021, Sarah McNulty _____ as a biologist at the University of Connecticut, studying squids.

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

- ☐ A working
- ☐ B was working
- ☐ C to work
- ☐ D to have worked

Question 7

In the periodic table, an element's atomic number indicates the number of protons in an atom of that element. For example, there are 25 protons in a manganese atom. Raymond Chang's textbook *General Chemistry: The Essential Concepts* _____ this concept in detail.

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

- ☐ A discussing
- ☐ B discusses
- ☐ C to discuss
- ☐ D having discussed

Question 8

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 9

The writer Sonia Sanchez, along with others such as Quincy Troupe and Jay Wright, _____ commonly associated with the Black Arts movement, a loose-knit group of writers and artists active in the 1960s and the 1970s who were interested in exploring the Black American experience through their work.

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

- ☐ A were
- ☐ B are
- ☐ C is
- ☐ D have been

Question 10

In the spring of 1964, it was hard to go anywhere without hearing the song "Cotton Candy" by the Sylvers. As of April 11, the song had spent thirteen straight weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and _____ No.1 on the list.

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

- ☐ A have been ranking
- ☐ B was ranked
- ☐ C were ranked
- ☐ D are ranking

Question 11

Lily Everett and Mary Foote were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City art exhibition that introduced modernism to American audience. Marcel Duchamp's abstract cubist aesthetic received the most skepticism from critics, as _____ represented a radical departure from the more realistic painting style that was popular at the time.

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

- ☐ A these
- ☐ B they
- ☐ C we
- ☐ D it

Question 12

An emulsifier is a type of compound that _____ to stabilize an emulsion—a mixture of two or more liquids that otherwise would not easily blend together. In the cosmetics industry, emulsifiers like cetostearyl alcohol are commonly used to blend oil and water into homogeneous formulations, like lotions and perfumes.

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

- ☐ A served
- ☐ B had served
- ☐ C serves
- ☐ D was serving

Question 13

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 14

Ellen Bialystok is a cognitive neuroscientist who has extensively studied bilingualism. Bialystok's research, spanning several decades, suggests that speaking more than one language can have cognitive benefits. Bilingual individuals _____ enhanced executive function. This advantage may delay the onset of dementia symptoms.

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

- ☐ A is showing
- ☐ B has shown
- ☐ C shows
- ☐ D show

Question 15

A species of *Byropsis* algae produces toxins to avoid being eaten by predators. However, in some cases, the toxins the organism uses to protect itself from predation actually _____ its attractiveness to predators. The Hawaiian sea slug, for example, not only tolerates *Byropsis* toxins but actually uses them for protection in the same way the algae does.

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

- ☐ A is increasing
- ☐ B increase
- ☐ C increases
- ☐ D has increased

Question 16

Yerevan is the capital city of Armenia and, _____ roughly one million people, home to an impressive 36 percent of Armenia's total population.

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

- ☐ A contained
- ☐ B contains
- ☐ C containing
- ☐ D has contained

Question 17

In Puerto Rico, it's not unusual for a city or town to be known _____ a nickname that corresponds to one of its notable features, like landscape, climate, famous residents, or chief exports. For example, the Puerto Rican municipality of Hatillo has also been called "the Land of Green Fields," a nickname that alludes to what the area is well known for: the lush greenery that surrounds it.

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

- ☐ A by
- ☐ B by-
- ☐ C by,
- ☐ D by:

Question 18

Oyster mushrooms typically get their nutrients from the damp logs on which they grow, but the fungi are also carnivorous, with the ability to kill and consume microscopic worms known as nematodes. As researcher Yen-Ping Hsueh has shown, the mushrooms release a toxin that is deadly to nematodes that _____ in contact with it.

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

- ☐ A has come
- ☐ B comes
- ☐ C is coming
- ☐ D come

Question 19

Water boils at around 212°F at sea level, but in Highland, Utah (elevation: 4,977 feet above sea level), it boils at around 202°F . Food writer J. Kenji López-Alt, who explores the science behind cooking, _____ that lower boiling points at higher elevations “can wreak all sorts of havoc on recipes.”

