

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® (MTEL®)



**Communication and
Literacy Skills (101/201)**

**PRACTICE TEST
APPENDIX:**
**Multiple-Choice
Question Analyses**

**Version 2
BOOKLET 2
Writing Subtest (201)**



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Communication and Literacy Skills (01) Practice Test: Writing

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MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION ANALYSES

Read the passage below; then answer the four questions that follow.

¹Many bears enter a state of sedation known as torpor or, more commonly, hibernation in order to avoid the cold temperatures and the dearth of food that attend harsh winter months. ²While the act of hibernating is a very passive activity—some types of bears can go for several months during their hibernation without eating, drinking, or defecating—preparation for this deep slumber is a time of intense and varied activity. ³Chief among the tasks is finding a place to bed down for such a lengthy period a suitable den must provide protection from both predators and the elements. ⁴The other primary task is eating enough food so basic body functions, such as breathing and blood circulation, can continue through months of

inactivity. ⁵Bears can gain up to 30 pounds a week during this gorging phase.

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_____ ⁷Sleeping deeply, the breathing rate of many types of bears slows to almost one breath per minute. ⁸Similarly, their heart rates drop from between 40 to 50 beats per minute to as few as eight. ⁹Because their bodies require such little energy during hibernation, bears are able to survive only on the fat stores they built up during their pre-hibernation feasting. ¹⁰Eating in preparation for hibernation is crucial for building up the fat stores.



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1. Which sentence, if added as Part 6, would be the most effective topic sentence for the second paragraph of the passage?
 - A. Bears tend to be lethargic during hibernation, but they are still conscious and will occasionally leave the den.
 - B. Bears' ability to eat to such excess is perhaps matched only by their highly efficient metabolism during hibernation.
 - C. Bears lose very little muscle mass during hibernation, but they lose most of the fat they created during the gorging phase.
 - D. Bears' hearts are highly complex; studying them could be helpful in understanding human heart disease.

Correct Response: **B.** A topic sentence conveys the main idea of a paragraph. The second paragraph discusses bears' highly efficient metabolic processes to make the point that bears are able to survive on fat stores because their bodies require so little energy during hibernation. The paragraph does not discuss lethargy during hibernation or the fact that during hibernation bears will occasionally leave the den (A). Although fat loss is implied, specific details are not mentioned, and muscle loss is not mentioned (C). Heart function is mentioned only in the context of changes during hibernation (D).

2. Which part of the passage contains a redundant expression of ideas or information?
- A. Part 4
 - B. Part 5
 - C. Part 9
 - D. Part 10

Correct Response: **D.** *Redundant* describes unnecessary additional mentions of something. Eating in preparation for hibernation is introduced in Parts 4 and 5 (**A** and **B**), and referred to again in Part 9 (**C**) as a way to tie up the second paragraph and the passage. Part 10 does not serve a purpose and merely repeats concepts that have already been presented.

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3. Which part of the passage contains a misplaced or dangling modifier?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 5
 - D. Part 7

Correct Response: **D.** Modifiers are words or phrases that describe, clarify, or provide detail about another word or phrase in a sentence. "Sleeping deeply" is misplaced because it relates to and describes the activity of bears, not the breathing rate of bears. "That attend harsh winter months" in Part 1 (**A**) clearly modifies "cold temperatures and the dearth of food" that it follows. Parts 3 and 5 (**B** and **C**) do not contain modifiers.

4. Which change is needed in the passage?
- A. Part 1: Delete the comma after "or."
 - B. Part 3: Insert a semicolon after "period."
 - C. Part 4: Delete the comma after "functions."
 - D. Part 9: Insert a semicolon after "hibernation."

Correct Response: **B.** Part 3 consists of two independent clauses, both of which can stand alone as complete sentences. Placing a semicolon between them separates the two clauses, while maintaining the close relationship of the second to the first. The commas after "or" in Part 1 (**A**) and after "functions" in Part 4 (**C**) are correctly placed to distinguish "more commonly" and "such as breathing and blood circulation" from the independent clauses of the sentences. The phrase ending in "hibernation" in Part 9 (**D**) is a dependent clause. If separated from the independent clause with a semi-colon, the sentence would be incomplete.

Read the passage below; then answer the two questions that follow.

¹The Vieuxtemps Guarneri violin is one of the world's most expensive musical instruments.

²Built in the mid-eighteenth century by Giuseppe Guarneri, the Vieuxtemps is coveted by musicians, collectors, and connoisseurs of classical music.

³Unlike violins created by Antonio Stradivari, which are also highly valued, there are only around 140 Guarneris in the world, compared to about 640 Stradivarii. ⁴Also, the Vieuxtemps was one of the last instruments produced by its maker, and is an unusual instrument in his collection due to its slightly larger size. ⁵The result is a richer, deeper sound.

