

Form, Structure, and Sense

Question 1

Despite being a communal and participatory art form, _____ it serves as a historical record, and it strengthens the social bonds within a community.

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

- ☐ A folk music's two primary functions are that
- ☐ B folk music has two primary functions:
- ☐ C two primary functions are associated with folk music:
- ☐ D there are two primary functions of folk music:

Question 2

Linguist Penelope Brown, _____ to understand how language is used to maintain social harmony, identified the use of "hedges"—words like "perhaps" or "sort of"—as a key politeness strategy in her work with Stephen C. Levinson.

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

- ☐ A seeks
- ☐ B sought
- ☐ C seeking
- ☐ D is seeking

Question 3

Psychologists Edward Deci and Richard Ryan's self-determination theory (1985), a framework for understanding human motivation, _____ between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, influencing research in education and organizational behavior.

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

- ☐ A have distinguished
- ☐ B are distinguishing
- ☐ C distinguish
- ☐ D has distinguished

Question 4

In 1985, Belgian psychologist Jozef Nuttin introduced the 'name-letter effect,' the tendency to prefer letters in one's own name. Although each one of these initial preference tasks, which often involve rating the attractiveness of letters, _____ a person's bias toward his or her own initials, some, such as those used in implicit self-esteem tests, measure the speed of the preference rather than a conscious rating.

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

- ☐ A show
- ☐ B were shown
- ☐ C shows
- ☐ D are shown

Question 5

In his 1968 book *The Theatre of the Oppressed*, Brazilian dramatist Augusto Boal first articulated in detail his theory of "Forum Theatre"—the concept that the various social and political structures a spectator has experienced (hierarchy, injustice, power dynamics, etc.) _____ each potential action that spectator considers within a performance.

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

- ☐ A inform
- ☐ B has been informing
- ☐ C informs
- ☐ D is informing

Question 6

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 7

Drawing on the stylistic traditions of Insular art, the creators of the *Book of Kells*—a masterwork of Western calligraphy from the 9th century—transcribed and then decorated the four Gospels in Latin _____ a manuscript that is a landmark of medieval illumination.

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

- ☐ A produced
- ☐ B and producing
- ☐ C producing
- ☐ D to produce

Question 8

The Kozai mechanism, a process where the gravity of a third body can cause perturbations in the orbit of another object, has far-reaching implications in astrophysics. In some star systems, the gravitational influence from a distant companion star actually _____ the orbital evolution of an inner planet. Yoshihide Kozai's 1962 work demonstrated that this mechanism can significantly alter a celestial body's inclination and eccentricity over long timescales, affecting its stability and potential habitability.

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

- ☐ A drives
- ☐ B has driven
- ☐ C drive
- ☐ D is driving

Question 9

In fluid dynamics, the Coandă effect describes the tendency of a fluid jet to stay attached to a convex surface. This phenomenon, which explains how airplane wings generate lift, was named after the Romanian inventor Henri Coandă who developed its practical applications in the early 20th century. The effect, which applies to a liquid or a gas as it flows past a curved boundary, has since been utilized in various aerodynamic designs, including the wings of the McDonnell Douglas YC-15, which uses _____ engines' exhaust to increase lift.

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

- ☐ A her
- ☐ B his
- ☐ C their
- ☐ D its

Question 10

In her 1995 analysis of political language, linguist Ruth Wodak examined the rhetoric surrounding the construction of Austrian national identity. She argued that politicians often use exclusionary language to define who belongs to the nation. By analyzing parliamentary debates and public speeches, _____ revealing how powerful speakers can shape public opinion and reinforce social hierarchies through their choice of words.

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

- ☐ A the identification of several discursive strategies was done by Wodak,
- ☐ B Wodak identified several discursive strategies,
- ☐ C it was Wodak who identified several discursive strategies,
- ☐ D several discursive strategies were identified by Wodak,

Question 11

French virologist Bernard _____ the first virophage, a satellite virus that inhibits or impairs the reproduction of its host virus, isolated a small, icosahedral virus that he named *Sputnik* from an amoeba that was also infected with a Mamavirus.

