

Grammar

Question 1

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 2

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

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

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

Question 3

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 4

The city of Jinan, China, expanded its rapid transit system, the Jinan Metro, as recently as 2020. _____ the system will likely need to undergo further expansions as the size and needs of the city's population shift.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Still,
- ☐ B By contrast,
- ☐ C For example,
- ☐ D Instead,

Question 5

Space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock is excited about the potential of the new James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Unlike its predecessor the Hubble Space Telescope, the JWST is **optimized for infrared wavelength**. When light from distant galaxies is infrared, _____ the JWST can provide **sharp images** that reveal much more information about those galaxies than the Hubble could.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A consequently,
- ☐ B admittedly,
- ☐ C actually,
- ☐ D in addition,

Question 6

In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form—than other words. _____ the adjective "illegal" would be expected to mutate faster than the noun "crisis."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B Moreover,
- ☐ C Meanwhile,
- ☐ D However,

Question 7

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 8

In the 1990s, researcher Steve Mann first conceptualized the idea of *sousveillance*, the recording of an activity by one of its participants, often as a way to monitor authority figures. This concept of inverse surveillance was largely a niche academic topic for years. _____ with the widespread adoption of smartphones in the 2010s, *sousveillance* became a powerful tool for citizen journalism and activism, documenting events from a first-person perspective.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A For instance,
- ☐ B However,
- ☐ C Likewise,
- ☐ D Finally,

Question 9

The philosophical concept of solipsism posits that only one's own mind is sure to exist, and anything outside of one's own mind is uncertain. _____ some interpretations suggest this extends to the denial of an external reality independent of one's consciousness, according to philosopher George Berkeley.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Furthermore,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C Consequently,
- ☐ D That is to say,

Question 10

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

Question 11

Marine snow is a continuous shower of mostly organic detritus falling from the upper layers of the water column. _____ of dead or dying animals and phytoplankton, the material is known to provide food for many deep-sea organisms.

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

- ☐ A Composes
- ☐ B Composing
- ☐ C Composed
- ☐ D Compose

Question 12

The initial discovery of the exoplanet *55 Cancri e* in 2004 by a team led by Barbara McArthur suggested it was a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere. _____ subsequent observations revealed a much denser "super-Earth" with a surface that could be covered in graphite and diamond, a stark contrast to the initial interpretation of its composition.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A That is to say,
- ☐ B Similarly,
- ☐ C However,
- ☐ D Thus,

Question 13

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 14

In 2022, the James Webb Space Telescope captured its first direct image of an exoplanet, a gas giant named *HIP 65426 b*. _____ the telescope used its Near-Infrared Camera to observe the planet at different infrared wavelengths. With this achievement, the JWST demonstrated its powerful capability to characterize distant worlds.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Yet,
- ☐ B Nevertheless,
- ☐ C More precisely,
- ☐ D Shortly,

Question 15

In the mid-20th century, linguist Morris Swadesh developed glottochronology, a method for estimating how long ago related languages separated from a common ancestor. He proposed a relatively stable rate of replacement for core vocabulary words across languages. Applying this method, _____ linguist Knut Bergsland's 1958 study of the Eskimo-Aleut language family revealed a much slower rate of lexical replacement than Swadesh's proposed universal constant.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A that is to say,
- ☐ B in conclusion,
- ☐ C however,
- ☐ D for example,

Question 16

Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger proposed that a quantum particle like an electron could be described not as a single point but as a wave function (because its behavior exhibits wave-like properties, such as diffraction and interference). _____

Schrödinger developed his famous wave equation, which governs the evolution of this wave function over time, to predict the probability of finding the particle at any given location.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Specifically,
- ☐ B In summary,
- ☐ C Furthermore,
- ☐ D Consequently,

Question 17

It is widely accepted that all known life on Earth descended from a single common ancestor. _____ based on the premise that our detection methods are biased towards familiar biology, philosopher of science Carol Cleland has argued for a hypothetical 'shadow biosphere'. This would consist of microbial life that represents a second, independent origin of life with a fundamentally different biochemistry.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Likewise,
- ☐ B Consequently,
- ☐ C To summarize,
- ☐ D However,

Question 18

To investigate the connection between solar activity and Earth's climate, scientists have analyzed historical temperature data. Researchers like John A. Eddy pointed out that the 'Maunder Minimum,' a period of extremely low sunspot activity from 1645 to 1715, coincided with the coldest part of the Little Ice Age in the Northern Hemisphere. _____ other periods of low solar activity have also been linked to cooler terrestrial temperatures.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A By contrast,
- ☐ B In a similar vein,
- ☐ C To begin with,
- ☐ D In particular,

Question 19

In 1981, psychologist Daniel Batson proposed that feelings of empathy for another person lead to altruistic behavior. This is known as the empathy-altruism _____ and remains influential today.