⁶In 2012, an anonymous buyer sold the Vieuxtemps. ⁷The buyer then loaned the violin to Anne Akiko Meyers, one of the most celebrated violinists in the world today, for the rest of her life. ⁸Meyers thus became the latest in a long line of violinists who've played the Vieuxtemps, including Itzhak Perlman and its namesake—nineteenth-century Belgian virtuoso and composer Henri Vieuxtemps. ⁹Perlman has won countless honors and awards, including the Kennedy Center Honor in 2003. ¹⁰Due to her name recognition, Meyer's stewardship of the instrument will likely only increase its monetary value over time, but for her the real value is in being able to actually play such a finely crafted violin.



5. Which part of the passage draws attention away from the main idea of the second paragraph?
- A. Part 7
 - B. Part 8
 - C. Part 9
 - D. Part 10

Correct Response: C. The main idea of the second paragraph is that the violin was loaned to Anne Akiko Meyers to use for life. Inserting information about Itzhak Perlman beyond the fact that he also played the Vieuxtemps draws attention away from the focus on Meyers' use of the instrument. Mention of the loan to Meyers in Part 7 (A) and Meyers' predecessors (B) are significant facts that contribute to expressing the main idea, and part 10 (D) elaborates on the significance of Meyers' use of the violin.

6. Which part of the passage contains a word with a missing or misused apostrophe?
- A. Part 2
 - B. Part 4
 - C. Part 8
 - D. Part 10

Correct Response: **D.** An apostrophe is a punctuation mark used to indicate use of the possessive case or the omission of one or more letters in a contraction of two words. The possessive use of apostrophes requires that they be placed after a person's name. In this case, the apostrophe should be after the "s" (i.e., Meyers'). Placing the apostrophe before the "s" indicates that her name is Meyer. Part 2 does not contain a possessive use or a contraction (**A**). The possessive "its" in Part 4 is correctly punctuated with no apostrophe, distinguishing the use of the term from the contraction for "it is" ("it's") (**B**). The apostrophe used in "who've" in part 8 (**C**) is correctly placed to indicate a contraction of "who have."

Read the passage below; then answer the three questions that follow.

¹Phytoplankton are microscopic, drifting organisms that live in salt water and freshwater.

²While the term is inclusive of a wide range of organisms, including bacteria, most phytoplankton are single-celled plants that float freely in the ocean. ³Providing nourishment for fish and birds.

⁴Although phytoplankton are difficult to see and easy to ignore, scientists have discovered that these tiny plants have an unusual ability to indirectly effect the weather.

⁵In a study funded by NASA, researchers found that when the sun's ultraviolet rays are particularly strong, phytoplankton release a compound called DMSP. ⁶Through a series of chemical processes, the DMSP evaporates and releases dust-size particles into the air. ⁷These particles are small enough for water to condense on, which stimulates the formation of clouds that can block direct light. ⁸Radiation from ultraviolet rays can cause skin cancer. ⁹Further study is needed to determine if phytoplankton can actually be used to improve the earth's overall climate, making it likely that these microscopic organisms will be under the microscope for many years to come.



7. Which part of the passage is *least* relevant to the main idea of the second paragraph?
- A. Part 5
 - B. Part 6
 - C. Part 8
 - D. Part 9

Correct Response: C. Relevance means that something is important to the matter at hand. The main idea of the second paragraph is that phytoplankton respond to sunlight in a way that affects weather. The mention in Part 8 of the relationship between sunlight and skin cancer is not relevant to that main idea. Part 5's description of phytoplankton's response to sunlight (**A**) and the processes resulting from that (**B**) are central to the main idea. Part 9 (**D**) expands on the main idea by considering a possible significance of phytoplankton's response to sunlight.

8. Which part of the passage is a sentence fragment?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 2
 - C. Part 3
 - D. Part 4

Correct Response: C. A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence or a phrase that does not contain an independent clause with a subject, verb, and complete thought. Part 3 lacks a subject and is an incomplete thought as it does not indicate what is "Providing nourishment." Parts 1, 2, and 4 (**A**, **B**, and **D**), respectively, are all complete sentences that include subjects, verbs, and complete thoughts: "Phytoplankton are microscopic," "most phytoplankton are single-celled plants," and "scientists have discovered."

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9. Which underlined word in the passage is used incorrectly?

- A. freely
- B. effect
- C. particles
- D. condense

Correct Response: **B.** The word "effect" is used to mean something that happens due to a cause, rather than to change or influence something (affect), which is the meaning intended in this sentence. The words "freely" (A), "particles" (C), and "condense" (D) are all used correctly.

Read the passage below; then answer the two questions that follow.

