

Form, Structure, and Sense

Question 1

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 2

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 3

Woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted using a carpet weaving technique passed down by the artist's Turkish grandmother; _____ so lush and tactilely inviting that you are tempted to reach out and touch them.

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

- A** the topological tapestries of Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou are
- B** the Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou creates topological tapestries that are
- C** when she creates her topological tapestries, Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou makes them
- D** Alexandra Kehayoglou is an Argentine textile artist whose topological tapestries are

Question 4

Theology in medieval European universities was shaped by Aristotelian logic, but the rediscovery of ancient texts and the rise of new intellectual centers together caused _____ to develop into a complex, systematic method—also called scholasticism—that dominated education for centuries.

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

- ☐ A it
- ☐ B them
- ☐ C she
- ☐ D he

Question 5

Le Corbusier's urban planning theories, particularly his concept of the *Ville Radieuse*, were influential throughout the 20th century: according to architectural historian Kenneth Frampton, his ideas were widely adopted, whereas urban theorist Jane Jacobs criticized their destructive impact on existing communities. This divergence in perspective can be explained in part by the fact that master-planned cities such as Brasília expand and contract as _____ demographically.

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

- ☐ A one evolves
- ☐ B it evolves
- ☐ C they evolve
- ☐ D we evolve

Question 6

The 'elaboration likelihood model' of persuasion, developed in the 1980s by American psychologists Richard E. Petty and John Cacioppo, has been influential in the field of social psychology. In their extensive research, Petty and Cacioppo introduced changes to the understanding of attitude change, proposing a dual-process theory and making _____ a foundational concept.

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

- ☐ A he
- ☐ B she
- ☐ C it
- ☐ D they

Question 7

Historian Orlando Figes's book *A People's Tragedy* provides an exhaustive analysis of the Russian Revolution. With _____ detailed accounts of the social, political, and cultural upheavals of the era, the book offers readers a panoramic view of one of the twentieth century's most pivotal events.

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

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

Question 8

Though not closely related, the hedgehog tenrecs of Madagascar share basic _____ true hedgehogs, including protective spines, pointed snouts, and small body size—traits the two groups of mammals independently developed in response to equivalent roles in their respective habitats.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- ☐ A examples of
- ☐ B concerns about
- ☐ C indications of
- ☐ D similarities with

Question 9

A key figure in nuclear physics (the study of atomic nuclei and their interactions), _____ with no electric charge, was a fundamental component of the atomic nucleus alongside the proton.

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

- A** it was discovered in a 1932 experiment by James Chadwick that the neutron, a subatomic particle
- B** James Chadwick discovered in a 1932 experiment that the neutron, a subatomic particle
- C** the neutron, a subatomic particle, was discovered in a 1932 experiment by James Chadwick
- D** a 1932 experiment—by James Chadwick—discovered that the neutron, a subatomic particle

Question 10

Italian artist Giovanni Fattori is considered one of the most prominent members of the Macchiaioli. In the 1860s, he began to paint military subjects, including his famous work *The Italian Camp After the Battle of Magenta*, which _____ of the aftermath of the battle during the Second Italian War of Independence.

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

- ☐ A is a realistic, unheroic depiction
- ☐ B were realistic, unheroic depictions
- ☐ C are realistic, unheroic depictions
- ☐ D were a realistic, unheroic depiction

Question 11

In his seminal work on social cohesion, French sociologist Émile Durkheim explored the concept of anomie, a societal condition of normlessness where individuals feel disconnected from their community. Among the key contributors to this theory _____ Robert Merton, who expanded on the idea in his 1938 article *Social Structure and Anomie*.

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

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

Question 12

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 13

In their 1956 study *Personal Influence*, sociologists Elihu Katz and Paul Lazarsfeld introduced the concept of parasocial relationships, which are one-sided connections _____ celebrities, influencers, or even fictional characters.

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

- ☐ A viewers form with media figures, such as
- ☐ B viewer's form with media figure's, such as
- ☐ C viewer's form with media figures, such as
- ☐ D viewers form with media figure's, such as

Question 14

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 15

In the 12th century, the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela became a major journey for Christians. Its complex network of roads and the spiritual fervor of the pilgrims are detailed in the *Codex Calixtinus*. This manuscript, a guide for travelers, describes the various routes and the dangers a pilgrim might face on _____ journey to the shrine of St. James.

