



Answer Explanations

SAT® Practice Test #1

Section 2: Writing and Language Test

QUESTION 1.

Choice D is the best answer because “outweigh” is the only choice that appropriately reflects the relationship the sentence sets up between “advantages” and “drawbacks.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each implies a competitive relationship that is inappropriate in this context.

QUESTION 2.

Choice B is the best answer because it offers a second action that farmers can undertake to address the problem of acid whey disposal, thus supporting the claim made in the previous sentence (“To address the problem of disposal, farmers have found a *number of uses* for acid whey”).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not offer examples of how farmers could make use of acid whey.

QUESTION 3.

Choice A is the best answer because it results in a sentence that is grammatically correct and coherent. In choice A, “waterways,” the correct plural form of “waterway,” conveys the idea that acid whey could impact multiple bodies of water. Additionally, the compound verb “can pollute” suggests that acid whey presents an ongoing, potential problem.

Choices B and D are incorrect because both use the possessive form of “waterway.” Choice C is incorrect because it creates an unnecessary shift in verb tense. The present tense verb “can pollute” should be used instead, as it is consistent with the other verbs in the paragraph.

QUESTION 4.

Choice C is the best answer because it utilizes proper punctuation for items listed in a series. In this case those items are nouns: “Yogurt manufacturers, food scientists, and government officials.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because both fail to recognize that the items are a part of a series. Since a comma is used after “manufacturers,” a semicolon or colon should not be used after “scientists.” Choice D is incorrect because the comma after “and” is unnecessary and deviates from grammatical conventions for presenting items in a series.

QUESTION 5.

Choice C is the best answer because sentence 5 logically links sentence 2, which explains why Greek yogurt production yields large amounts of acid

they, and sentence 3, which mentions the need to dispose of acid whey properly.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each would result in an illogical progression of sentences for this paragraph. If sentence 5 were left where it is or placed after sentence 3, it would appear illogically after the discussion of “the problem of disposal.” If sentence 5 were placed after sentence 1, it would illogically discuss “acid-whey runoff” before the mention of acid whey being “difficult to dispose of.”

QUESTION 6.

Choice D is the best answer because the paragraph includes several benefits of consuming Greek yogurt, particularly in regard to nutrition and satisfying hunger, to support the sentence’s claim that the conservation efforts are “well worth the effort.” This transition echoes the passage’s earlier claim that “the advantages of Greek yogurt outweigh the potential drawbacks of its production.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they inaccurately describe the sentence in question.

QUESTION 7.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a grammatically standard preposition that connects the verb “serves” and noun “digestive aid” and accurately depicts their relationship.

Choice A is incorrect because the infinitive form “to be” yields a grammatically incorrect verb construction: “serves to be.” Choices C and D are incorrect because both present options that deviate from standard English usage.

QUESTION 8.

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a verb tense that is consistent in the context of the sentence. The choice is also free of the redundant “it.”

Choice A is incorrect because the subject “it” creates a redundancy. Choices B and D are incorrect because they present verb tenses that are inconsistent in the context of the sentence.

QUESTION 9.

Choice A is the best answer because it properly introduces an additional health benefit in a series of sentences that list health benefits. “Also” is the logical and coherent choice to communicate an addition.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none of the transitions they offer logically fits the content that precedes or follows the proposed choice.

QUESTION 10.

Choice A is the best answer because “satiated” is the only choice that communicates effectively that Greek yogurt will satisfy hunger for a longer period of time.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is improper usage in this context. A person can be “fulfilled” spiritually or in other ways, but a person who has eaten until he or she is no longer hungry cannot be described as fulfilled. Neither can he or she be described as being “complacent” or “sufficient.”

QUESTION 11.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a syntactically coherent and grammatically correct sentence.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the adverbial conjunctions “therefore” and “so,” respectively, are unnecessary following “Because.” Choice D is incorrect because it results in a grammatically incomplete sentence (the part of the sentence before the colon must be an independent clause).

QUESTION 12.