(Note: An error in paragraph organization has been purposely included in the passage.)

¹In Korea, a baby's first birthday—also known as the *tol*—is considered a major cause for celebration. ²Traditionally, the parents host a party for their family and friends to eat, drink, and witness the *toljabee*, a ceremony during which several items are displayed in front of the baby. ³These items typically include money, a pencil, a book, and a paintbrush. ⁴The item that the baby grabs first will supposedly predict the baby's future. ⁵For example, a child who chooses money will grow up to have financial success. ⁶Although

the items have changed over time and the fortune-telling accuracy of the *toljabee* is definitely questionable, many modern Korean and Korean-American families practice the ceremony as a way of honoring a longstanding tradition and celebrating their child's first major milestone in life. ⁷Many years ago, the *toljabee* included several large, cumbersome, and potentially dangerous items such as a bow and arrow (to predict hunting prowess) or a knife (to predict culinary skills).



10. Which of the following changes would make the sequence of ideas in the passage clearer?
- A. Place Part 1 after Part 2.
 - B. Reverse the order of Parts 3 and 4.
 - C. Place Part 5 after Part 3.
 - D. Reverse the order of Parts 6 and 7.

Correct Response: D. Part 7 expands on the idea of a child choosing an object and its significance by providing historical perspective and is best used immediately following parts 3 through 5, which discuss the choices and their meanings. Part 1 (A) introduces the subject of the passage and is best used as the first sentence. Part 3 lists details expanding on the "items" mentioned in part 2, and so is best used following part 2 (B). Part 4 is best used after part 3, since it explains the significance of the items listed in part 3 (C).

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11. Which underlined word in the passage is spelled incorrectly?

- A. supposedly
- B. chooses
- C. success
- D. definately

Correct Response: D. The correct spelling of "definately" is "definitely." The words "supposedly," "chooses," and "success" (A, B, and C) are spelled correctly.

Read the passage below; then answer the two questions that follow.

¹First Warning is a severe weather warning system, created by a Meteorologist from Oklahoma during the mid-1980s. ²The purpose of First Warning was to provide television viewers with timely alerts about severe weather without interrupting scheduled programming. ³With First Warning, an employee of a television affiliate manually typed warnings into the computer system, including specific information about affected areas, closures, and road advisories. ⁴The warning appeared as a banner that scrolled across the bottom of the screen while the television

program continued above. ⁵A few years later, another Oklahoma television station created an automated version of this system and called it First Alert. ⁶The primary difference between First Warning and First Alert was that the latter received automatic updates from the National Weather Service, which eliminated the need for time-consuming and error-prone manual text entry. ⁷Today most viewers of local television programming receive their weather alerts from a modernized version of the original First Warning system.



12. Which part of the passage contains an error in capitalization?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 5
 - D. Part 6

Correct Response: A. The first letter of a word is properly capitalized when the word is the first word in a sentence, a proper noun, a title of a work, or part of a title used before a name. "Meteorologist" is a noun but not a proper noun, so it is incorrectly capitalized. In Part 3, "First Warning" is capitalized because it is a kind of proper noun (B), as is "First Alert" in Part 5, which also contains the proper noun "Oklahoma," a state name (C). Part 6 (D) includes the two aforementioned capitalized names and the capitalized title of an organization, "National Weather Service."

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13. Which part of the passage should be revised to correct an error in punctuation?
- A. Part 3
 - B. Part 5
 - C. Part 6
 - D. Part 7

Correct Response: **D.** A small pause in the form of a comma usually follows introductory words, phrases, and clauses that start sentences. In this case, the word "Today" is an introductory word that should be offset with a comma just as the introductory phrases in Part 3 ("With First Warning") (**A**) and Part 5 ("A few years later") (**B**)—which like "Today" are also time elements—are offset with commas. Part 6 (**C**) exemplifies correct use of a comma with a nonrestrictive element.

Read the passage below; then answer the two questions that follow.

¹In 1958, a white man named Richard Loving married his fiancée of mixed African American and Native American descent, Mildred Jeter, at Washington, D.C. ²When they returned to their hometown in Central Point, Virginia, the police arrested them for violating the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, an antimiscegenation law that prohibited interracial marriages. ³In order to avoid jail time, the Lovings agreed to leave the state and move to Washington, D.C.; however, after five years in exile, they decided to challenge the law so they could return to Virginia and live legally as a married couple.

⁴With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Lovings sued the state, and their case made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Richard Loving asked his attorney to convey a simple, but powerful message: "Tell the court that I love my wife, and it is unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia." ⁵In 1967, the court unanimously agreed and declared unconstitutional the antimiscegenation laws in Virginia and 15 other states. ⁶Although Richard and Mildred Loving returned to Central Point and attempted to live outside of the spotlight for their remaining years, there is little doubt as to the importance of the Lovings' enduring and aptly named legacy, not just for the south but for the whole country.



