

SAT English Diagnostic test

Reading & Writing
27 QUESTIONS

Time Duration: 32 Mins

1. **This passage is adapted from Charles Anderson, "Conflict Minerals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo—Tin Processing Plants, a Critical Part of the Tin Supply Chain." ©2015 by U.S. Geological.**

The tin supply chain is complex and, often, opaque. Companies usually report products that they supply to the market place; however, they may not describe which of their plants use which starting materials or processes. As a result, plants reported for some multi-plant corporations may or may not consume or produce all of the tin materials reported. Some large companies have multiple plants, which may or may not have been described in sufficient detail to identify their location or the tin material that was processed.

As used in line 1, “opaque” most nearly means

- A. Dark
 - B. Impenetrable
 - C. Wide
 - D. Dense
2. Artist Marilyn Dingle’s intricate, coiled baskets are _____ sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Following a Gullah technique that originated in West Africa, Dingle skillfully winds a thin palm frond around a bunch of sweetgrass with the help of a “sewing bone” to create the basket’s signature look that no factory can reproduce.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. handmade from
 - B. indicated by
 - C. represented by
 - D. collected with
3. **The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s 1837 story “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment.” The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.**

At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “a singular” most nearly means?

- A. A lonely
- B. A disagreeable
- C. An acceptable
- D. An extraordinary

4. Although many transposons, DNA sequences that move within an organism’s genome through shuffling or duplication, have become corrupted and inactive over time, those from the long interspersed nuclear elements (LINE) family appear to remain active in the genomes of some species. In humans, they are functionally important within the hippocampus, a brain structure that supports complex cognitive processes. When the results of molecular analysis of two species of octopus—an animal known for its intelligence—were announced in 2022, the confirmation of a LINE transposon in *Octopus vulgaris* and *Octopus bimaculoides* genomes prompted researchers to hypothesize that that transposon family is tied to a species’ capacity for advanced cognition.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers’ hypothesis?

- A. The human genome contains multiple transposons from the LINE family that are all primarily active in the hippocampus.
- B. A consistent number of copies of LINE transposons is present across the genomes of most octopus species, with few known corruptions.
- C. The LINE transposon in *O. vulgaris* and *O. bimaculoides* genomes is active in an octopus brain structure that functions similarly to the human hippocampus.
- D. *O. vulgaris* and *O. bimaculoides* have smaller brains than humans do relative to body size, but their genomes contain sequences from a wider variety of transposon families.

5. Sample of Food Items from Mars Mission

Menu

Food Item	Day	Meal
Hot Cocoa	1	C
Sugar cookie cubes	2	A
Shrimp cocktail	4	B
Chicken and vegetables	3	C

To make sure they got the nutrition they needed while in space, the astronauts of NASA’s mission were given menus for three meals a day (A, B, C) on a four-day rotation schedule. Looking at the sample of food items from these menus, a student notes that on Day 2, the menu included_____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. shrimp cocktail for meal B
- B. hot cocoa for meal C
- C. chicken and vegetables for meal A.
- D. sugar cookie cubes for meal A.

6. Gathering accurate data on water flow in the United States is challenging because of the country’s millions of miles of _____ the volume and speed of water at any given location can vary drastically over time.

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

- A. waterways and the fact that,
- B. waterways, and the fact that,
- C. waterways and the fact that
- D. waterways, and, the fact that

7. British scientists Watson and Crick won the Nobel Prize in part for their 1953 paper announcing the double helix structure of DNA, but it is misleading to say that Watson and Crick discovered the double helix. _____ findings were based on a famous X-ray image of DNA fibers, “Photo 51,” developed by X ray crystallographer Rosalind Franklin and her graduate student Raymond Gosling.

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

- A. They’re
 - B. Their
 - C. Its
 - D. It’s
8. The Indian Games Co-Production Market, one of over 150 annual international conferences supporting video game development, _____ the growth of the gaming industry by helping start-up studios in India find partners.

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

- A. promotes
 - B. promote
 - C. are promoting
 - D. have promoted
9. **While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:**
- Sam Maloof (1916–2009) was an American woodworker and furniture designer.
 - He was the son of Lebanese immigrants.
 - He received a “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1985.
 - The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, owns a rocking chair that Maloof made from walnut wood.
 - The armrests and the seat of the chair are sleek and contoured, and the back consists of seven spindle like slats.

The student wants to describe the rocking chair to an audience unfamiliar with Sam Maloof. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Sam Maloof was born in 1916 and died in 2009, and during his life, he made a chair that you can see if you visit the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.
 - B. Furniture designer Sam Maloof was a recipient of one of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s “genius grants.”
 - C. The rocking chair is made from walnut, and it has been shaped such that its armrests and seat are sleek and contoured.
 - D. With its sleek, contoured armrests and seat, the walnut rocking chair in Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts is just one-piece of furniture created by American woodworker Sam Maloof.
10. In 1968, US Congressman John Conyers introduced a bill to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill didn’t make it to a vote, but Conyers was determined. He

teamed up with Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, and they resubmitted the bill every session for the next fifteen years. _____ in 1983, the bill passed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Finally,
- D. Additionally,

11. The following text is from Bram Stoker’s novel Dracula. The narrator is being driven in a carriage through a remote region at night.