Choice B is the best answer because the graph clearly indicates that, on March 5, average low temperatures are at their lowest point: 12 degrees Fahrenheit.

Choice A is incorrect because the phrase “as low as” suggests that the temperature falls no lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, but the chart shows that in January, February, and March, the temperature frequently falls below that point. Choices C and D are incorrect because the information each provides is inconsistent with the information on the chart.

QUESTION 13.

Choice A is the best answer because it concisely combines the two sentences while maintaining the original meaning.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each is unnecessarily wordy, thus undermining one purpose of combining two sentences: to make the phrasing more concise.

QUESTION 14.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a conjunctive adverb that accurately represents the relationship between the two sentences. “However” signals an exception to a case stated in the preceding sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a transition that does not accurately represent the relationship between the two sentences, and as a result each compromises the logical coherence of these sentences.

QUESTION 15.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides commas to offset the non-restrictive modifying clause “an associate professor of geology at Ohio State.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each provides punctuation that does not adequately separate the nonrestrictive modifying clause about Jason Box from the main clause.

QUESTION 16.

Choice C is the best answer because the colon signals that the other factor that contributed to the early thaw is about to be provided.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a sentence that deviates from grammatical standards: a semicolon should be used to separate two independent clauses, but in choice A the second clause only has a subject, not a verb. Choice B is incorrect because it is unnecessarily wordy. Choice D is incorrect because “being” is unnecessary and creates an incoherent clause.

QUESTION 17.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the correct preposition (“of”) and relative pronoun (“which”) that together create a dependent clause following the comma.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses cannot be joined with only a comma.

QUESTION 18.

Choice A is the best answer because the verb tense is consistent with the preceding past tense verbs in the sentence, specifically “produced” and “drifted.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each utilizes a verb tense that is not consistent with the preceding past tense verbs in the sentence.

QUESTION 19.

Choice D is the best answer because “their” is the possessive form of a plural noun. In this case, the noun is plural: “snow and ice.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because the possessive pronoun must refer to a plural noun, “snow and ice,” rather than a singular noun. Choice C is incorrect because “there” would result in an incoherent sentence.

QUESTION 20.

Choice D is the best answer. The preceding sentences in the paragraph have established that a darker surface of soot-covered snow leads to more melting

because this darker surface absorbs heat, whereas a whiter surface, free of soot, would deflect heat. As the passage points out, exposed land and water are also dark and cannot deflect heat the way ice and snow can. Only choice D reflects the self-reinforcing cycle that the preceding sentences already imply.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the information each provides fails to support the previous claim that the “result” of the soot “is a self-reinforcing cycle.”

QUESTION 21.

Choice B is the best answer because it is free of redundancies.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each of the three presents a redundancy: Choice A uses “repeat” and “again”; Choice C uses “damage” and “harmful effects”; and Choice D uses “may” and “possibly.”

QUESTION 22.

Choice D is the best answer because sentence 5 describes the information Box seeks: “to determine just how much the soot is contributing to the melting of the ice sheet.” Unless sentence 4 comes after sentence 5, readers will not know what the phrase “this crucial information” in sentence 4 refers to.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each results in an illogical sentence progression. None of the sentences that would precede sentence 4 provides details that could be referred to as “this crucial information.”

QUESTION 23.

Choice D is the best answer because it is free of redundancies and offers the correct form of the verb “wear” in this context.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because all three contain a redundancy. Considering that “quickly” is a fixed part of the sentence, choice A’s “soon” and choice B and C’s “promptly” all result in redundancies. Choices A and B are also incorrect because each uses an incorrect form of the verb.

QUESTION 24.

Choice D is the best answer because it is the only choice that provides a grammatically standard and coherent sentence. The participial phrase “Having become frustrated. . .” functions as an adjective modifying “I,” the writer.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each results in a dangling modifier. The participial phrase “Having become frustrated . . .” does not refer to choice A’s “no colleagues,” choice B’s “colleagues,” or choice C’s “ideas.” As such, all three choices yield incoherent and grammatically incorrect sentences.