14. Which part of the passage should be revised to correct an error in the use of prepositions?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 4
 - D. Part 6

Correct Response: A. Prepositions describe the relationship between other words in a sentence in terms of location in physical space, time, or some other kind of relationship. The correct prepositions to use in Part 1 to refer to the location of the Lovings' marriage is "in" Washington, D.C.; "at" is used to designate specific times or a specific address and "in" is used for the names of land areas. The preposition "to" is used to express movement, so it is correctly used to express the Lovings' move to Washington, D.C., in part 3 (B) and in reference to the court case and the Supreme Court in Part 4 (C). Part 6 correctly uses "about" (D) to refer to the content of the court decision.

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15. Which underlined word or words in the passage should be revised to correct an error in capitalization?
- A. Native American
 - B. Racial Integrity Act of 1924
 - C. state
 - D. south

Correct Response: **D.** The first letter of a word is properly capitalized when the word is the first word in a sentence, a proper noun, a title of a work, or part of a title used before a name. Capital letters can function to distinguish elements that are unique and identified by their names. In this use, the term "south" should be capitalized because it refers to a specific and unique region of the country. "Native American" (A) and "Racial Integrity Act of 1924" (B) are proper nouns and should be capitalized in any use. "State" is a common noun and does not require capitalization unless used as part of a title (C).

Read the passage below; then answer the four questions that follow.

(Note: An error in paragraph organization has been purposely included in the first paragraph.)

¹Metals are classified as "precious metals" only if it is both rare and economically valuable. ²As opposed to common metals like iron and lead, which are both abundantly available, metals like gold, silver, and platinum are in high demand but are also in very limited supply. ³Gold, for example, is so highly valued that humans have, over the centuries, endeavored to procure it in a variety of ways. ⁴If precious metals weren't so rare, they wouldn't be worth so much. ⁵Vast, costly gold-mining operations exist all over the world, and alchemists—practitioners of ancient methods of philosophy and chemistry—unsuccessfully sought ways of turning common metals into gold.

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⁷Over hundreds of millions of years, liquid magma carries some of these metals toward the surface where miners could reach them. ⁸It's also possible that Earth's gold deposits were formed when billions of tons of meteorites crashed into the planet and settled at reachable depths in Earth's mantle, where geologic processes slowly turned them into gold. ⁹This theory suggests that gold may be rarer than previously thought; after all, it came from outer space, if the theory holds true.



16. Which sentence, if added as Part 6, would be the most effective topic sentence for the second paragraph of the passage?
- A. Precious metals are so rare because early in the process of Earth's formation, hundreds of millions of years ago, they sank to the core of the planet, totally inaccessible to humans.
 - B. The price of perhaps the most famous of precious metals, gold, has soared since the turn of the twenty-first century, which has encouraged more and more prospectors to join what has become a kind of modern gold rush.
 - C. One of the interesting aspects of investing in precious metals is that one may actually purchase a tangible thing—like a necklace or other piece of jewelry—that has monetary value and aesthetic value.
 - D. Sophisticated mining tools have allowed humans to quickly pull some precious metals from deep in the ground by moving large amounts of dirt that would have been inconceivable to miners of the past.

Correct Response: A. A topic sentence conveys the main idea of a paragraph. Paragraph 2 discusses processes through which precious metals may be formed. This idea is conveyed in the sentence that begins "Precious metals are so rare because early in the process of Earth's formation" Though the paragraph refers to rarity of precious metals, it does not discuss prices (B) or products made from precious metals (C). Nor does the paragraph discuss mining processes (D).

17. Which of the following changes would make the sequence of ideas in the first paragraph clearer?
- A. Reverse the order of Parts 4 and 5.
 - B. Place Part 4 before Part 2.
 - C. Reverse the order of Parts 3 and 4.
 - D. Place Part 5 before Part 3.

Correct Response: C. Presenting ideas in a logical sequence that builds an idea contributes to the clarity of a written text. Part 4 provides a transition statement that links the idea of a "limited supply" stated in Part 2 and the discussion of consequences resulting from gold's high value in Part 3. So Part 4 should precede Part 3. Placing Part 4 after part 5 (A) would disrupt the logical progression of ideas. Similarly, Part 4 expands on the final statement about "limited supply" in Part 2 (B) and makes the most sense when it directly follows that statement. Part 5 provides details for the "variety of ways" mentioned in Part 3, so it follows that statement logically (D).

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18. Which part of the passage should be revised to correct an error in pronoun usage?