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

- ☐ A its
- ☐ B one's
- ☐ C his or her
- ☐ D their

Question 16

In literary criticism, the prevailing view has been that nature in Romantic poetry serves as a serene backdrop for human emotion. However, after analyzing the tumultuous landscapes in poems like *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, _____ often embodies a powerful, untamable force.

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

- ☐ A critic Ashton Nichols has suggested that nature
- ☐ B critic Ashton Nichols's suggestion is that nature
- ☐ C the suggestion critic Ashton Nichols has made is that nature
- ☐ D nature, critic Ashton Nichols has suggested,

Question 17

Because the practice of mindfulness meditation, which _____ roots to ancient Buddhist traditions, has gained significant traction in secular contexts, Jon Kabat-Zinn developed the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program to help patients cope with chronic pain and illness.

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

- ☐ A trace their
- ☐ B traces its
- ☐ C traces his
- ☐ D trace its

Question 18

In their groundbreaking research on the "Cinderella effect," evolutionary psychologists Martin Daly and Margo Wilson found that a child living with a stepparent, when compared to a child living with two biological parents, _____ at a significantly higher risk of being abused.

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

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

Question 19

In his 1973 study, sociologist William Labov investigated the pronunciation of the post-vocalic /r/ sound in New York City department stores. Labov's research was groundbreaking, as it linked linguistic variation to social stratification, demonstrating that employees at higher-end stores _____ the /r/ more frequently to project a higher social status.

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

- ☐ A pronounced
- ☐ B is pronouncing
- ☐ C will pronounce
- ☐ D has pronounced

Question 20

Known for her foundational work in second-wave feminism and existentialism, Simone de _____ was the ideal author to write *The Second Sex*, a book about the historical and social construction of woman as the "Other" in a world dominated by male-defined norms.

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

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

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: B

The correct answer is (B). This question tests subject-verb agreement. The subject of the verb is 'the toxins the organism uses to protect itself from predation'. The core subject here is 'toxins', which is plural. Therefore, the verb must be plural as well.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

This question tests subject-verb agreement. To determine the correct verb form, we must first identify the subject that the verb refers to.

In this sentence, the relative pronoun **"that"** refers back to the plural noun **"nematodes."** Because the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural to ensure proper agreement.

(D) is the correct answer because **"come"** is the plural form of the verb, matching the plural subject **"nematodes."**

Note that while some choices like (A) and (B) are singular, the context of the sentence regarding multiple worms requires a plural construction.

Question 3

Correct Answer: A

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 introductory phrase "Woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted using a carpet weaving technique passed down by the artist's Turkish grandmother"

is a modifier. It describes something that is woven and tufted.

Based on the context, the items being described are the tapestries themselves, not the artist Alexandra Kehayoglou. Therefore, the subject immediately following the comma must be "the topological tapestries."

(A) is the correct answer because it correctly places the tapestries as the subject being modified by the opening phrase.

Question 4

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-pronoun agreement**. We need to identify what the pronoun is referring to in order to determine whether we need a singular or plural pronoun, and whether it should refer to a person or a thing.

The subject that the pronoun replaces is "**theology**" at the beginning of the sentence. Since "theology" is singular and refers to a field of study (not a person), we need a singular pronoun that can refer to things.

(A) "it" is the correct answer because it is a singular pronoun used for things, which correctly agrees with "theology."

Note: Options (B), (C), and (D) are incorrect because (B) is plural, while (C) and (D) are pronouns specifically used for people, not academic disciplines or fields of study.

Question 5

Correct Answer: C

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

The subject that the pronoun refers to is "master-planned cities such as Brasília." Since "cities" is plural, we need a plural pronoun and verb form.

Looking at the answer choices, only (C) *they evolve* uses a plural pronoun ("they") that correctly agrees with the plural subject "cities."

(C) is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the singular example "Brasília" that appears right before the blank. The actual subject is the plural noun "master-planned cities," which requires a plural pronoun. This is a common trap where the SAT places a singular noun close to the blank to mislead you.

Question 6

Correct Answer: C

This question tests **subject-pronoun agreement**. We need to identify what the pronoun is referring to in order to determine whether we need a singular or plural pronoun, and whether it should refer to a person or a thing.

The pronoun in the blank is referring to "a dual-process theory," which is a singular thing (not a person). Therefore, we need a singular pronoun that refers to things.

(C) "it" is the correct answer because it is a singular pronoun used for things, which correctly refers back to "a dual-process theory."