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

- ☐ A La Scola discovers
- ☐ B La Scola is intending
- ☐ C La Scola, discovering
- ☐ D La Scola, intends

Question 12

In studying the burial practices of the ancient Egyptians, _____ have overlooked the simpler, yet equally informative, graves of commoners.

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

- A** the elaborate tombs of pharaohs have been the focus of many archaeologists, who
- B** the focus of many archaeologists has been on the elaborate tombs of pharaohs; they
- C** many archaeologists have focused on the elaborate tombs of pharaohs but
- D** there are many archaeologists who have focused on the elaborate tombs of pharaohs, but they

Question 13

In the field of psychology, the 'negativity bias,' the tendency for negative events to have a greater psychological impact than positive ones, is a well-documented phenomenon. A foundational concept, a cognitive heuristic, and a sober look into the workings of the human mind, _____ explores this cognitive bias with memorable intensity.

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

- ☐ A published a full decade after the initial studies, Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman wrote a seminal paper that
- ☐ B Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman's seminal paper, published a full decade after the initial studies,
- ☐ C the seminal paper, published a full decade after Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman's initial studies,
- ☐ D the initial studies preceded the publication of Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman's seminal paper by a full decade, which

Question 14

During the early development of Greek theatre, the chorus, an essential component of the dramatic performances, offered commentary and exposition. Exploring the origins and evolution of this collective voice _____ a primary focus for scholar Sir Arthur Pickard-Cambridge, who meticulously documented the transition from ritual to formalized drama in his work.

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

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

Question 15

In the 3rd century BCE, Epicurus, a Greek philosopher, established a school of thought that would influence Western philosophy for centuries. His comprehensive ethical theory on the nature of happiness, which posits that the greatest good is to seek modest, sustainable pleasure in the form of a state of tranquility and freedom from fear, _____ a radical departure from the Platonic emphasis on a transcendent world of forms.

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

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

Question 16

In 1927, nearly 30 years after the discovery of the electron, the brilliant physicist Werner Heisenberg _____ his uncertainty principle in a paper titled *Über den anschaulichen Inhalt der quantenmechanischen Kinematik und Mechanik*, establishing a fundamental concept in quantum mechanics.

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

- ☐ A to formally publish
- ☐ B would formally publish
- ☐ C formally publishing
- ☐ D having formally published

Question 17

A 2015 study by paleobiologist Christine Strullu-Derrien analyzed the fossilized remains of *Aglaophyton*, an early vascular plant from the 407-million-year-old Rhynie chert. Based on the discovery of arbuscular mycorrhizae within the plant's tissues, _____ had already been established between fungi and the earliest vascular plants, pushing back the known origin of this interaction.

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

- ☐ A this symbiotic relationship is evidenced by *Aglaophyton*
- ☐ B the evidence that *Aglaophyton* provides is that this symbiotic relationship
- ☐ C *Aglaophyton* provides evidence that this symbiotic relationship
- ☐ D evidence of this symbiotic relationship is provided by *Aglaophyton*

Question 18

Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1810 and dedicated to Therese Malfatti, _____ so famous and culturally ubiquitous that many people who have never studied the piano can recognize its melody.

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

- ☐ A *Für Elise* is a solo piano piece that is
- ☐ B the solo piano piece *Für Elise* is
- ☐ C Ludwig van Beethoven composed the solo piano piece *Für Elise*, which is
- ☐ D when composed in the early 19th century, the solo piano piece *Für Elise* was

Question 19

The contributions of Edward Deci and Richard Ryan, renowned for their influential work on the 'self-determination theory' of motivation and the extensive research it has generated, _____ confined to a single domain: they first established three innate psychological needs—competence, autonomy, and relatedness—which they proposed are universal and essential for human flourishing.

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

- ☐ A aren't
- ☐ B isn't
- ☐ C weren't
- ☐ D wasn't

Question 20

A study conducted by geologist Peter Reiners suggests that the temperature of the water ejected from Fly Geyser—a geothermal feature on private land in Nevada—which was accidentally created by well drilling in 1964, _____ approximately 200 degrees Fahrenheit, a temperature hot enough to support thermophilic algae.