- A. Part 1
- B. Part 2
- C. Part 3
- D. Part 4

Correct Response: **A.** A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun and is singular or plural in accordance with the noun that it refers to. In Part 1, the singular pronoun "it" erroneously refers to the plural "Metals"; "it is" should be replaced with "they are." Part 2 does not contain a pronoun (**B**). In Part 3, the singular pronoun "it" refers to the singular "Gold" (**C**). In Part 4, the pronoun "they" refers to the plural "metals" (**D**).

19. Which change is needed to correct an error in verb tense?
- A. Part 3: Change "is" to "are."
 - B. Part 7: Change "carries" to "carried."
 - C. Part 8: Change "were" to "had been."
 - D. Part 9: Change "suggests" to "suggest."

Correct Response: **B.** Part 7 describes a historical process. A verb used to describe something that happened "Over hundreds of millions of years" would most appropriately use the past tense. In Part 3, "is" refers to "Gold," which is singular so the appropriate verb use is singular (**A**). Part 8 (**C**) correctly uses the past tense for a reference to a past event. Similarly, Part 9 (**D**) uses a singular subject, "theory," which requires the singular verb "suggests."

Read the passage below; then answer the three questions that follow.

¹The term "media" is the plural form of the noun "medium," a channel or means of communication. ²A newspaper, for example, is a print medium used to communicate news.

³Likewise, television is a medium that conveys content like entertainment and news in video form.

⁴In popular usage, however, the term "media" is used to refer to a whole host of media, commonly called the "mass media." ⁵In addition to newspapers and television, these include the Internet, radio, the content on smartphones and tablets, advertising, and marketing. ⁶"Mass media" can also include the organizations and individuals, such as journalists or television news anchors, responsible for the production of the content that appears in the different forms of media. ⁷In this sense, "the media" is used as a singular noun to encompass all of the communications, personalities, and opinions that arrive over the airwaves, the Internet, and in print every day.

⁸In popular culture it's not uncommon for a celebrity who falls out of favor with the public to employ this singular usage and to blame "the media" for an unfair or unflattering portrayal.

⁹Similarly, a politician might say that "the media" has distorted something he or she has said. ¹⁰But such usage of the term is almost always too general to accurately depict reality; after all, it's highly unlikely that all of the mass media—every

journalist, news anchor, television show, website, newsmagazine, etc.—uniformly criticized a given individual for a specific offense.

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¹²Artists, writers, and thinkers have raised concern that the media is far too influential and pervasive and that the media spends more time drawing attention to itself for financial gains than it does to covering the story—whatever the story may be—in an objective, substantive, professional manner. ¹³Critics add that the media's emphasis on flash rather than substance is contributing to a society that is becoming increasingly shallow, unsure of itself, and even anxious. ¹⁴For example, the social critic Neil Postman, most well known for his book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, believed that television is purely an entertainment vehicle and it undermines serious thought and discourse on complicated, important issues. ¹⁵Postman and others have, in essence, blamed the media for stunting young minds and contributing to society's malaise. ¹⁶Still others have celebrated the proliferation of the media because, they say, it gives people more options, not less, to learn and to engage with the world. ¹⁷Despite the many views on the media and its role in society, one part seems abundantly clear: the media is ever growing and here to stay.



20. Which sentence, if added as Part 11, provides the most effective transition from the second paragraph to the third paragraph?
- A. While the media grew incredibly during the twentieth century, it has existed since ancient times, albeit to a much lesser extent.
 - B. The media is not so much a tangible thing but a vague yet omnipresent force.
 - C. While some celebrities have used the media as a scapegoat in this manner, blaming the media has taken another form.
 - D. Dictators have often used the media to keep total power over their countries.

Correct Response: C. Transitions link ideas between sentences and paragraphs. The second paragraph describes uses of the term "the media" as though it is a single entity. The third paragraph considers influences the media has on society. The sentence that starts with "While some celebrities have ..." references the use of "media" discussed in the second paragraph and compares that to a related topic that is discussed in the third paragraph. Mention of historic details (A) is not relevant to the topic of the third paragraph. Labeling the media as an "omnipresent force" (B) is relevant to the third paragraph but does not provide a transitional idea linking it to the second paragraph. The use of media by dictators (D) is related to the influence media can have but not specifically to the topic of the paragraph.

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21. Which underlined word in the passage should be replaced with a more appropriate word?

- A. encompass
- B. favor
- C. vehicle
- D. part

Correct Response: **D.** Among other meanings, the word "part" means a piece or segment of something. This definition does not fit the context in which it is used in the passage. It could be appropriately replaced with the word "thing," which can mean an aspect of a situation, an idea, or a notion. "Encompass" (A) means "to include" and is appropriately used to convey the inclusion of several related elements in the meaning of the term the media. "Favor" (B) means support or admiration and is appropriately used in this context. "Vehicle" (C) means something created for a specific purpose and appropriately describes the idea of television's use as a means to provide entertainment.