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

- ☐ A hypothesis
- ☐ B hypothesis—
- ☐ C hypothesis,
- ☐ D hypothesis:

Question 20

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

Answers

Question 1

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 2

Correct Answer: C

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

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

Question 3

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 4

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

'The city of Jinan, China, expanded its rapid transit system, the Jinan Metro, as recently as 2020.'

'the system will likely need to undergo further expansions as the size and needs of the city's population shift.'

The first clause states a recent achievement: the expansion of the Jinan Metro. The second clause presents a future necessity: the need for even more expansions. The relationship between these two ideas is adversative; despite the recent expansion, more work is still required. The transition 'Still' correctly captures this sense of contrast, indicating that even with the recent development mentioned in the first clause, the point made in the second clause remains true. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 5

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'Unlike its predecessor the Hubble Space Telescope, the JWST is **optimized for infrared wavelength.**'
- 'When light from distant galaxies is infrared, the JWST can provide **sharp images** that reveal much more information...'

The first clause states a characteristic of the JWST: it is optimized for infrared light. The second clause describes a result of this characteristic: because it's optimized for infrared, it can capture sharp images of galaxies whose light is infrared.

This is a cause-and-effect relationship. The transition must show that the second clause is a result of the first. The word *consequently* means "as a result," making it a perfect fit for this causal relationship. Therefore, the correct answer is (A).

Question 6

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form—than other words.'
- 'the adjective "illegal" would be expected to mutate faster than the noun "crisis."'

The first clause establishes a general finding: negative adjectives tend to be replaced more quickly than other words. The second clause provides a specific example or a logical consequence of this finding, comparing the

negative adjective “illegal” to the noun “crisis.” This creates a cause-and-effect relationship, where the general rule (cause) leads to a specific prediction (effect).

A causal transition is needed to show this relationship. “Thus” indicates that the second statement is a logical conclusion or result of the first. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 7

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 8

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "This concept of inverse surveillance was largely a niche academic topic for years."
- "with the widespread adoption of smartphones in the 2010s, sousveillance became a powerful tool for citizen journalism and activism, documenting events from a first-person perspective."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes how sousveillance remained an obscure, niche academic topic, while the second clause describes how it became widespread and powerful. This shift from limited academic interest to mainstream practical application represents a clear contrast in the concept's reach and impact.

Since we need to show this contrast between the two clauses, we require an **adversative transition**. Among the choices, (B) *However* is the adversative transition that appropriately signals this change in circumstances—from sousveillance being niche to becoming widely adopted and influential.

The correct answer is (B).

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "The philosophical concept of solipsism posits that only one's own mind is sure to exist, and anything outside of one's own mind is uncertain."
- "some interpretations suggest this extends to the denial of an external reality independent of one's consciousness, according to philosopher George Berkeley."

These two clauses have an **additive relationship**. The first clause introduces the basic definition of solipsism, while the second clause *expands* on this concept by providing additional information about more extreme interpretations of the philosophy.

The second clause is not giving an example, showing a result, or restating the first clause—it is simply adding more information about solipsism by discussing further interpretations of the concept.

(A) "Furthermore" is the correct answer because it is an expanding additive transition that appropriately signals the addition of supplementary information to build upon the initial definition provided.

Question 10

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*.

Question 11

Correct Answer: C

This question tests **verb forms**, specifically the use of past participles in modifying phrases.

The blank begins a phrase that describes what marine snow is made of. This phrase modifies "the material" in the main clause. When we need to describe what something is made of or consists of, we use the past participle form "composed."

The phrase "_____ of dead or dying animals and phytoplankton" functions as a reduced relative clause, which is short for "which is composed of dead or dying animals and phytoplankton." When we reduce this clause by removing "which is," we're left with just the past participle.

Therefore, the correct answer must be the past participle form. **(C)** **Composed** is the correct answer.

Note that **(B) Composing** might be tempting because it appears to create a modifying phrase, but "composing" would incorrectly suggest that the material is actively creating or writing something, rather than being made up of these components. Be careful to distinguish between active present participles (-ing forms) and passive past participles when describing composition or construction.

Question 12

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "The initial discovery of the exoplanet *55 Cancri e* in 2004 by a team led by Barbara McArthur suggested it was a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere."
- "subsequent observations revealed a much denser 'super-Earth' with a surface that could be covered in graphite and diamond, a stark contrast to

the initial interpretation of its composition."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes the initial interpretation of the exoplanet as a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere. The second clause presents later findings that contradicted this initial understanding, revealing it to be a much denser super-Earth with a completely different composition.

Since the relationship between these clauses is **adversative** (presenting contrasting or opposing information), we need an adversative transition. Among the choices, only **(C) "However"** serves this purpose, appropriately signaling the shift from the initial discovery to the contradictory subsequent observations.

(C) is the correct answer.

Question 13

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 14

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "In 2022, the James Webb Space Telescope captured its first direct image of an exoplanet, a gas giant named *HIP 65426 b*."
- "the telescope used its Near-Infrared Camera to observe the planet at different infrared wavelengths."