Note that while "Petty and Cacioppo" (plural people) are mentioned earlier in the sentence, they are not what the pronoun replaces. The sentence structure makes clear that the blank refers to the theory they introduced, not to the researchers themselves.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

This question tests subject-pronoun agreement. We need to identify what noun the pronoun is referring to and ensure they agree in number.

The pronoun in the blank refers to "the book" (or more specifically, "Historian Orlando Figes's book *A People's Tragedy*"). Since "book" is a singular noun and refers to a thing (not a person), we need a singular pronoun that can refer to objects.

Let's examine the options: (A) "their" is plural, so it cannot refer to the singular "book." (C) "his" and (D) "her" can only refer to people, not to things like books. (B) "its" is singular and can refer to things, making it the correct match for "book."

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

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by "Historian Orlando Figes" appearing earlier in the sentence. The pronoun refers to "the book," not to the historian.

Question 8

Correct Answer: D

The question asks for the most logical and precise word to complete the text. **(D)** is the correct answer.

This question tests the logical connection between two groups of animals—hedgehog tenrecs and true hedgehogs. The passage states that although they are not closely related, they share certain physical traits like *protective spines* and *pointed snouts*. These shared traits are described as being developed independently in response to *equivalent roles*.

In this context, the word *similarities* correctly identifies that these two different groups possess traits that are like one another. Using the preposition *with* correctly completes the phrase *similarities with true hedgehogs*.

Therefore, **(D)** is the most precise choice because it accurately reflects the relationship described between the physical characteristics of the two groups.

Question 9

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 phrase "A key figure in nuclear physics (the study of atomic nuclei and their interactions)" is a modifier that describes a person. Therefore, this modifier must be placed directly next to the name of that person.

Looking at the answer choices, we need to identify which one places a person immediately after the opening modifier. In choice **(B)**, "James Chadwick" appears right after the comma following the modifier, making it clear that James Chadwick is the key figure in nuclear physics being described.

(B) is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful with questions like this where the modifier appears at the beginning of the sentence. The subject that the modifier describes must immediately follow the comma, not appear later in the sentence.

Question 10

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "which," a relative pronoun that refers back to the noun phrase "his famous work *The Italian Camp After the Battle of Magenta*." Since this phrase refers to a single work of art, the subject is **singular**.

Therefore, the verb must also be **singular**. Looking at the answer choices, (A) uses the singular verb "is," while (B) and (C) use the plural verb "were" and "are" respectively. Additionally, (D) uses "were," which is also plural.

The correct answer is **(A) is a realistic, unheroic depiction** because it maintains singular agreement with the singular subject "which" (referring to

one work of art).

Note: This question may appear to test verb tenses since multiple tenses appear in the answer choices. However, the primary issue here is subject-verb agreement—ensuring the verb matches the number of the subject.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **subject-verb agreement** with inverted sentence structure.

The sentence places the verb before the subject. To identify the correct answer, we need to find the actual subject of the sentence. The subject here is "**Robert Merton**," which is singular. The phrase "Among the key contributors to this theory" is a prepositional phrase that introduces the sentence but does not affect subject-verb agreement.

Since "Robert Merton" is a singular subject, we need a singular verb. **(A) "was"** is the correct answer because it is the only singular verb option that agrees with the singular subject "Robert Merton."

Note: This question uses inverted word order to make the subject-verb agreement less obvious. Remember to identify the true subject of the sentence—in this case, "Robert Merton"—rather than being distracted by plural nouns that appear earlier in the sentence, such as "contributors."

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.

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 13

Correct Answer: A

This question tests the use of apostrophes, specifically distinguishing between plural and possessive forms.

First, let's examine "viewers" vs "viewer's." The word comes before "form," which is a verb, not a noun. Since the word right after it is a verb (not a noun that could be possessed), we need the plural form "viewers," not the possessive "viewer's." This eliminates (B) and (C).

Next, let's look at "media figures" vs "media figure's." The phrase comes before "such as," which introduces examples rather than indicating possession. Since "media figures" is not possessing anything here, we need the plural form "media figures," not the possessive "media figure's." This eliminates (D).

(A) is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to confuse plural and possessive forms simply because they sound similar. Remember that possessive forms are only needed when a noun is possessing another noun that directly follows it.

Question 14

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 15

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-pronoun agreement.

The key is to identify what noun the pronoun is replacing. Looking at the sentence, the pronoun needs to refer back to "a pilgrim," which is a singular noun referring to a person.