22. Which part of the passage contains a missing or misplaced apostrophe?

- A. Part 8
- B. Part 10
- C. Part 15
- D. Part 17

Correct Response: A. An apostrophe is a punctuation mark that is used to indicate use of the possessive case or the omission of one or more letters in a contraction of two words. In Part 8, the word "its" should be "it's" because in this use it is the contraction of two words: "it is." "It's" is correctly used as a contraction (**B**) in the phrase "it's highly unlikely ...". The apostrophe in "society's" correctly indicates the possessive (**C**). The lack of an apostrophe is correct in the phrase "...the media and its role in society" in which the term "its" is a possessive (**D**).

Read the passage below; then answer the three questions that follow.

(Note: An error in paragraph organization has been purposely included in the first paragraph.)

¹The guiding philosophy of the MacArthur Fellows Program is that individuals who possess extraordinary intellectual or artistic abilities should be allowed to attend to the development of their talent without struggling to make ends meet, which takes time and energy away from the expression of their life's work. ²An established record of exceptional creativity is the principal selection criterion. ³To this end, the MacArthur Foundation awards a large sum of money to such individuals every year. ⁴The money goes to those who work in many fields, including science, mathematics, the humanities, and the arts. ⁵Past winners include fiction writers, economists, neurobiologists, and computer scientists. ⁶The Foundation hopes the awardees will use the substantial sum of money (awarded in installments over a period of five years) to hone their originality and skills for the betterment of humanity.

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⁸Instead, the Program consults with a select group of nominators, experts in various fields, to offer names to a committee that ultimately chooses the winners. ⁹The awards, also dubbed "genius grants," are perhaps even more noteworthy for the fact that the Foundation does not require MacArthur Fellows to follow up with reports or updates on how they are using the money. ¹⁰The recipients' only mandate is to use the money to support whatever work they would like to do. ¹¹The "no strings attached" policy allows winners to develop their talent without the stress of having to make a living.



23. Which part of the passage should be revised to reduce unnecessary repetition?
- A. Part 3
 - B. Part 5
 - C. Part 9
 - D. Part 11

Correct Response: D. Part 11 unnecessarily restates information present in Parts 1, 9, and 10. Part 3 (A) provides the first mention in the passage of what the MacArthur Foundation actually does and provides information supporting the main point of the passage. Part 5 (B) provides details about who receives awards, expanding on the statement made in Part 4. Part 9 (C) adds new information about the terms of grants, which is part of the information that is repeated in Part 11.

24. Which of the following changes would make the sequence of ideas in the first paragraph clearer?
- A. Reverse the order of Parts 1 and 2.
 - B. Reverse the order of Parts 2 and 3.
 - C. Reverse the order of Parts 3 and 4.
 - D. Reverse the order of Parts 4 and 5.

Correct Response: **B.** Because Part 3 mentions "such individuals," referring to "individuals" discussed in Part 1, the sentence is more appropriately placed immediately after Part 1 so the reference is clear. Additionally, the phrase "To this end" logically transitions from Part 1 to Part 3. Part 1 introduces the main idea of the passage and provides context for understanding Part 2 (**A**). Part 4 begins with the phrase "The money goes to ..." and needs to follow part 3, so the money referenced is clear to the reader (**C**). Part 5 provides details about the list of fields that award winners work in and appropriately follows that list (**D**).

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25. Which sentence, if added as Part 7, provides the most effective transition from the first paragraph to the second paragraph?
- A. While many foundations offer monetary gifts to talented individuals, the MacArthur Fellows Program stands out in that it does not allow anyone to apply for the available funds or to self-nominate.
 - B. The financial award is well over half a million dollars that is paid out to each individual winner over the course of five years.
 - C. Critics of the MacArthur Fellows Program have pointed out that many winners have already won prestigious awards, undermining what is perceived to be the program's wish to find unhidden talent.
 - D. Some MacArthur Fellows are already prominent and may be well known when they win, while others are not as prominent and are not widely known.

Correct Response: A. The first paragraph provides background information on the MacArthur Fellows Program and describes its purpose. The second paragraph discusses how nominees for MacArthur awards are chosen and elaborates on the program's goals and what is expected of nominees. An effective transition between the two paragraphs would reference the nominees mentioned in the first paragraph and introduce the topic of how they are selected. Mention of the size of the financial award (**B**) is too specific to be an effective transition, critiques of the program (**C**) don't provide a logical transition, and how well known nominees are (**D**) is too specific and out of context to serve as a transition.

Read the passage below; then answer the three questions that follow.

