

Standard English Conventions

Question 1

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 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

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 4

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 5

In her 1983 book *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild first explored at length her conception of a “sociology of emotions”—the idea that the various cultural and ideological frameworks a person has internalized (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) _____ each emotional reaction that person has within a situation.

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

- ☐ A underlies
- ☐ B is underlying
- ☐ C underlie
- ☐ D has been underlying

Question 6

Katsushika Hokusai first published his series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji* in Japan around 1830. The collection consists of ukiyo-e woodblock prints, a medium Hokusai became famous for.

_____ produced other series using the same technique, like *A Tour of the Waterfalls of the Provinces*, *Unusual Views of Famous Bridges in the Provinces*, and *One Hundred Ghost Stories*.

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

- ☐ A She
- ☐ B They
- ☐ C It
- ☐ D He

Question 7

Economists study various cognitive biases in financial decision-making. One bias, the ostrich effect, _____ a situation where an investor avoids negative financial information by pretending it does not exist.

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

- ☐ A described
- ☐ B describes
- ☐ C to describe
- ☐ D describing

Question 8

A sociolinguistic and pragmatic framework developed within the field of _____ politeness theory was proposed by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson to explain how people manage and negotiate social distance and rapport in conversation.

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

- ☐ A linguistics
- ☐ B linguistics;
- ☐ C linguistics,
- ☐ D linguistics:

Question 9

In 2014, a team of botanists led by Dr. Roxana Yockteng discovered every known genetic marker for horizontal meristems from the last few centuries. With this unique plant sample, the team was able to conclude how tissue-driven growth differs across _____ and what effect it has on the development of roots and branches in the plant.

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

- ☐ A species,
- ☐ B species:
- ☐ C species;
- ☐ D species

Question 10

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 11

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

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

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

Question 12

In 1974, the foundational work of American sociologist Harvey _____ was detailed in *A Simplest Systematics*, a seminal text on conversation analysis.

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

- ☐ A Sacks;
- ☐ B Sacks
- ☐ C Sacks,
- ☐ D Sacks:

Question 13

Lichens—once (mistakenly) classified as single organisms—are actually composite life forms arising from algae or cyanobacteria living among _____ this symbiotic relationship allows them to colonize diverse and often harsh environments where the components could not survive alone.

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

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

Question 14

In 2020, internationally renowned Slovak photographer Máaria Švarbová exhibited her work at the Contessa Gallery and the Art Angle Gallery in the United States and _____ utilizing vivid pastel colors, overexposed tones, and mirrorlike symmetry, Švarbová's photographs evoke a Socialist-era aesthetic that she describes as "minimalistic but also futuristic."

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

- ☐ A Japan, respectively,
- ☐ B Japan, respectively;
- ☐ C Japan; respectively,
- ☐ D Japan, respectively

Question 15

Psychologists Fritz Strack and Sabine Stepper tested how _____
In a well-known study from 1988, they discovered that people holding a pen in their teeth, which mimics a smile, rated cartoons as funnier than those holding a pen with their lips.

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

- ☐ A facial expressions influence emotions.
- ☐ B facial expressions influence emotions?
- ☐ C do facial expressions influence emotions.
- ☐ D do facial expressions influence emotions?

Question 16

In 1822, twenty-three years after the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, the French scholar Jean-François _____ announced his decipherment of more than 800 hieroglyphs, including the ancient script's phonetic values, grammatical structures, ideograms, signs, and symbols. Today, the Rosetta Stone inscription is one of the most famous decrees at the museum.

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

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

Question 17

Psychologist John A. Bergström's studies on memory are foundational in cognitive psychology. However, many of the _____ on interference were intended not for forgetting but for transfer of practice; a series of studies in 1892 had Bergström investigate how sorting cards into one arrangement affected the time it took to sort them into a different one.

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

- ☐ A researchers initial experiments
- ☐ B researcher's initial experiments
- ☐ C researchers initial experiment's
- ☐ D researcher's initial experiment's

Question 18

The German military, which distributed millions of tablets of Pervitin to its soldiers during World War II, continues to be analyzed by historians. Unfortunately, as _____ attest, personal accounts have distorted the drug's effects on the battlefield, causing valuable information about its true impact to be lost.

