

Grammar

Question 1

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

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

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

Question 2

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

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

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

Question 3

Julia Alvarez's 1994 novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*, a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal _____ can serve as a starting point for those wanting to explore how the rule of dictator Rafael Trujillo has been represented in Dominican American literature.

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

- ☐ A sisters, and
- ☐ B sisters and
- ☐ C sisters,
- ☐ D sisters

Question 4

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

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

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

Question 5

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

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

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

Question 6

In the thought-provoking 2010 exhibition *Relative Pelican* at the Stux Gallery in New York, Sokari Douglas Camp presented sculptures that had been _____ welded from recycled metal materials, such as oil drums. In doing so, the London-based Nigerian sculptor challenged viewers to imagine new uses and futures for the material wastes of the past.

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

- ☐ A cut, bent, and,
- ☐ B cut, bent, and
- ☐ C cut, bent; and
- ☐ D cut bent, and

Question 7

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

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

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

Question 8

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

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

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

Question 9

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

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

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

Question 10

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 11

A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible. _____ they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band. This is what the Japanese experimental rock band Boris did when they named themselves after the song "Boris" by the Melvins.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B Alternatively,
- ☐ C In other words,
- ☐ D For instance,

Question 12

Olaudah Equiano's narrative about his enslavement was crucial to the abolitionist movement in Britain, in the late 1700s. Seeking to expose the horrors of the slave _____ Equiano published his autobiography, a work detailing his experiences as an enslaved person.

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

- ☐ A trade
- ☐ B trade.
- ☐ C trade,
- ☐ D trade;

Question 13

In 2000, the United States Congress designated a portion of Pennsylvania as the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, _____ the region's unique natural, cultural, and historical attributes.

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

- ☐ A they cite
- ☐ B cited
- ☐ C citing
- ☐ D has cited

Question 14

Few economists have heard of Harvey Leibenstein. _____ many have encountered his work in the influential *X-Efficiency theory*. As the theory's originator, Leibenstein challenged the assumption that firms always operate at maximum efficiency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

Question 15

In a 2015 study, astrophysicist Sjoert van Velzen analyzed data from the All-Sky Automated Survey for Supernovae, a network of robotic telescopes that continuously scans the sky for cosmic events. Van Velzen's analysis revealed several tidal disruption events and _____ confirm that these occurrences, where a star is torn apart by a black hole, are more common than previously thought.

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

- ☒ A help
- ☐ B helped
- ☐ C helping
- ☐ D helps

Question 16

The Maillard reaction, discovered in 1912, is the chemical reaction between amino acids and reducing sugars. The reaction _____ browned food its distinctive flavor, such as seared steaks and toasted bread.

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

- ☐ A giving
- ☐ B gives
- ☐ C to give
- ☐ D to be giving

Question 17

In cellular biology, telomeres _____ repetitive nucleotide sequences at each end of a chromosome, which protect the end of the chromosome from deterioration or from fusion with neighboring chromosomes.

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

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

Question 18

According to physicists Avinash Kumar and John Bechhoefer, Janus particles immersed in a bacterial bath _____ a version of the Mpemba effect—a counterintuitive phenomenon where a hot system can cool faster than a cold one—which they observed in their 2020 study.

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

- ☐ A is exhibiting
- ☐ B has exhibited
- ☐ C exhibit
- ☐ D exhibits

Question 19

Ecologists like Michelle Evans-White use trophic pyramids to illustrate the food chain within a given ecosystem. At a typical pyramid's base are primary producers, like algae, followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third. _____ at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like sharks, that feed on the animals below.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A In fact,
- ☐ B For example,
- ☐ C Besides,
- ☐ D Lastly,

Question 20

In 1940, scientists first isolated a sample of the steroid hormone androstenone, which they knew existed in animals—and, they assumed, only in animals. _____ scientists know that androstenone can also be found in chokecherry plants (*Prunus virginiana*), but this discovery didn't occur until decades later.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Today,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C In other words,
- ☐ D Thus,

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

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

Question 2

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

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

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

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the use of commas with appositives. The phrase "a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal sisters" is an appositive that describes the novel. In this sentence, the appositive is essential information because it identifies *which* novel by Julia Alvarez is being discussed.

Therefore, no comma is needed between "Mirabal" and "sisters".

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

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

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

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

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

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

This question tests the use of commas to separate items in a list. The relevant rule is that when a list contains three or more items, commas should be placed between each item to ensure clarity. The final comma before the conjunction 'and' (known as the Oxford or serial comma) is conventional in Standard English. The correct answer is (B) because it correctly places a comma after 'cut' to separate the first and second items in the list of actions performed on the sculptures: 'cut, bent, and welded'.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

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

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

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

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

Question 8

Correct Answer: D

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

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

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

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

This question tests the correct use of punctuation with prepositions.

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

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

Question 10

Correct Answer: D

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

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

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

Question 11

Correct Answer: B

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

- 'A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible.'
- 'they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band.'

These two clauses present two different options or possibilities for how a band might choose a name. The first clause describes one approach (unique and original names), and the second clause describes another, different approach (naming after an existing song). Therefore, an adversative transition indicating an alternative is needed.