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

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

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: B

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

The opening phrase "Despite being a communal and participatory art form" is a modifier that describes the subject of the sentence. This modifier must be immediately followed by the noun it modifies.

The modifier is describing *folk music* itself—folk music is the communal and participatory art form. Therefore, "folk music" must appear immediately after the comma.

(B) folk music has two primary functions: is the correct answer because "folk music" directly follows the modifier, correctly indicating that folk music is what the opening phrase describes.

Note that the colon at the end of (B) is also appropriate here, as it introduces the list of functions that follows in the remainder of the sentence.

Question 2

Correct Answer: C

This question tests **verb forms**, specifically the use of participles as modifiers.

The phrase between the commas describes linguist Penelope Brown and modifies the subject. When a descriptive phrase modifies a noun in this way, we need a **participle** (a verb form ending in -ing or -ed that functions as an adjective), not a conjugated verb.

The present participle "**seeking**" correctly creates a modifying phrase that describes Brown's intention or purpose. This construction is parallel to saying "Penelope Brown, who was seeking to understand..." but in a more concise form.

(C) seeking is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to confuse this with subject-verb agreement. Although we have a singular subject (Penelope Brown), this question is not testing whether we need a singular or plural verb. The structure requires a participle to create a modifying phrase, not a conjugated verb form.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "self-determination theory," which is a **singular noun** (even though it appears after a longer noun phrase). The verb must agree with this singular subject.

The phrase "Psychologists Edward Deci and Richard Ryan's" is possessive, modifying "self-determination theory." Don't be distracted by the plural "Psychologists"—it's not the subject of the sentence.

Since "self-determination theory" is singular, we need a **singular verb**. **(D) has distinguished** is the correct answer because "has" is the singular form of the present perfect tense.

Note: Be careful not to be misled by the plural noun "Psychologists" at the beginning of the sentence. The actual subject is "self-determination theory," which comes after the possessive phrase. Always identify the main subject of the sentence, ignoring modifying phrases that might contain plural nouns.

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

This question tests *subject-verb agreement*.

The subject of the sentence is "each one of these initial preference tasks." Although this phrase contains the plural word "tasks," the actual subject is "*each one*," which is singular. The phrase "*of these initial preference tasks*" is a prepositional phrase that modifies "each one" but does not affect the number of the subject.

Since "each one" is singular, we need a singular verb. The verb must agree with this singular subject.

(C) shows is the correct answer because it is the singular form of the verb that agrees with "each one."

Important note: Be careful not to be distracted by plural nouns that appear between the subject and the verb. The phrase "of these initial preference tasks" contains the plural noun "tasks," but this does not change the fact that the main subject "each one" is singular. Always identify the true subject of the sentence when checking for subject-verb agreement.

Question 5

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**.

The subject of the sentence is "the various social and political structures a spectator has experienced (hierarchy, injustice, power dynamics, etc.)." This is a **plural subject** because "structures" is plural—the phrase lists multiple examples (hierarchy, injustice, power dynamics).

Since the subject is plural, the verb must also be **plural**. Among the answer choices, only **(A) inform** is a plural verb form that agrees with the plural subject "structures."

(A) is the correct answer.

Note: This question may appear to test verb tenses because options (B), (C), and (D) use different tenses and aspects. However, the primary issue here is subject-verb agreement. The context describes a general theory about how structures influence spectators, which supports the simple present tense "inform." Be careful not to be distracted by the complex verb forms in the other options—the straightforward plural verb is correct.

Question 6

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 7

Correct Answer: D

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

The sentence describes how the creators of the *Book of Kells* performed two main actions: they "transcribed" and "decorated" the four Gospels. The blank needs to show what resulted from or was the purpose of these actions—they created a manuscript.