Since "a pilgrim" is singular and refers to a person of unknown gender, we need a singular pronoun that can refer to any person. According to SAT conventions, when referring to a person of unknown or unspecified gender, the correct form is "his or her."

(C) is the correct answer.

Note that (A) "its" can only refer to things, not people. (B) "one's" would create an inconsistency since the sentence uses "a pilgrim" rather than "one." (D) "their" is plural, but "a pilgrim" is singular.

Important reminder: On the SAT, when a singular subject refers to a person with unknown gender, always use "he or she" or "his or her" rather than the plural "they/their," even though "they" is increasingly accepted in modern usage.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

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 phrase "after analyzing the tumultuous landscapes in poems like *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*" is a modifier that describes who performed the action of analyzing. We need to determine what subject should immediately follow this modifier.

Since critics analyze poetry (not nature itself), the subject that performed the analyzing must be "critic Ashton Nichols." Therefore, "critic Ashton Nichols" must be placed immediately after the comma.

(A) is the correct answer because it correctly places "critic Ashton Nichols" directly after the modifier, making it clear that Nichols is the one who analyzed the landscapes and made the suggestion.

Note: Be careful with modifiers at the beginning of sentences. The subject that follows the comma must be the one performing the action described in the opening phrase.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

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

To answer this question, we need to identify the subject that the pronoun refers to. The pronoun is replacing "the practice of mindfulness meditation." Since "the practice" is a singular noun phrase (the main noun is "practice," which is singular), we need a singular pronoun.

Among the answer choices, only "its" is singular and can refer to things (not people). "Their" is plural, and "his" can only refer to male persons, so both are incorrect for referring to "the practice."

We also need to check subject-verb agreement. The verb must agree with "the practice of mindfulness meditation," which is singular. Therefore, we need the singular verb form "traces."

(B) traces its is the correct answer because both the verb "traces" and the pronoun "its" are singular and properly agree with the singular subject "the practice."

Note: Don't be distracted by "traditions" appearing right before the blank—the pronoun refers back to "the practice," not to "traditions."

Question 18

Correct Answer: D

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

The subject of this sentence is "a child living with a stepparent." Despite the prepositional phrase "with a stepparent" that follows, the core subject is "a child," which is **singular**.

Since the subject is singular, we need a singular verb. Looking at the answer choices, (A) "are" and (C) "were" are plural verbs, so they can be eliminated. This leaves us with (B) "was" and (D) "is," both of which are singular verbs.

The sentence describes a general finding from research—a statement that remains true in the present. When stating research findings or general truths, we use the **present tense**. Therefore, **(D) "is"** is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the phrase "when compared to a child living with two biological parents," which appears between the subject and the verb. Always focus solely on identifying the main subject to check agreement.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

This question tests **verb tense**. The key to determining the correct verb form lies in the contextual clues provided in the sentence.

The passage discusses William Labov's 1973 study and describes what his research demonstrated about linguistic patterns. The phrase "Labov's research was groundbreaking, as it linked linguistic variation to social stratification" uses past tense verbs ("was" and "linked"), indicating that we are discussing historical findings from a completed study.

When describing the findings or results of past research, we use the **simple past tense**. The employees' pronunciation patterns occurred during the time of the 1973 study, making this a historical fact being reported.

Therefore, the correct answer must be in the simple past tense. **(A) "pronounced"** is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by more complex verb constructions like (B) "is pronouncing," (C) "will pronounce," or (D) "has pronounced." When describing past research findings, the straightforward simple past tense is typically correct.

Question 20

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the use of punctuation in relation to a person's name within a sentence. The correct answer is *(D) Beauvoir*.

The sentence begins with an introductory modifying phrase ("Known for her foundational work in second-wave feminism and existentialism") followed by the main clause. The structure is: "Simone de Beauvoir was the ideal author to write *The Second Sex*."

In this context, "Simone de Beauvoir" is simply the subject of the sentence, and no punctuation should interrupt the flow between the person's full name and the verb "was." The name "Simone de Beauvoir" is a complete unit that should not be broken up by commas, colons, or dashes.

Options (A), (B), and (C) all incorrectly place punctuation after "Beauvoir," which would unnecessarily separate the subject from its verb or create an incomplete construction. Since the sentence flows directly from the subject to the predicate without any need for a pause or additional explanation, no punctuation is needed after the complete name.

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