QUESTION 25.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the correct preposition in this context, “about.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a preposition that deviates from correct usage. One might read an article “about” coworking spaces but not an article “into,” “upon,” or “for” coworking spaces.

QUESTION 26.

Choice A is the best answer because it provides the correct punctuation for the dependent clause that begins with the phrase “such as.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each presents punctuation that deviates from the standard way of punctuating the phrase “such as.” When “such as” is a part of a nonrestrictive clause, as it is here, only one comma is needed to separate it from the main independent clause.

QUESTION 27.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a transitional phrase, “In addition to equipment,” that accurately represents the relationship between the two sentences connected by the transitional phrase. Together, the sentences describe the key features of coworking spaces, focusing on what the spaces offer (equipment and meeting rooms).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a transition that does not accurately represent the relationship between the two sentences.

QUESTION 28.

Choice C is the best answer because the sentence is a distraction from the paragraph’s focus. Nothing in the paragraph suggests that the cost of setting up a coworking business is relevant here.

Choices A and D are incorrect because neither accurately represents the information in the paragraph. Choice B is incorrect because it does not accurately represent the information in the next paragraph.

QUESTION 29.

Choice B is the best answer because it logically follows the writer’s preceding statement about creativity and accurately represents the information in the graph.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they present inaccurate and unsupported interpretations of the information in the graph. In addition, none of these choices provides directly relevant support for the main topic of the paragraph.

QUESTION 30.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a relative pronoun and verb that create a standard and coherent sentence. The relative pronoun “who” refers to the subject “the people,” and the plural verb “use” corresponds grammatically with the plural noun “people.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because “whom” is the relative pronoun used to represent an object. The noun “people” is a subject performing an action (using the coworking space). Choices B and C are also incorrect because they display a form of the verb “to use” that does not correspond to the plural noun “people.”

QUESTION 31.

Choice C is the best answer because the proposed sentence offers a necessary and logical transition between sentence 2, which introduces the facility the writer chose, and sentence 3, which tells what happened at the facility “Throughout the morning.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each would result in an illogical progression of sentences.

QUESTION 32.

Choice A is the best answer because the punctuation it provides results in a grammatically standard and coherent sentence. When an independent clause is followed by a list, a colon is used to link the two.

Choice B is incorrect because the punctuation creates a fragment (a semicolon should be used to link two independent clauses). Choice C is incorrect because its use of the comma creates a series in which “several of my coworking colleagues” are distinguished from the “website developer” and others, although the logic of the sentence would suggest that they are the same. Choice D is incorrect because it lacks the punctuation necessary to link the independent clause and the list.

QUESTION 33.

Choice A is the best answer because it provides a phrase that is consistent with standard English usage and also maintains the tone and style of the passage.

Choice B is incorrect because “give some wisdom” deviates from standard English usage and presents a somewhat colloquial phrase in a text that is generally free of colloquialisms. Choices C and D are incorrect because both are inconsistent with the tone of the passage as well as its purpose. The focus of the paragraph is on sharing, not on proclaiming opinions.

QUESTION 34.

Choice A is the best answer because it offers a phrase that introduces a basic definition of philosophy and thereby fits the sentence.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each offers a transition that does not suit the purpose of the sentence.

QUESTION 35.

Choice A is the best answer because it offers the most succinct comparison between the basic definition of philosophy and the fact that students can gain specific, practical skills from the study of philosophy. There is no need to include the participle “speaking” in this sentence, as it is clear from context that the writer is offering a different perspective.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they provide options that are unnecessarily wordy.

QUESTION 36.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a verb that creates a grammatically complete, standard, and coherent sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each results in a grammatically incomplete and incoherent sentence.

QUESTION 37.

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively sets up the information in the following sentences, which state that (according to information from the 1990s) “only 18 percent of American colleges required at least one philosophy course,” and “more than 400 independent philosophy departments were eliminated” from colleges. These details are most logically linked to the claim that “colleges have not always supported the study of philosophy.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these effectively sets up the information that follows, which is about colleges’ failure to support the study of philosophy.