When expressing purpose or intended result, we use the **infinitive form** (to + base verb). The creators transcribed and decorated the Gospels *in order to produce* a manuscript. This construction clearly shows that producing the manuscript was the goal or outcome of their transcribing and decorating work.

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

Note that while (C) "producing" might seem tempting because it creates a grammatically complete sentence, it changes the meaning. Using the present participle would suggest the producing happened simultaneously with the transcribing and decorating, rather than showing it as the result or purpose of those actions. The infinitive form better captures the logical relationship between the actions in this context.

Question 8

Correct Answer: A

This question tests *subject-verb agreement*.

The subject of the sentence is "the gravitational influence," which is a singular noun phrase. The prepositional phrase "from a distant companion star" provides additional information but does not affect the number of the subject.

Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be singular. Looking at the answer choices, we need to identify which verb form agrees with a singular subject. *(A) drives is the correct answer because it is the singular present tense form that agrees with "the gravitational influence."*

Note: While *(B) has driven*, *(D) is driving*, and even *(C) drive* might seem plausible based on verb tense or aspect, this question is fundamentally testing subject-verb agreement, not verb tense. The present tense *(A) drives* is appropriate here because the sentence describes a general scientific phenomenon that occurs consistently, making it a statement of fact. Additionally, answer choices *(B)* and *(D)* are more complex constructions that are often incorrect on the SAT—the straightforward choice is typically correct.

Question 9

Correct Answer: D

Question Restatement:

The question asks which pronoun correctly completes the sentence about the McDonnell Douglas YC-15 using engines' exhaust to increase lift.

Correct Answer: (D) its

Explanation:

This question tests subject-pronoun agreement. The pronoun must agree with the noun it refers to in both number (singular or plural) and type (person or thing).

The blank requires a pronoun that refers to "the McDonnell Douglas YC-15," which is **a singular thing** (an aircraft). Therefore, we need a singular pronoun that can refer to things.

Let's examine the options:

- (A) "her" is singular but can only refer to female people
- (B) "his" is singular but can only refer to male people

- (C) "their" is plural and doesn't agree with the singular subject
- (D) **"its"** is singular and correctly refers to things

Since the McDonnell Douglas YC-15 is a singular aircraft (a thing, not a person), **(D) its** is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to confuse "its" (possessive) with "it's" (contraction of "it is"). In this case, we need the possessive form to show that the engines belong to the aircraft.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

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

The key is to identify what the modifying phrase *"By analyzing parliamentary debates and public speeches"* is describing. This phrase describes **who** performed the action of analyzing—it was **Wodak** who analyzed the debates and speeches.

According to the rules of modifier placement, the subject that immediately follows this introductory phrase must be the one performing the action. Therefore, **"Wodak"** must appear directly after the comma.

(B) "Wodak identified several discursive strategies," is the correct answer because it properly places "Wodak" immediately after the modifying phrase, making it clear that Wodak is the one who analyzed the parliamentary debates and public speeches.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by passive voice constructions like options (A) and (D), which incorrectly place other elements before naming Wodak as the subject. Even though these sentences might sound acceptable in isolation, they fail to properly connect the modifier to its subject.

Question 11

Correct Answer: C

This question tests **subject-modifier placement** and verb forms. The correct answer is **(C) La Scola, discovering**.

The key to this question is identifying what modifies what in the sentence structure. The phrase after the blank—"the first virophage, a satellite virus that inhibits or impairs the reproduction of its host virus"—is a modifier that describes what Bernard La Scola discovered, not Bernard La Scola himself.

The main clause of the sentence needs a subject and verb: "Bernard La Scola ... isolated a small, icosahedral virus." The phrase "discovering the first virophage" is a *participial phrase* that modifies "Bernard La Scola" and provides additional information about what he was doing when he isolated the virus.

By placing the comma after "La Scola" and using the participle "discovering," we correctly position the modifier "the first virophage..." right next to what it describes (the object of discovery), while maintaining the grammatically complete main clause: "Bernard La Scola isolated a small, icosahedral virus."

(C) La Scola, discovering is the correct answer because it properly places the modifier and creates a grammatically sound sentence structure.