The baying of the wolves sounded nearer and nearer, as though they were closing round on us from every side. I grew dreadfully afraid, and the horses shared my fear. The driver, however, was not in the least disturbed; he kept turning his head to left and right, but I could not see anything through the darkness.

As used in the text, what does the word “disturbed” most nearly mean?

- A. Interrupted
- B. Disorganized
- C. Alarmed
- D. Offended

12. The following text is from an 1894 novel The Fatal Garland (translated by A. Christina Albers in 1910).

Shakti is walking near a riverbank that she visited frequently during her childhood. She crossed the woods she knew so well. The trees seemed to extend their branches like welcoming arms. They greeted her as an old friend. Soon she reached the river-side.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It suggests that Shakti feels uncomfortable near the river.
- B. It conveys Shakti’s appreciation for her long-term friendships.
- C. It indicates that Shakti has lost her sense of direction in the woods.
- D. It emphasizes Shakti’s sense of belonging in the landscape.

13. A common assumption among art historians is that the invention of photography in the mid-nineteenth century displaced the painted portrait in the public consciousness. The diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature, which coincided with the rise of photography, seems to support this claim. However, photography’s impact on the portrait miniature maybe overstated. Although records from art exhibitions in the Netherlands from 1820 to 1892 show a decrease in the number of both full-sized and miniature portraits submitted, this trend was established before the invention of photography.

Based on the text, what can be concluded about the diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature in the nineteenth century?

- A. Although portrait miniatures became less common than photographs, they were widely regarded as having more artistic merit.

- B. Factors other than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature's decline.
 - C. The popularity of the portrait miniature likely persisted for longer than art historians have assumed.
 - D. As demand for portrait miniatures decreased, portrait artists likely shifted their creative focus to photography.
14. Amy Lowell wrote the poem "Loon Point" in the year 1912. In the poem, which presents a nighttime scene on a body of water, Lowell describes an element of nature as an active participant in the experience, writing, _____

Which quotation from "Loon Point" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Softly the water ripples / Against the canoe's curving side."
 - B. "Or like the snow-white petals / Which drop from an overblown rose."
 - C. "Through the water the moon writes her legends / In light, on the smooth, wet sand."
 - D. "But the moon in her wayward beauty / Is ever and always the same."
15. Two years after the death of science fiction writer Octavia Butler, the Huntington Library in _____ received a collection of more than 8,000 items, including Butler's private notes, research materials, manuscripts, photos, and drawings. Today, the Octavia E. Butler Collection is one of the most researched archives at the library.

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

- A. California
 - B. California;
 - C. California—
 - D. California,
16. Professional football player Fred Cox invented one of the world's most popular toys. In the 1970s, he came up with the idea for the Nerf football, which _____ of the harder and heavier regulation football.

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

- A. is a smaller, foam version
 - B. are smaller, foam versions
 - C. were smaller, foam versions
 - D. were a smaller, foam version
17. **While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:**
- Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.
 - Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.
 - He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.
 - His well-known sculpture Sacred Rain Arrow was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

The student wants to describe the distinctive style of Houser’s sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A sculptor, illustrator, and painter, Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures.
- B. Many other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser’s sculptures.
- C. The sculpture Sacred Rain Arrow is a well-known example of Houser’s style.
- D. Houser’s sculptures employ abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.

18. Most trees belonging to the phylum Coniferophyta are evergreen. That is, they keep their green leaves or needles year-round. However, not all conifer species are evergreen. Larch trees _____ lose their needles every fall.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for instance,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. , for instance,
- D. in addition,

19. Velázquez was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV of Spain during the seventeenth century, but his influence was hardly _____ Spain: realist and impressionist painters around the world employed his techniques and echoed elements of his style.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. derived from
- B. confined to
- C. recognized in
- D. repressed by

20. Text 1

Many studies in psychology have shown that people seek out information even when they know in advance that they have no immediate use for it and that they won’t directly benefit from it. Such findings support the consensus view among researchers of curiosity: namely, that curiosity is not instrumental but instead represents a drive to acquire information for its own sake.

Text 2

While acknowledging that acquiring information is a powerful motivator, Rachit Dubey and colleagues ran an experiment to test whether emphasizing the usefulness of scientific information could increase curiosity about it. They found that when research involving rats and fruit flies was presented as having medical applications for humans, participants expressed greater interest in learning about it than when the research was not presented as useful.

Based on the texts, how would Dubey and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the consensus view discussed in text 1?

