

Standard English Conventions

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

Sociologist Alton Okinaka sits on the review board tasked with adding new sites to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, which includes Lo'alo'a Heiau, a Hawaiian temple built around 1730, and the Bishop National Bank of Hawaii, built in 1929. Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly, _____ historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts.

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

- ☐ A however. All
- ☐ B however and all
- ☐ C however all
- ☐ D however, all

Question 4

The Austronesian language family includes Samoan, Palauan, and some 1,200 other languages throughout the Pacific, making it one of the largest language families in the world and of keen interest to _____ of UC Santa Cruz.

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

- ☒ A linguist, Sandra Chung.
- ☐ B linguist, Sandra Chung
- ☐ C linguist: Sandra Chung
- ☐ D linguist Sandra Chung

Question 5

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 6

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 7

In 2021, Sarah McNulty _____ as a biologist at the University of Connecticut, studying squids.

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

- ☐ A working
- ☐ B was working
- ☐ C to work
- ☐ D to have worked

Question 8

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 9

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 10

The writer Sonia Sanchez, along with others such as Quincy Troupe and Jay Wright, _____ commonly associated with the Black Arts movement, a loose-knit group of writers and artists active in the 1960s and the 1970s who were interested in exploring the Black American experience through their work.

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

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

Question 11

Over the years, dozens of architectural and archaeological sites important to Hawaiian history and culture--such as Grove Farm, Kilauea School, and the Hana Belt Road--have been added to an important _____ Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. New sites are added each year, as decided by a review board of experts including sociologist Alton Okinaka, architect Katle Stephens, and historian Bill Souza.

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

- ☐ A list: the
- ☐ B list. The
- ☐ C list; the
- ☐ D list the

Question 12

The Austronesian language family includes Balinese, Bikol, and some 1,200 other languages throughout the Pacific, making it one of the largest language families in the world and of keen interest to _____ of UC Santa Cruz.

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

- ☐ A linguist Sandra Chung
- ☐ B linguist, Sandra Chung,
- ☐ C lingu.st: Sandra Chung
- ☐ D ling.ist, Sandra Chung

Question 13

Lily Everett and Mary Foote were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City art exhibition that introduced modernism to American audience. Marcel Duchamp's abstract cubist aesthetic received the most skepticism from critics, as _____ represented a radical departure from the more realistic painting style that was popular at the time.

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

- ☐ A these
- ☐ B they
- ☐ C we
- ☐ D it

Question 14

Yerevan is the capital city of Armenia and, _____ roughly one million people, home to an impressive 36 percent of Armenia's total population.

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

- ☐ A contained
- ☐ B contains
- ☐ C containing
- ☐ D has contained

Question 15

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 16

In Moscow, Russia, the average temperature is 62.6 degrees Fahrenheit in June, _____ to 66.6 degree in July, and then dips slightly to 62.6 degrees in August.

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

- ☐ A has risen
- ☐ B rises
- ☐ C rising
- ☐ D rose

Question 17

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 18

When they were first observed and documented in scientific literature, instances of ball lightning were treated with considerable skepticism. The French physicist and astronomer François Arago, after collecting numerous eyewitness accounts in the 19th century, cataloged _____ in an effort to lend the phenomenon scientific credibility.

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

- ☐ A her
- ☐ B you
- ☐ C them
- ☐ D us

Question 19

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 20

The samurai served as the warrior class in feudal Japan for centuries. In their role, these warriors had to alter their daily routines. Instead of fighting only on the battlefield, they trained when they needed _____ their martial skills.

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

- ☐ A will perfect
- ☐ B perfect
- ☐ C to perfect
- ☐ D perfecting

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: A

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'Okinaka doesn't make such decisions single-handedly'
- 'historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts.'

Both clause 1 and clause 2 are independent clauses. As a result, a period is needed to separate them. Choice (A) is the correct answer.

Question 4

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the punctuation of names and titles. When a name or title is essential to the meaning of the sentence and directly follows the noun it describes, no punctuation is needed. In this case, "Sandra Chung" is directly identified as the "linguist" of UC Santa Cruz. The information is essential and flows directly without interruption.

Question 5

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 6

Correct Answer: B

The correct answer is 'studies'. The subject of the sentence is the singular noun 'Anthropologist Livia 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 7

Correct Answer: B

This question tests verb forms. The sentence requires a main verb to be

grammatically complete. The phrase "In 2021" indicates that the action took place in the past. Therefore, the correct verb form must be in the past tense.