Question 12

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.

The opening phrase "In studying the burial practices of the ancient Egyptians" is a modifier that describes *who* is doing the studying. This modifier must be immediately followed by the subject it modifies—in this case, the archaeologists who are conducting the study.

Looking at the answer choices, only **(C) "many archaeologists"** correctly places the subject (archaeologists) immediately after the modifying phrase. This creates the logical connection: archaeologists are the ones studying burial practices, so they should directly follow the modifier.

In the incorrect choices, (A) begins with "the elaborate tombs," (B) begins with "the focus," and (D) begins with "there are," all of which illogically suggest that tombs, a focus, or an existential construction are doing the studying—which makes no sense.

(C) is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful with questions involving introductory modifying phrases. Always check that the subject immediately following the comma is the one logically performing the action described in the modifier.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

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

The key is identifying what the introductory phrase "A foundational concept, a cognitive heuristic, and a sober look into the workings of the human mind" is modifying. This phrase describes something that explores the negativity bias with memorable intensity.

The phrase must be describing *the seminal paper*, not the people who wrote it or the initial studies. A paper can be "a foundational concept" and "a cognitive heuristic"—these are characteristics that describe written work, not researchers themselves.

Therefore, the subject immediately following the comma must be "the seminal paper" or a phrase that begins with it. Only **(B) Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman's seminal paper, published a full decade after the initial studies**, correctly places "seminal paper" as the subject directly after the modifying phrase.

(B) is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the names of the researchers. Even though Paul Rozin and Edward Royzman are associated with the work, the modifier is describing the paper itself, not the people.

Question 14

Correct Answer: C

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

The subject of this sentence is "Exploring the origins and evolution of this collective voice," which is a gerund phrase (a phrase beginning with a verb ending in -ing that functions as a noun). According to the rules of subject-verb agreement, **gerund phrases are always considered singular**, regardless of how long or complex they may appear.

Since the subject is singular, we need a singular verb. Looking at the answer choices, (A) "are" and (D) "were" are plural verbs, so they can be eliminated immediately.

Between the remaining options, (B) "have been" and (C) "was," we need to consider the context. The sentence describes Pickard-Cambridge's past scholarly work and his focus during that time. The simple past tense "was" is the most appropriate choice to describe this historical focus. Therefore, **(C) "was" is the correct answer.**

Note: Don't be distracted by the complexity of the gerund phrase or the plural nouns within it ("origins" and "evolution"). The entire phrase functions as a single, singular subject.

Question 15

Correct Answer: D

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

First, let's identify the subject and verb. The subject of the sentence is "His comprehensive ethical theory on the nature of happiness, which posits that the greatest good is to seek modest, sustainable pleasure in the form of a state of tranquility and freedom from fear." This is a singular noun phrase—the main noun is "theory," which is singular. Therefore, we need a singular verb, which eliminates **(B) were**, as it is plural.

Next, we need to determine the correct tense. The passage discusses events that occurred in the 3rd century BCE—a specific time in the past. Epicurus established his school and his theory represented a departure from Platonic philosophy at that historical moment. This context requires the simple past tense.

(D) was is the correct answer because it is both singular (agreeing with "theory") and in the simple past tense (matching the historical context of the 3rd century BCE).

Note: While (A) is and (C) has been are both singular and might seem tempting, they are incorrect because they place the action in the present or connect it to the present, which doesn't match the historical context of the passage.

Question 16

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **verb tenses and aspects**. The sentence provides a specific time marker "In 1927" and describes a historical event that occurred at a definite point in the past.

The context indicates that Heisenberg's publication of his uncertainty principle was a completed action in 1927. The phrase "nearly 30 years after

the discovery of the electron" establishes a clear temporal relationship between past events.

(B) "would formally publish" is the correct answer because it uses the past modal "would" to describe a habitual or characteristic action in the past, which is appropriate for describing historical events in narrative contexts. This construction is commonly used when narrating past events, particularly in formal or academic writing.