'Alternatively,' (B) is the correct choice because it signals that the second statement presents another option or possibility to the first.

Question 12

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "Seeking to expose the horrors of the slave trade"
- "Equiano published his autobiography, a work detailing his experiences as an enslaved person"

The first clause is a **dependent clause** because it begins with a participial phrase ("Seeking to expose..."). This phrase cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

The second clause is an **independent clause** because it contains a subject ("Equiano") and a predicate ("published his autobiography") and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate a dependent clause and an independent clause when the dependent clause comes first, we have to use a comma.

Therefore, **(C) trade,** is the correct answer.

Question 13

Correct Answer: C

This question tests your understanding of how to correctly connect clauses and phrases. The first part of the sentence, "In 2000, the United States

Congress designated a portion of Pennsylvania as the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area," is a complete independent clause. The phrase following the blank provides additional information about this action.

The correct way to connect this information is by using a participial phrase. The word "citing" is a present participle that begins a phrase modifying the main clause. This phrase explains the reason why Congress made the designation, with the action of "citing" being performed by the subject of the main clause, "the United States Congress". Therefore, (C) is the correct answer.

Question 14

Correct Answer: C

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

- "Few economists have heard of Harvey Leibenstein."
- "many have encountered his work in the influential *X-Efficiency theory*."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause states that few economists know about Leibenstein himself, while the second clause reveals that many economists are actually familiar with his work. This creates a contradiction or unexpected contrast between the two statements.

Since we need a transition that signals this contrast, we require an **adversative transition**. Among the choices, *however* is the adversative transition that appropriately introduces this contrast.

The correct answer is **(C)**.

Question 15

Correct Answer: B

This question tests *verb tense*.

The key contextual clue is at the beginning of the sentence: "In a 2015 study." This phrase establishes that the events being described occurred in the past. The sentence also contains another past-tense verb: "revealed." Both of these indicators tell us that we need a past-tense verb to maintain consistency throughout the sentence.

Since the analysis took place in 2015 and the revealing of information happened at that time in the past, the verb that follows must also be in the past tense to match this timeframe.

(B) "helped" is the correct answer because it is the simple past tense form of the verb, which correctly matches the past-tense context established by "In a 2015 study" and "revealed."

Question 16

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "The reaction," which is singular. Therefore, we need a singular verb to agree with this singular subject.

Let's identify the main components: the subject is "The reaction" and we need to find the correct verb form to complete the sentence. Since "The reaction" is singular, the verb must also be singular.

(B) gives is the correct answer because it is the singular present tense form of the verb that agrees with the singular subject "The reaction."

While this question might appear to test verb forms (infinitive vs. gerund vs. simple present), it is actually testing subject-verb agreement. The sentence requires a main verb that agrees with its subject, not a gerund or infinitive form.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "telomeres," which is plural. Therefore, the verb must also be plural to agree with the subject.

The sentence structure might seem complex due to the additional information that follows the verb ("repetitive nucleotide sequences at each end of a chromosome, which protect..."), but the core subject-verb relationship is straightforward: *telomeres* (plural subject) requires a plural verb.

Among the answer choices, (B) **are** is the only plural verb form that correctly agrees with the plural subject "telomeres." **(B) is the correct answer.**

Additionally, the present tense is appropriate here because the sentence describes a general scientific fact about what telomeres are, not a past condition.

Question 18

Correct Answer: C

This question tests *subject-verb agreement*. *The subject of the sentence is "Janus particles," which is plural. Therefore, the verb must also be plural to match.*

Looking at the answer choices, we need to identify which verb form agrees with the plural subject "Janus particles." The plural form of the verb is "exhibit" without the -s ending.

(C) exhibit is the correct answer because it is the plural verb form that agrees with the plural subject "Janus particles."

Note: This question may appear to test verb tenses or aspects because the answer choices include different verb forms like "is exhibiting" and "has

exhibited." However, the primary issue here is subject-verb agreement. Don't be distracted by the different tenses—focus on whether the verb is singular or plural.

Question 19

Correct Answer: D

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

- 'At a typical pyramid's base are primary producers, like algae, followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third.'
- 'at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like sharks, that feed on the animals below.'

The passage describes the different levels of a trophic pyramid in a specific order: the base, the second level, the third level, and finally, the fourth level. This indicates a sequential relationship between the ideas.

The transition 'Lastly,' is a sequential transition used to introduce the final item in a list or sequence. Since the fourth trophic level is the final and highest level being described in this list, 'Lastly,' is the most logical choice. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer.

Question 20

Correct Answer: A

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

- 'In 1940, scientists first isolated a sample of the steroid hormone androstenone, which they knew existed in animals—and, they assumed, only in animals.'
- 'scientists know that androstenone can also be found in chokecherry plants (*Prunus virginiana*), but this discovery didn't occur until decades later.'

The first clause describes a scientific belief from a specific point in the past (1940), while the second clause describes the current scientific understanding of the same topic. The relationship between the two clauses is a contrast based on a shift in time.

The transition “Today,” effectively establishes this temporal contrast, showing the difference between what was believed in 1940 and what is known in the present. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.