¹Although powders and pastes for cleaning teeth originated in antiquity, the form and composition of these substances have changed significantly over time. ²The first-known manufactured substance used for dental hygiene was a powder invented in Egypt around 5000 B.C.E. ³One early recipe called for a mixture of salt, mint, iris flower, and pepper. ⁴Citizens of ancient Rome also used tooth powders, combining abrasives—such as ground-up bones, eggshells, or oyster shells—with more aromatic substances, such as mint or myrrh. ⁵Other ancient cultures devised their own recipes. ⁶In ancient China, for example, ginseng was part of the teeth-cleaning mix.

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_____ ⁸In the early 1800s, soap and chalk was introduced in some powdered teeth-cleaning products. ⁹Later, ground charcoal was added. ¹⁰In the 1850s, jars of "Creme Dentifrice" were produced—the first teeth-cleaning product to be sold in a paste form rather than powder form. ¹¹The first mass-produced toothpaste in a collapsible tube appeared in 1896. ¹²Twentieth-century innovations included the addition of fluoride to help prevent tooth decay, detergents to cause foaming, strong flavoring to mask the taste of the detergents, and dyes to create toothpastes in appealing colors.



Communication and Literacy Skills (01) Practice Test: Writing

26. Which sentence, if added as Part 7, provides the most effective transition from the first paragraph to the second paragraph?
- A. Technological innovation, including advances in toothpaste formulation, has been a signature characteristic of modern times.
 - B. Following these ancient innovations, the evolution of dental hygiene agents slowed until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
 - C. Today, toothpaste comes in a dizzying array of varieties that can make purchasing toothpaste perhaps a bit too complicated.
 - D. Flossing and brushing teeth on a daily basis is an important dental regimen for maintaining healthy teeth and gums.

Correct Response: **B.** The passage provides a chronological account of the development of substances for cleaning teeth. Using the sentence that starts with "Following these ancient innovations" to transition to the second paragraph appropriately cites the main topic of the first paragraph and introduces the next chronological phase. Mentioning the changes in modern times (**A**) does not accurately introduce the main idea of the second paragraph. Consumer issues such as choosing among various brands (**C**) and maintaining oral health (**D**) are not relevant to the focus of the passage.

27. Which part of the passage should be revised to correct an error in subject-verb agreement?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 8
 - D. Part 10

Correct Response: C. The plural subject "soap and chalk" is not in agreement with the singular verb "was," which should be changed to "were." In Part 1, the verb "originated" is correct for the plural subject "powders and pastes" (A). In Part 3, the singular "recipe" is followed accurately by the singular verb form "called" (B). In Part 10, the plural verb form "were" is accurately used with the plural subject "jars" (D).

Communication and Literacy Skills (01) Practice Test: Writing

28. Which underlined word in the passage is spelled incorrectly?

- A. significantly
- B. hygiene
- C. collapsable
- D. dyes

Correct Response: C. The correct spelling of "collapsible" is "collapsible." The words "significantly" (A), "hygiene" (B), and "dyes" (D) are all correctly spelled.

Read the passage below; then answer the three questions that follow.

¹The New York Public Library's flagship building on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street is home to two of the city's most famous felines. ²Since 1911, twin lion sculptures have flanked its main entrance, greeting millions of tourists to the building every year, appearing in the background of countless photographs and Fifth Avenue parades, and occasionally wearing oversize hats to celebrate a New York victory in the World Series or Super Bowl. ³They are an enduring and popular tourist attraction. ⁴Originally known as Leo Astor

and Leo Lenox in honor of two of the library's founders, the lions were later nicknamed Lady Astor and Lord Lenox (although both of the lions are male). ⁵In the 1930s, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia finally coined the name that has remained with the lions to this day. ⁶La Guardia referred to them as "Patience and Fortitude" in honor of the qualities that New Yorkers needed to survive the depression. ⁷Now in place for over a century, many New Yorkers consider Patience and Fortitude to be as iconic as the library itself.



29. Which part of the passage contains a redundant expression of ideas or information?
- A. Part 2
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 4
 - D. Part 5

Correct Response: **B.** *Redundant* describes unnecessary additional mentions of something. Part 3 restates information that is presented in the two sentences that precede it. Part 2 (**A**) introduces new information about the lions that are mentioned in Part 1. Parts 4 and 5 (**C** and **D**) provide new information about nicknames given to the lions.