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

- ☐ A researchers Norman Ohler and Peter Steinkamp
- ☐ B researchers Norman Ohler, and Peter Steinkamp
- ☐ C researchers, Norman Ohler and Peter Steinkamp
- ☐ D researchers, Norman Ohler and Peter Steinkamp,

Question 19

In his influential work, *Evil and the God of Love*, philosopher John Hick addressed the traditional problem of evil, which questions the existence of an all-good, all-powerful God in a world filled with suffering. A few years prior, Hick _____ his "soul-making" theodicy, arguing that evil and suffering are necessary for spiritual growth.

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

- ☐ A to develop
- ☐ B had developed
- ☐ C developing
- ☐ D to have developed

Question 20

Stereotype lift, the phenomenon in which non-stereotyped groups see a performance boost when negative stereotypes about other groups are _____ was first described in a study by researcher Jennifer Crocker that demonstrated this effect on standardized test scores.

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

- ☐ A activated and
- ☐ B activated—
- ☐ C activated
- ☐ D activated,

Answers

Question 1

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 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: 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 4

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 5

Correct Answer: C

This question tests Subject-Verb Agreement. To determine whether we need a singular or plural verb, we must identify the subject of the clause. In this sentence, the subject is the plural noun phrase "**various cultural and ideological frameworks.**"

Although there is additional information placed in parentheses (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) and a relative clause between the subject and the verb, the core subject remains "**frameworks.**" Therefore, the correct answer must also be plural to match.

(C) underlie is the correct answer because "underlie" is the plural form of the verb. In contrast, (A), (B), and (D) are all singular verb forms.

When a sentence places complex structures or lists between the subject and the verb, focus solely on the main noun to ensure the agreement is correct.

Question 6

Correct Answer: D

This question tests **subject-pronoun agreement**. We need to identify the subject that the pronoun is replacing and ensure the pronoun agrees with it in number and gender.

The subject being referred to is **Katsushika Hokusai**, which appears at the beginning of the passage. Hokusai is a singular person, so we need a singular pronoun.

Additionally, Katsushika Hokusai was a male Japanese artist, so the pronoun must be masculine and refer to a person.

Therefore, the correct answer must be a singular, masculine pronoun that refers to a person. **(D) He** is the correct answer.

Note: Be careful not to be distracted by the length of the sentence or the additional information between the subject (Hokusai) and where the pronoun needs to be placed. Always focus solely on identifying the original subject when dealing with pronoun agreement questions.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

The question asks which verb form correctly completes the sentence, and the correct answer is *(B) describes*.

This question tests **subject-verb agreement**. The subject of the sentence is "one bias, the ostrich effect," which is singular. We need to identify whether the verb should be singular or plural to match this subject.

Since "the ostrich effect" is a singular noun (referring to one specific cognitive bias), the verb must also be singular. **Describes** is the singular present tense form of the verb, making it grammatically correct.

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

Note: While answer choices (C) and (D) might appear to test verb forms like infinitives and gerunds, this question is actually testing subject-verb agreement. The key is to focus on matching the singular subject with the appropriate singular verb form.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "A sociolinguistic and pragmatic framework developed within the field of

linguistics"

- "politeness theory was proposed by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson to explain how people manage and negotiate social distance and rapport in conversation"

The first part is a dependent clause because it lacks a main verb for the subject "framework." The phrase "developed within the field of linguistics" is a participial phrase modifying "framework," but there's no predicate to complete the thought.

The second part is an independent clause with "politeness theory" as the subject and "was proposed" as the predicate.

In the SAT, to separate a dependent clause and an independent clause, we have to use a comma. The dependent clause provides introductory information that leads into the main independent clause.

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

Question 9

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "With this unique plant sample, the team was able to conclude how tissue-driven growth differs across species"
- "and what effect it has on the development of roots and branches in the plant"

The second clause begins with "and," which connects it to the first clause as part of a compound structure. Specifically, "how tissue-driven growth differs across species" and "what effect it has on the development of roots and branches" are both objects of the verb "conclude."

In the SAT, when two items are connected by "and" to form a compound structure, **no punctuation should separate them**. The word "and" itself provides the necessary connection between the two parallel elements.

Therefore, **(D) species** is the correct answer because no punctuation is needed before "and" when it connects compound elements within the same sentence structure.

Question 10

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 11

Correct Answer: D

This question tests Subject-Verb Agreement. The subject of the sentence is the "Timeline of African American Music," which is singular. The sentence contains a non-essential phrase—"a digital resource that... traces the development of specific musical genres"—which provides additional

information about the timeline.