- A. By pointing out that it is challenging to determine when information-seeking serves no goal beyond acquiring information
- B. By conceding that people may seek out information that serves no immediate purpose only because they think they can use it later

- C. By disputing the idea that curiosity can help explain apparently purposeless information-seeking behaviors
- D. By suggesting that curiosity may not be exclusively motivated by the desire to merely acquire information

21. Archeological excavation of Market Street Chinatown, a nineteenth-century Chinese American community in San Jose, California, provided the first evidence that Asian food products were imported to the United States in the 1800s: bones from a freshwater fish species native to Southeast Asia. Jinshanzhuang—Hong Kong-based import/export firms—likely coordinated the fish’s transport from Chinese-operated fisheries in Vietnam and Malaysia to North American markets. This route reveals the (often overlooked) multinational dimensions of the trade networks linking Chinese diaspora communities.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It provides information that helps support a claim about a discovery’s significance that is presented in the following sentence.
- B. It traces the steps that were taken to locate and recover the objects that are described in the previous sentence.
- C. It explains why efforts to determine the country of origin of the items mentioned in the previous sentence remain inconclusive.
- D. It outlines a hypothesis that additional evidence discussed in the following sentence casts some doubt on.

22. **The following text is from novel *The Great Gatsby*.**

Jay Gatsby was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

As used in the text, what does the word “quality” most nearly mean?

- A. Standard
- B. Characteristic
- C. Prestige
- D. Accomplishment

23. Pando, a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees share a single root system. Pando is one of the largest single organisms by mass on Earth, but ecologists are worried that its growth is declining in part because of grazing by animals. The ecologists say that strong fences could prevent deer from eating young trees and help Pando start thriving again.

According to the text, why are ecologists worried about Pando?

- A. It isn’t producing young trees anymore.
- B. Its root system can’t support many more new trees.
- C. It isn’t growing at the same rate it used to.
- D. It can’t grow into new areas because it is blocked by fences.

24. In the novel *O Pioneers*, Cather portrays Alexandra Bergson as having a deep emotional connection to her natural surroundings:

Which quotation from *O Pioneers*! most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Alexandra talked to the men about their crops and to the women about their poultry. She spent a whole day with one young farmer who had been away at school, and who was experimenting with a new kind of clover hay. She learned a great deal.”
- B. “It was Alexandra who read the papers and followed the markets, and who learned by the mistakes of their neighbors. It was Alexandra who could always tell about what it had cost to fatten each steer, and who could guess the weight of a hog before it went on the scales closer than John Bergson [her father] himself.”
- C. “Alexandra drove off alone. The rattle of her wagon was lost in the howling of the wind, but her lantern, held firmly between her feet, made a moving point of light along the highway, going deeper and deeper into the dark country.”
- D. “She had never known before how much the country meant to her. The chirping of the insects down in the long grass had been like the sweetest music. She had felt as if her heart were hiding down there, somewhere, with the quail and the plover and all the little wild things that crooned or buzzed in the sun. Under the long shaggy ridges, she felt the future stirring.”

25. The jalis in West Africa have traditionally been keepers of information about family histories and records of important events. They have often served as teachers and advisers, too. New technologies may have changed some aspects of the role today, but jalis continue to be valued for knowing and protecting their peoples’ stories.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although jalis have many roles, many of them like teaching best.
- B. Technology can now do some of the things jalis used to be responsible for.
- C. Even though there have been some changes in their role, jalis continue to preserve their communities’ histories.
- D. Jalis have been entertaining the people within their communities for centuries.

26. A study led by scientist Rebecca Kirby at the University of Wisconsin–Madison found that black bears that eat human food before hibernation have increased levels of a rare carbon isotope, _____ due to the higher C levels in corn and cane sugar. Bears with these elevated levels were also found to have much shorter hibernation periods on average.

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

- A. carbon-13 (13C),
- B. carbon-13, (13C)
- C. carbon-13 (13C)
- D. carbon-13, (13C),

27. Microbes that live in shallow lakes and ponds produce methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Ecologist Ralf Aben and his team wanted to see how different types of shallow-water plants might affect the amount of methane that escapes into the atmosphere. Aben’s team set up some water tanks with soil and microbes from local ponds. Some tanks had a type of underwater plant that grows in the soil called watermilfoil. Other tanks had either duckweed, a type of plant that floats

on the water's surface, or algae. Aben and his team found that tanks with duckweed and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil did. This finding suggests that

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** shallow lakes and ponds are more likely to contain algae than to contain either watermilfoil or duckweed.
- B.** the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil helps prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.
- C.** shallow lakes and ponds release more methane than deeper bodies of water because shallow bodies of water usually have more plants than deep bodies of water do.
- D.** having a mix of algae, underwater plants, and floating plants is the best way to reduce the amount of methane in shallow lakes and ponds.