The other options create grammatical issues: (A) uses an infinitive that doesn't function as a main verb, (C) creates a sentence fragment without a main verb, and (D) uses a perfect participle that suggests the action was completed before another past action, which doesn't align with the sentence structure.

Note: While this might appear to test verb forms like infinitives versus finite verbs, the key is recognizing that the sentence requires a past-tense construction that appropriately narrates a historical event.

Question 17

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*.

The modifier here is "Based on the discovery of arbuscular mycorrhizae within the plant's tissues." This phrase describes what Christine Strullu-Derrien's analysis was based on—it modifies the subject that performed the analysis or discovered something based on this evidence.

The subject that logically follows this modifier should be either Christine Strullu-Derrien herself or Aglaophyton (*the plant that provides the evidence*). *Since the sentence structure makes it clear we're discussing what the discovery revealed, Aglaophyton works as the subject because it is the source of the evidence being discussed.*

Looking at the answer choices, only (C) *Aglaophyton* provides evidence that this symbiotic relationship *places the appropriate subject (Aglaophyton) immediately after the modifying phrase, maintaining proper subject-modifier placement.*

(C) is the correct answer.

Note: This question demonstrates a common trap where passive voice constructions (like those in options A, B, and D) create awkward subject-modifier relationships. Always ensure that the subject immediately following an opening modifier is what the modifier logically describes.

Question 18

Correct Answer: B

Question: The sentence needs to be completed so that it conforms to Standard English conventions, with the correct answer being (B) the solo piano piece Für Elise is.

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

The opening phrase "Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1810 and dedicated to Therese Malfatti" is a modifier that describes a musical composition. This modifier must be placed directly next to the noun it modifies—in this case, the piano piece itself.

The subject that needs to immediately follow this modifier is *Für Elise*, the piece of music that was composed and dedicated. The correct answer must position "the solo piano piece *Für Elise*" immediately after the comma to show what was composed and dedicated.

(B) the solo piano piece Für Elise is correctly places the modified subject right after the introductory modifier, creating a grammatically proper sentence structure.

Note: Be careful not to confuse this with a subject-verb agreement question.

While option (A) may appear to have proper verb agreement, it incorrectly places just the title without the full noun phrase after the modifier, creating ambiguity about what "Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven" modifies.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "the contributions," which is **plural**. Therefore, the verb must also be plural to maintain proper agreement.

The phrase "of Edward Deci and Richard Ryan, renowned for their influential work on the 'self-determination theory' of motivation and the extensive research it has generated" is additional information that comes between the subject and the verb. This lengthy modifier is designed to create distance and distraction, but we must focus solely on the core subject "the contributions" and its verb.

Since "contributions" is plural, we need a plural verb form. Looking at the options, (A) *aren't* and (C) *weren't* are plural, while (B) *isn't* and (D) *wasn't* are singular.

The context of the sentence discusses a general statement about their contributions and when they "first established" their theory, suggesting a past timeframe. However, the main clause is making a statement about what their contributions are *not* confined to, which requires the present tense plural form.

(A) *aren't* is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be confused by the additional information between the subject and verb. Always identify the main subject first—in this case, "contributions"—and ignore the modifying phrases when checking for agreement.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B

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

The subject of this sentence is "the temperature of the water ejected from Fly Geyser." Although there is a lot of additional information between the subject and the verb (including the long modifier "which was accidentally created by well drilling in 1964"), the core subject is simply "the temperature," which is *singular*.

Since the subject is singular, we need a singular verb. This eliminates options (C) and (D), which are plural verbs.

Between the remaining options (A) and (B), we need to determine the correct tense. The sentence states that the study "suggests" (present tense) a current fact about the geyser's temperature. The temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit is a present, ongoing condition, not something that only existed in the past. Therefore, we need the present tense.

(B) is is the correct answer because it provides the singular, present tense verb form that agrees with the singular subject "temperature" and matches the present tense context of the sentence.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the plural noun "algae" at the end of the sentence or by the past tense verb "was" in the modifier clause. These do not affect the subject-verb agreement of the main clause.