QUESTION 38.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides a transition that logically connects the information in the previous sentence to the information in this one. Both sentences provide evidence of colleges’ lack of support of philosophy programs, so the adverb “Moreover,” which means “In addition,” accurately captures the relationship between the two sentences.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each presents a transition that does not accurately depict or support the relationship between the two sentences. The second sentence is not a result of the first (“Therefore,” “Thus”), and the sentences do not provide a contrast (“However”).

QUESTION 39.

Choice A is the best answer because it succinctly expresses the idea that “students who major in philosophy often do better . . . as measured by standardized test scores.”

Choices B and D are incorrect because they introduce a redundancy and a vague term, “results.” The first part of the sentence mentions a research finding or conclusion but does not directly address any “results,” so it is confusing to refer to “these results” and indicate that they “can be” or “are measured by standardized test scores.” The best way to express the idea is simply to say that some students “often do better” than some other students “in both verbal reasoning and analytical writing as measured by standardized test scores.” Choice C is incorrect because there is no indication that multiple criteria are used to evaluate students’ “verbal reasoning and analytical writing”: test scores and something else. Only test scores are mentioned.

QUESTION 40.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides subject-verb agreement and thus creates a grammatically correct and coherent sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because the verb “has scored” does not correspond with the plural subject “students.” Similarly, Choice C is incorrect because the verb “scores” would correspond with a singular subject, but not the plural subject present in this sentence. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a grammatically incomplete and incoherent sentence.

QUESTION 41.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a coherent and grammatically standard sentence.

Choices A and D are incorrect because both present “students” in the possessive form, whereas the sentence establishes “students” as the subject (“many students . . . have”). Choice C is incorrect because the verb form it proposes results in an incomplete and incoherent sentence.

QUESTION 42.

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately depicts how inserting this sentence would affect the overall paragraph. The fact that Plato used the dialogue form has little relevance to the preceding claim about the usefulness of a philosophy background.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the proposed sentence interrupts the progression of reasoning in the paragraph. Choice D is incorrect because, as with Choice A, Plato’s works have nothing to do with “the employability of philosophy majors.”

QUESTION 43.

Choice D is the best answer because it creates a complete and coherent sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each inserts an unnecessary relative pronoun or conjunction, resulting in a sentence without a main verb.

QUESTION 44.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a possessive pronoun that is consistent with the sentence's plural subject "students," thus creating a grammatically sound sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each proposes a possessive pronoun that is inconsistent with the plural noun "students," the established subject of the sentence.

Section 3: Math Test — No Calculator

QUESTION 1.

Choice D is correct. Since $k = 3$, one can substitute 3 for k in the equation $\frac{x-1}{3} = k$, which gives $\frac{x-1}{3} = 3$. Multiplying both sides of $\frac{x-1}{3} = 3$ by 3 gives $x-1 = 9$ and then adding 1 to both sides of $x-1 = 9$ gives $x = 10$.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the result of subtracting 1 from the value and dividing by 3 is not the given value of k , which is 3.

QUESTION 2.

Choice A is correct. To calculate $(7 + 3i) + (-8 + 9i)$, add the real parts of each complex number, $7 + (-8) = -1$, and then add the imaginary parts, $3i + 9i = 12i$. The result is $-1 + 12i$.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect and likely result from common errors that arise when adding complex numbers. For example, choice B is the result of adding $3i$ and $-9i$, and choice C is the result of adding 7 and 8.

QUESTION 3.

Choice C is correct. The total number of messages sent by Armand is the 5 hours he spent texting multiplied by his rate of texting: m texts/hour \times 5 hours = $5m$ texts. Similarly, the total number of messages sent by Tyrone is the 4 hours he spent texting multiplied by his rate of texting: p texts/hour \times 4 hours = $4p$ texts. The total number of messages sent by Armand and Tyrone is the sum of the total number of messages sent by Armand and the total number of messages sent by Tyrone: $5m + 4p$.