In this context, the relative pronoun "that" introduces a restrictive relative clause describing the "resource." Because "that" acts as the subject for the verb "traces," and the noun phrase it refers to is singular, the structure must remain fluid without unnecessary punctuation.

(D) is the correct answer because it provides the noun "resource" followed immediately by the relative pronoun "that" without any intervening commas. This correctly connects the subject to the verb "traces" and maintains the flow of the sentence. Using a comma before or after "that" would incorrectly isolate the relative clause or break the connection between the subject and the predicate.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'In 1974, the foundational work of American sociologist Harvey Sacks'
- 'was detailed in A Simplest Systematics, a seminal text on conversation analysis.'

The first part is not an independent clause because it lacks a verb for the subject "work." The second part contains the verb "was detailed" that completes the sentence. Together, they form one continuous independent clause with the structure: "the foundational work...was detailed in A Simplest Systematics."

Since "Harvey Sacks" is simply the name completing the phrase "American sociologist Harvey Sacks," and the sentence continues without interruption, no punctuation is needed after the name. The name is an essential part of identifying which sociologist's work is being discussed.

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

Note: Be careful not to treat this as a clause separation issue. The key is recognizing that "Harvey Sacks" is an essential identifier within a single

sentence structure, requiring no punctuation.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

Clause 1: "Lichens—once (mistakenly) classified as single organisms—are actually composite life forms arising from algae or cyanobacteria living among filaments"

Clause 2: "this symbiotic relationship allows them to colonize diverse and often harsh environments where the components could not survive alone"

Both clauses are **independent clauses**—each contains a subject and predicate and can stand alone as a complete sentence.

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we can use a **semicolon, a period, or a comma + FANBOYS** (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So).

Looking at the answer choices, we see that choices (B) and (D) include the word "and," which is a FANBOYS conjunction.

Since we have two independent clauses and "and" appears in the options, we need **comma + and** to properly connect them. The word "and" belongs to the second clause as it serves as the coordinating conjunction linking the two complete thoughts.

Therefore, **(B) filaments, and** is the correct answer.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'In 2020, internationally renowned Slovak photographer Máaria Švarbová exhibited her work at the Contessa Gallery and the Art Angle Gallery in the

United States and Japan, respectively'

- 'utilizing vivid pastel colors, overexposed tones, and mirrorlike symmetry, Švarbová's photographs evoke a Socialist-era aesthetic that she describes as "minimalistic but also futuristic."

The first part of the sentence is an independent clause (a complete sentence). The second part is also an independent clause, but it begins with a long introductory participial phrase ('utilizing...symmetry,'). An independent clause cannot be directly joined to another independent clause with only a comma (this creates a comma splice error).

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we have to use a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a FANBOYS conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). Since the second clause is not introduced by a FANBOYS conjunction, a semicolon is the correct punctuation to join them.

Therefore, (B) is the correct answer.

Question 15

Correct Answer: A

This question tests question marks and whether a sentence is a direct or indirect question.

The sentence states: "Psychologists Fritz Strack and Sabine Stepper tested how _____. In a well-known study from 1988, they discovered that people holding a pen in their teeth, which mimics a smile, rated cartoons as funnier than those holding a pen with their lips."

The clause after the blank is an **indirect question**—it describes what the psychologists tested (the subject of their study) rather than directly asking a question. The structure "tested how [something happens]" is reporting on a question that was investigated, not posing a question to the reader.

According to Standard English conventions, indirect questions end with a **period**, not a question mark. Additionally, indirect questions use standard statement word order (subject before verb), not inverted question word

order (verb before subject).

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer because it uses the statement word order "facial expressions influence emotions" and ends with a period, properly treating this as an indirect question.

Question 16

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- "In 1822, twenty-three years after the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, the French scholar Jean-François Champollion"
- "announced his decipherment of more than 800 hieroglyphs"

The first part is **not an independent clause** because it lacks a main verb—it only contains "the French scholar Jean-François Champollion" as the subject without a predicate. The second part begins with the verb "announced," which completes the sentence structure.

This question tests **names and titles**. The name "Jean-François Champollion" is essential information because it identifies *which* French scholar we're discussing. If we removed the name, the sentence would be incomplete: "the French scholar announced his decipherment" doesn't tell us who this scholar was.