Communication and Literacy Skills (01) Practice Test: Writing

30. Which part of the passage contains a misplaced or dangling modifier?
- A. Part 3
 - B. Part 4
 - C. Part 5
 - D. Part 7

Correct Response: D. Modifiers are words or phrases that describe, clarify, or provide detail about another word or phrase in a sentence. Modifiers that are not clearly associated with a word or phrase in a sentence are considered dangling. In Part 7, the phrase "Now in place for over a century" is not connected appropriately to the phrase it refers to, "Patience and Fortitude." Instead, the phrase incorrectly modifies "many New Yorkers." Part 3 (A) does not contain a modifier. The modifier at the beginning of Part 4 refers directly to "the lions" (B). In Part 5 (C), the phrase "that has remained with the lions to this day" modifies "name," which appears immediately preceding it.

31. Which part of the passage contains a word with a missing or misused apostrophe?

- A. Part 1
- B. Part 2
- C. Part 4
- D. Part 6

Correct Response: **B.** An apostrophe is a punctuation mark that is used to indicate use of the possessive case or the omission of one or more letters in a contraction of two words. In Part 2, the contraction "it's" should be the possessive "its." In parts 1 and 4, an apostrophe is correctly used to indicate the possessive in "Library's flagship" (**A**) and "library's founders" (**C**). There are no contractions or use of the possessive in part 6 (**D**).

Read the passage below; then answer the four questions that follow.

¹The vegetables known as crucifers come in many forms but all of them share at least two qualities: a four-petaled structure that resembles a cross—and from which they take their family name, Cruciferae, *latin* for "cross-bearing"—and a reputation for being among the most healthful of foods. ²Crucifers contain a chemical compound that either tastes bitter or has no taste at all. ³Not only are cruciferous vegetables rich in vitamins and minerals, they are high in fiber, which can help lower cholesterol and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. ⁴In addition, some evidence suggests that eating them regularly can have a protective effect against several kinds of cancer.

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⁶Broccoli is high in potassium, which has been shown to lower blood pressure, and is rich in calcium, which has been linked with increased bone density and decreased bone loss. ⁷Further potential benefits of eating broccoli were discovered when a 1992 Johns Hopkins University study found that broccoli sprouts contain a cancer-fighting substance called sulforaphane glucosinolate. ⁸Kale also contains this chemical, as well as the following vitamins: vitamin A, which helps the body produce and distribute white blood cells; vitamin K, which builds and strengthens bones; and vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant that helps fight infections.



32. Which sentence, if added as Part 5, would be the most effective topic sentence for the second paragraph?
- A. Among the most popular and beneficial cruciferous vegetables are broccoli and kale.
 - B. Parents have always had good reason to tell their children to eat their broccoli.
 - C. Broccoli and kale are very hardy plants that can both withstand a hard frost.
 - D. Kale has become synonymous with a healthy diet and overall well-being.

Correct Response: A. A topic sentence conveys the main idea of a paragraph. Paragraph 2 focuses on the nutritional quality of broccoli and kale, so a sentence introducing the beneficial qualities of kale and broccoli provides an effective topic sentence. Reasons for eating broccoli (B) and common knowledge about kale's benefits (D) are somewhat related to the topic of the paragraph, but do not introduce the focus of the paragraph. The hardy quality of the plants (C) is unrelated to the main idea of the paragraph.

33. Which part of the passage is *least* relevant to the main idea of the first paragraph?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 2
 - C. Part 3
 - D. Part 4

Correct Response: **B.** Relevance means that something is important to the matter at hand. The main idea of paragraph 1 is the health-promoting qualities of cruciferous vegetables. A statement about chemical composition and taste is not particularly relevant to that topic. Part 1 (**A**) introduces the topic, so is very relevant, as are parts 3 and 4 (**C** and **D**), which provide evidence supporting the claim that crucifers are healthful foods.

Communication and Literacy Skills (01) Practice Test: Writing

34. Which part of the passage should be revised to correct an error in punctuation?
- A. Part 1
 - B. Part 3
 - C. Part 6
 - D. Part 7

Correct Response: A. Coordinating conjunctions, such as "and," "but," and "so," are used to connect two independent clauses. If the clauses are lengthy or of different lengths, a comma must be used at the end of the first phrase before the conjunction. In Part 1, two independent clauses are connected by "but," and the second clause is substantially longer than the first. A comma should be placed after the word "forms" at the end of the first clause. Parts 3, 6, and 7 (**B**, **C**, and **D**) contain no punctuation errors.

35. Which underlined word in the passage should be revised to correct an error in capitalization?
- A. latin
 - B. cholesterol
 - C. potassium
 - D. University

Correct Response: A. The first letter of a word is properly capitalized when the word is the first word in a sentence, a proper noun, a title of a work, or part of a title used before a name. The word "Latin" is a proper noun and should be capitalized. The words "cholesterol" (B) and "potassium" (C) are common nouns and are not capitalized unless used at the beginning of a sentence. The word "university" is a common noun but it is used in the passage as part of a name (D), so it is a proper noun and is correctly capitalized.