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

- ☐ A explains
- ☐ B explain
- ☐ C have explained
- ☐ D are explaining

Question 20

In Moscow, Russia, the average temperature is 62.6 degrees Fahrenheit in June, _____ to 66.6 degree in July, and then dips slightly to 62.6 degrees in August.

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

- ☐ A has risen
- ☐ B rises
- ☐ C rising
- ☐ D rose

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: C

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

The subject of the sentence is "The word," which is singular. Therefore, the verb must also be singular to agree with the subject.

(C) is the correct answer because "was" is a singular verb that agrees with the singular subject "The word."

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

The correct answer is (D). This question tests subject-verb agreement. The subject of the sentence is "The writer Audre Lorde", which is singular. The phrase "along with others..." is only there to distract you. As a rule of thumb, you should treat the phrases that are separated from the sentence by commas as removable from the sentence.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The correct answer is 'studies'. The subject of the sentence is the singular noun 'Anthropologist Lívia Barbosa'. According to the rules of subject-verb agreement, a singular subject requires a singular verb. 'Studies' is the singular form of the verb, agreeing with the singular subject. Options A, C, and D are plural verb forms and would not agree with the singular subject.

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

This question tests subject modifier placement, specifically the use of commas with restrictive clauses.

The phrase “that... traces the development of specific musical genres” is a restrictive clause because it provides essential information that identifies the “digital resource.” As a rule, restrictive clauses should not be set off by commas.

Therefore, no comma is needed between “resource” and “that.” The correct answer is (B).

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

This question tests verb forms. The sentence requires a main verb to be grammatically complete. The phrase "In 2021" indicates that the action took place in the past. Therefore, the correct verb form must be in the past tense.

The verb phrase in (B), "was working," correctly uses the past continuous tense, which is appropriate for describing an ongoing action at a specific time in the past. This choice creates a complete and grammatically correct sentence.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

This question tests subject-verb agreement. The subject of the sentence is "Raymond Chang's textbook General Chemistry: The Essential Concepts." Although this phrase is long, it refers to a single textbook, making the subject singular.

Therefore, the main verb of the sentence must also be singular to agree with the subject. The verb in (B), "discusses," is the third-person singular, present tense form, which correctly matches the singular subject "textbook."

Question 8

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 9

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

The main subject of the sentence is "The writer Sonia Sanchez," which is singular. Therefore, the correct answer must also be singular. The verb "is" in answer (C) correctly agrees with the singular subject.

Be careful with phrases that come between the subject and the verb, like “along with others such as Quincy Troupe and Jay Wright.” These phrases are designed to distract you. The verb must agree with the main subject, not with the nouns inside the modifying phrase.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

This question tests both subject-verb agreement and verb tense.

The subject of the clause is "the song," which is singular. Therefore, the verb must also be singular.

The context of the passage is set in the past, as indicated by the phrases "In the spring of 1964" and "had spent." This requires the verb to be in the past tense.

(B) is the correct answer because "was ranked" is a singular, past-tense verb that agrees with the singular subject "the song" and is consistent with the past-tense context of the sentence.

Question 11

Correct Answer: D

This question tests **Subject-Pronoun Agreement**. The pronoun must agree with the subject that it is referring to.

The pronoun in the blank refers to the noun phrase '*Marcel Duchamp's abstract cubist aesthetic*' from the first part of the sentence. The core noun in this phrase is '*aesthetic*', which is a singular noun.

Therefore, the pronoun that replaces it must also be singular. The correct answer is (D), *it*, because it is a singular pronoun that correctly refers to the singular noun '*aesthetic*'.

Question 12

Correct Answer: C

This question tests verb forms, specifically verb tense.

The sentence provides a definition of an emulsifier. The main verb of the sentence, "is," is in the simple present tense. Definitions and statements of general fact are consistently expressed in the simple present tense.