The verb phrase in (B), "was working," correctly uses the past continuous tense, which is appropriate for describing an ongoing action at a specific time in the past. This choice creates a complete and grammatically correct sentence.

Question 8

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 9

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 10

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-verb agreement.

The main subject of the sentence is “The writer Sonia Sanchez,” which is singular. Therefore, the correct answer must also be singular. The verb “is” in answer (C) correctly agrees with the singular subject.

Be careful with phrases that come between the subject and the verb, like “along with others such as Quincy Troupe and Jay Wright.” These phrases are designed to distract you. The verb must agree with the main subject, not with the nouns inside the modifying phrase.

Question 11

Correct Answer: D

This question tests the rules of punctuation around essential and non-essential information. The phrase 'the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places' identifies the specific 'important list' mentioned just before it. Because this information is essential to the meaning of the sentence—we need to know which list is being talked about—no punctuation should be used to separate it from the noun it describes. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer as it correctly integrates the essential phrase into the sentence without any punctuation.

Question 12

Correct Answer: A

This question tests the punctuation rules for names and titles. The relevant rule is that if a name is essential to the meaning of the sentence, it should not be separated from its title by any punctuation. In this case, the name 'Sandra Chung' is essential because it specifies which linguist is being referred to. Removing the name would make the sentence unclear ('of keen

interest to linguist of UC Santa Cruz'). The correct answer is (A) because it correctly treats 'Sandra Chung' as essential information by not using any commas.

Question 13

Correct Answer: D

This question tests **Subject-Pronoun Agreement**. The pronoun must agree with the subject that it is referring to.

The pronoun in the blank refers to the noun phrase '*Marcel Duchamp's abstract cubist aesthetic*' from the first part of the sentence. The core noun in this phrase is '*aesthetic*', which is a singular noun.

Therefore, the pronoun that replaces it must also be singular. The correct answer is (D), *it*, because it is a singular pronoun that correctly refers to the singular noun '*aesthetic*'.

Question 14

Correct Answer: C

This question tests your understanding of verb forms and how they are used to create modifying phrases within a sentence.

The sentence sets up a parallel structure: "Yerevan is *the capital city of Armenia* and... *home to an impressive 36 percent of Armenia's total population*." The phrase in between the commas must describe the subject, "Yerevan," without creating a new independent clause.

The present participle "containing" is used to form a participial phrase, "containing roughly one million people." This phrase acts as an adjective, correctly modifying "Yerevan." Therefore, (C) is the correct answer.

Question 15

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 16

Correct Answer: B

This question tests verb forms, specifically the concept of maintaining a parallel verb structure within a sentence.

The sentence describes a series of actions that the subject, 'the average temperature,' takes over three months. The structure is a list: the temperature *is* 62.6 degrees in June, it _____ to 66.6 in July, and then it *dips* in August.

To maintain a consistent and parallel structure, all verbs in this list should be in the same tense. The existing verbs, 'is' and 'dips,' are both in the simple present tense. Therefore, the verb in the blank must also be in the simple present tense.

(B) **rises** is the simple present tense form of the verb, correctly matching 'is' and 'dips.'

Question 17

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 18

Correct Answer: C

This question tests subject-pronoun agreement. The pronoun must agree with the noun it is referring to.

To determine the correct answer, we need to identify what François Arago cataloged. Looking at the sentence, he collected "numerous eyewitness accounts" and then cataloged something. The pronoun must refer back to these "accounts," which is a plural noun.

Since "accounts" is plural, we need a plural pronoun. **(C) them** is the correct answer because it is the only plural pronoun that can refer to things (in this case, the eyewitness accounts).

Note: (A) "her" is singular and refers to people, (B) "you" is a generic pronoun that doesn't fit the context, and (D) "us" doesn't logically connect to what Arago cataloged.

Question 19

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 20

Correct Answer: C

This question tests the correct use of **infinitive vs. gerund** after the verb "needed."

The verb "need" in English is followed by an infinitive (to + base verb) when expressing purpose or necessity. The sentence indicates that the samurai trained *in order to* perfect their martial skills—this expresses the purpose of their training.

Therefore, the correct answer must use the infinitive form "to perfect." **(C) to perfect** is the correct answer.

Note that while "need" can sometimes be followed by a gerund in British English constructions like "needs perfecting" (meaning "needs to be perfected"), the context here requires an infinitive because the samurai themselves are performing the action of perfecting their skills, not receiving the action.