In the SAT, when a name or title is **essential information**, we use **no punctuation** to separate it from the rest of the sentence. Since the name flows directly into the verb "announced" that follows, no punctuation mark should interrupt this connection between the subject and its verb.

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

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

This question tests **the use of apostrophes** to indicate possession versus plural forms.

First, we need to identify the nouns in this phrase: "researcher" and "experiments." Since "experiments" comes right after "researcher," the word "researcher" must show possession—it needs to indicate that the experiments belong to the researcher.

Next, we need to determine if "researcher" should be singular or plural. The passage refers to "Bergström" as an individual psychologist, and the context describes *his* studies. This indicates we're talking about one researcher, so "researcher" should be singular possessive: **researcher's**.

For "experiments," we need to check what comes after it. The phrase continues with "on interference," which is a prepositional phrase, not another noun. Therefore, "experiments" should not be possessive—it should simply be plural, since the passage refers to multiple experiments.

The correct answer is **(B) researcher's initial experiments**, which uses the singular possessive form for "researcher" and the plural form for "experiments."

Note: Be careful not to confuse plural and possessive forms. Remember that when one noun directly follows another, the first noun typically needs to be possessive to show ownership or relationship.

Question 18

Correct Answer: A

Look at the sentence structure around the blank:

"Unfortunately, as _____ attest, personal accounts have distorted the drug's effects..."

The key question here is whether the names "Norman Ohler and Peter Steinkamp" are **essential** or **non-essential** information when describing "researchers."

To determine this, we can use the removal test: if we remove the names, does the sentence still make complete sense? "Unfortunately, as researchers attest, personal accounts have distorted..." Yes, it does. However, the sentence becomes less specific and informative without the names.

In this case, the names are **essential** because they specify *which* researchers are making this claim. The sentence is identifying these particular researchers as the source of this attestation, not just any researchers in general. When names or titles provide essential identifying information, **no commas** should be used to separate them from the noun they describe.

This follows the same pattern as "Engineering professor Vikram Iyer" where no commas are needed because the name identifies which specific professor.

Therefore, **(A)** is the correct answer because it presents the names without any separating punctuation, treating them as essential identifying information about which researchers are being referenced.

Question 19

Correct Answer: B

Question Restatement:

The question asks which verb form correctly completes the sentence about when John Hick developed his "soul-making" theodicy in relation to his work *Evil and the God of Love*.

Correct Answer: (B) had developed

Explanation:

This question tests verb tenses and aspects. The key to solving this problem lies in understanding the temporal relationship between two past events.

The sentence establishes that Hick addressed the problem of evil in his work *Evil and the God of Love*. *The phrase "A few years prior" indicates that his development of the "soul-making" theodicy happened before this work was published—it occurred in the more distant past.*

When one past action occurs before another past action, we use the past perfect tense (had + past participle) for the earlier action. Since developing the theodicy happened first, we need "had developed" to show this sequence of events.

Therefore, **(B) had developed** is the correct answer because it properly indicates that the theodicy was developed before the influential work was written.

Note that while other options like (C) "developing" might seem tempting, they don't establish the correct temporal relationship between these two past events. The past perfect is essential here to show which action came first.

Question 20

Correct Answer: D

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'Stereotype lift, the phenomenon in which non-stereotyped groups see a performance boost when negative stereotypes about other groups are activated'
- 'was first described in a study by researcher Jennifer Crocker that demonstrated this effect on standardized test scores'

The first clause is a dependent clause because it lacks a main verb for the subject "Stereotype lift." The phrase "the phenomenon in which..." is a non-essential appositive that describes "Stereotype lift," but the main clause's verb "was" comes after the blank.

The second clause is also part of the same sentence, containing the main verb "was first described."

In the SAT, when a non-essential element (the appositive phrase "the phenomenon in which non-stereotyped groups see a performance boost when negative stereotypes about other groups are activated") interrupts the main sentence structure, it must be set off with **matching punctuation**. Since the appositive begins after a comma following "Stereotype lift," it must also end with a comma before returning to the main clause.

This question also tests the proper use of commas with non-essential information. The appositive provides additional explanation but could be removed, leaving "Stereotype lift was first described in a study..." as a complete sentence.

Therefore, **(D)** is the correct answer because it uses a comma to properly close the non-essential appositive phrase and reconnect to the main clause.