The first clause introduces a general statement about JWST capturing an image of an exoplanet. The second clause provides **specific technical details** about *how* this was accomplished—namely, by using the Near-Infrared Camera at different wavelengths.

This represents an **additive relationship** where the second clause narrows down or clarifies the first statement with more precise information. The transition needed here is an **exemplifying or specifying transition** that signals the writer is providing more detailed or exact information.

(C) "More precisely," is the correct answer because it appropriately signals that the following clause will offer a more specific explanation of how the telescope captured the image. This transition indicates that the writer is refining or specifying the information from the previous statement.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "In the mid-20th century, linguist Morris Swadesh developed glottochronology, a method for estimating how long ago related languages separated from a common ancestor. He proposed a relatively stable rate of replacement for core vocabulary words across languages."
- "linguist Knut Bergsland's 1958 study of the Eskimo-Aleut language family revealed a much slower rate of lexical replacement than Swadesh's proposed universal constant."

The first clause introduces Swadesh's proposal that there is a *relatively stable rate* of vocabulary replacement across languages. The second clause presents Bergsland's findings that showed a *much slower rate* than what Swadesh proposed. These two clauses present **contrasting information**—one describes an expectation of consistency, while the other reveals evidence that contradicts this expectation.

This contrast requires an **adversative transition** to connect the two ideas properly. Choice **(C) "however"** is the correct answer because it introduces this contrast, signaling that despite Swadesh's proposal of a universal constant, Bergsland's research revealed something different.

Question 16

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger proposed that a quantum particle like an electron could be described not as a single point but as a wave function (because its behavior exhibits wave-like properties, such as diffraction and interference)."
- "Schrödinger developed his famous wave equation, which governs the evolution of this wave function over time, to predict the probability of finding the particle at any given location."

The first clause establishes that Schrödinger proposed describing quantum particles as wave functions. The second clause describes what Schrödinger

did as a **result** of this proposal—he developed an equation to work with and predict the behavior of these wave functions.

This represents a **cause-and-effect relationship**: because he had this new way of thinking about particles (the cause), he needed to create a mathematical tool to describe their behavior (the effect). Therefore, we need a **causal transition**.

(D) "Consequently" is the correct answer because it properly signals this cause-and-effect relationship between proposing the wave function concept and developing the mathematical equation to describe it.

Question 17

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'It is widely accepted that all known life on Earth descended from a single common ancestor.'
- 'based on the premise that our detection methods are biased towards familiar biology, philosopher of science Carol Cleland has argued for a hypothetical 'shadow biosphere'. This would consist of microbial life that represents a second, independent origin of life with a fundamentally different biochemistry.'

The first clause presents the widely accepted scientific view that all life shares a single common ancestor. The second clause introduces Carol Cleland's contrasting argument for a 'shadow biosphere'—life with a completely different, independent origin.

These clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first describes the conventional, accepted view of life's singular origin, while the second challenges this by proposing the possibility of a separate, independent origin of life with different biochemistry. This is a clear **adversative relationship**.

Therefore, we need an adversative transition. **(D) "However,"** is the correct answer as it effectively signals this shift from the established scientific consensus to an alternative hypothesis that contradicts it.

Question 18

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "Researchers like John A. Eddy pointed out that the 'Maunder Minimum,' a period of extremely low sunspot activity from 1645 to 1715, coincided with the coldest part of the Little Ice Age in the Northern Hemisphere."
- "other periods of low solar activity have also been linked to cooler terrestrial temperatures."

The first clause provides a **specific example** of how low solar activity (the Maunder Minimum) correlated with cooler temperatures during the Little Ice Age. The second clause expands on this idea by stating that **additional instances** of low solar activity have similarly been connected to cooler temperatures.

These clauses present **similar information** that supports the same overall point—that there is a connection between reduced solar activity and lower Earth temperatures. The second clause is essentially adding more evidence of the same pattern described in the first clause.

Therefore, we need an **additive transition** that signals similarity or parallel information. The correct answer is **(B) "In a similar vein,"** which appropriately indicates that the second clause continues the same line of reasoning with comparable supporting evidence.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "In 1981, psychologist Daniel Batson proposed that feelings of empathy for another person lead to altruistic behavior. This is known as the empathy-altruism ____"
- "and remains influential today"

The first clause is an independent clause (a complete sentence). The second clause beginning with "and" is a dependent clause because it starts with a coordinating conjunction that connects it to the previous thought.

In the SAT, to separate an independent clause and a dependent clause that continues the same sentence, we don't need any punctuation when the dependent clause starts with a coordinating conjunction like "and."

However, we need to consider what comes before "and." The word "hypothesis" is simply completing the noun phrase "the empathy-altruism hypothesis." Since "and" is connecting this complete thought to what follows, no punctuation is needed between "hypothesis" and "and."

A dash in **(B)** would incorrectly separate parts of a continuous sentence. A comma in **(C)** would create an unnecessary pause before a coordinating conjunction in a simple compound predicate. A colon in **(D)** would incorrectly suggest that an explanation or list follows.

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

Question 20

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.