Therefore, the verb in the blank must also be in the simple present tense to maintain consistency.

(C) "serves" is the singular, simple present tense form of the verb, which correctly corresponds with the singular subject "a type of compound" and the context of the sentence.

Question 13

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 14

Correct Answer: D

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "bilingual individuals," which is plural. Therefore, the correct answer must

also be **plural**.

The verb that agrees with the plural subject "bilingual individuals" is "show." **(D) show** is the correct answer.

Note that while some answer choices like (A) "is showing" and (B) "has shown" may appear to test verb tenses or aspects, this question is fundamentally about subject-verb agreement. The key is identifying that "bilingual individuals" is plural and requires a plural verb form.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-verb agreement. To answer this question, we must first identify the main subject of the sentence.

The subject of the verb in the blank is 'the toxins'. Since 'toxins' is a plural noun, the verb must also be in the plural form.

Therefore, the correct answer must be the plural verb 'increase'. (C) is the correct answer.

Be careful not to be misled by the phrase 'the organism uses to protect itself from predation' that comes between the subject and the verb. The singular noun 'organism' might trick you into choosing a singular verb, but the actual subject is 'toxins'.

Question 16

Correct Answer: C

This question tests your understanding of verb forms and how they are used to create modifying phrases within a sentence.

The sentence sets up a parallel structure: "Yerevan is *the capital city of Armenia* and... *home to an impressive 36 percent of Armenia's total population*." The phrase in between the commas must describe the subject,

"Yerevan," without creating a new independent clause.

The present participle "containing" is used to form a participial phrase, "containing roughly one million people." This phrase acts as an adjective, correctly modifying "Yerevan." Therefore, (C) is the correct answer.

Question 17

Correct Answer: A

This question tests the correct use of punctuation with prepositions.

The sentence requires the preposition "by" to complete the idiomatic phrase "known by," which means to be identified or called a certain name. The phrase that follows, "a nickname," is the object of the preposition "by."

As a rule, a preposition should not be separated from its object by punctuation like a comma, colon, or hyphen unless the punctuation is part of a larger grammatical structure, which is not the case here. Therefore, no punctuation is needed between "by" and "a nickname." (A) correctly uses the preposition "by" without any unnecessary punctuation.

Question 18

Correct Answer: D

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

The subject of the verb in the blank is the noun that the relative pronoun 'that' refers to. In the phrase 'nematodes that _____ in contact with it,' 'that' refers to 'nematodes.' Since 'nematodes' is a plural noun, the verb that follows must also be plural. Therefore, the correct answer must be the plural verb 'come.' (D) is the correct answer.

A common SAT trap is to place extra words or clauses between the subject and the verb. Here, the relative pronoun 'that' separates the subject 'nematodes' from the verb. Always make sure to correctly identify the subject to ensure the verb agrees with it in number.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is the proper noun '*Food writer J. Kenji López-Alt*', which is a singular noun. Therefore, the verb must also be singular to agree with the subject.

The verb in (A), '*explains*', is the singular, present-tense form that correctly matches the singular subject.

It is important to note that the clause '*who explores the science behind cooking*' separates the subject from the verb. This is a common SAT technique to distract from the main subject and verb. To check for agreement, you should always identify the main subject and verb, ignoring any interrupting phrases or clauses.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B

This question tests verb forms, specifically the concept of maintaining a parallel verb structure within a sentence.

The sentence describes a series of actions that the subject, 'the average temperature,' takes over three months. The structure is a list: the temperature *is* 62.6 degrees in June, it _____ to 66.6 in July, and then it *dips* in August.

To maintain a consistent and parallel structure, all verbs in this list should be in the same tense. The existing verbs, 'is' and 'dips,' are both in the simple present tense. Therefore, the verb in the blank must also be in the simple present tense.

(B) **risers** is the simple present tense form of the verb, correctly matching 'is' and 'dips.'