

# **ENGLISH FULL-LENGTH PRACTICE TESTS 1**



## ACT ENGLISH TEST

*35 Minutes—50 Questions*

**DIRECTIONS:** In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for each underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage or the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and blacken the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

---

### PASSAGE I

#### The Man Behind Lassie

Many people are not familiar with the canine star Pal, an American collie, but they have probably heard of the dog he portrayed. Lassie, a beloved character who first appeared in a short story by Eric Knight, was Pal's role for 11 years. While Pal's talent landed him many projects—six movies, two TV pilots, and a national tour, among others—the significant care and instruction provided by the dog's trainer, Rudd Weatherwax; warrant<sub>1</sub>

**1. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. Weatherwax, warrant**
- C. Weatherwax; who warrants**
- D. Weatherwax, who warrants**

ecognition.<sup>2</sup>

**2. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:**

Another important figure was Fred Wilcox, the director who cast Pal in the first Lassie movie.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- F. Yes, because it clarifies who cast Pal in the “movies” in the preceding sentence.**
- G. Yes, because it ends the paragraph in a way that sets up the next paragraph.**
- H. No, because it distracts from the paragraph's goal of setting up the main idea of the essay.**
- J. No, because it distracts from the paragraph's focus on dogs that have starred in movies.**

In 1940, Weatherwax was working as an animal trainer when a friend brought him a young collie for training. Weatherwax trained the dog regularly, guiding<sup>3</sup> him through basic obedience, a training program often used for dogs. [A] A dog's basic obedience skills include sitting on cue, staying until called, and walk<sup>4</sup> next to its trainer. [B] When Pal had mastered the basics, Weatherwax began training him for the entertainment business. He wanted to ensure that Pal would behave calmly on a bustling movie set.<sup>5</sup>

**3. A. NO CHANGE**

**B. regularly; guiding**

**C. regularly. Guiding**

**D. regularly, he guided**

**4. F. NO CHANGE**

**G. to walk**

**H. walking**

**J. they walk**

**5. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following accurate information:**

that included many people talking and walking, frequent interaction with child actors, and unusual elements, such as fire.

Should the writer make this addition here?

**A. Yes, because it gives details about Weatherwax's training program for Pal.**

**B. Yes, because it specifies some of the challenges Pal could face on the movie set.**

- C. No, because it shows that Pal was a particularly unpleasant dog.  
D. No, because it demonstrates that Weatherwax's training had a minimal effect on Pal's behavior.

[C] While playing the role of Lassie on set, Pal performed complicated stunts with ease. [D] Weatherwax's unfailing compassion<sub>6</sub> and professional attitude ensured a safe working environment.

Before the stunts, Weatherwax was at Pal's side, speaking to him calmly. For instance, at<sub>7</sub> each set, Weatherwax was

**6. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. unfailing, compassion  
H. unfailing compassion,  
J. unfailing, compassion,

**7. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. Thus, at  
C. At  
D. On the other hand, at

constantly off camera, observantly<sub>8</sub> any indications of danger or risk. Additionally, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) observed Pal perform stunts, watching for any

**8. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. observant of  
H. observantly of  
J. observation of

dangers that were visible to them.<sub>9</sub>

**9. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. visible to it while the dog was performing.
- C. that became evident while observing him perform.
- D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

People of which<sub>10</sub> saw Weatherwax work with Pal were

**10. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. of whom
- H. who
- J. whom

impressed by the clear love he had for the dog.11

- 11.** The writer wants to divide this paragraph into two in order to separate the general information about Pal's training from the information about Pal and Weatherwax on set. The best place to begin the new paragraph would be at:

- A. Point A.
- B. Point B.
- C. Point C.
- D. Point D.

Pal and Weatherwax helped secure Lassie's extraordinary legacy. Lassie, for example<sub>12</sub> is one of only three animals with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. After Weatherwax retired, his animal training work was carried on by not only his

- 12.** Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. For example, Lassie
- G. Therefore, Lassie
- H. To give an example, Lassie

J. Lassie, for instance,

family members but his employee, Carol Riggins<sup>13</sup> too. Pal passed away in 1958 at the age of 18. A picture taken shortly before his death, showing Pal with his paw resting

**13. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. but, his employee Carol Riggins,
- C. but, his employee, Carol Riggins
- D. but his employee, Carol Riggins,

on Weatherwax's arm, his eyes gazed<sup>14</sup> at Weatherwax's face,

**14. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. gazing
- H. would gaze
- J. gaze

captures the loving relationship that can develop between dog and man.<sup>15</sup>

**15.** Given that all the choices are accurate, which one most effectively concludes the sentence and the essay by reinforcing the essay's main point?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. is in black and white and accessible through the Los Angeles Public Library.
- C. is a commemoration of one of the most famous canine actors in history.
- D. reveals the deep connection between Pal and Rudd Weatherwax.

## PASSAGE II

## British Fossils

[1]

In the early 1810s, Mary Anning began collecting fossils with her brother in her hometown of Lyme Regis on the southern coast of Great Britain. Anning's samples, some of the world's earliest recorded fossils, number into the hundreds and represent many interesting species.<sup>16</sup> During the Triassic

**16.** The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following:

at least three previously undiscovered species.

Should the writer make this revision?

- F. Yes, because it provides a specific detail that reveals the significance of Anning's discoveries.
- G. Yes, because it explains why there are so many fossils in Lyme Regis.
- H. No, because it reiterates a detail stated earlier in the paragraph.
- J. No, because it does not indicate the names of the species preserved by Anning's fossils.

and Jurassic periods, the area near Lyme Regis was obscured<sup>17</sup> by a shallow sea. Cliffs began to form as shale and limestone

**17.** A. NO CHANGE

- B. covered
- C. buried
- D. shrouded

fragments had sunk<sup>18</sup> in the water, settled in layers on the seafloor. [A] Today, the cliffs still contain numerous samples of

aquatic prehistoric life. Anning's discoveries

**18. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. fragments sank
- H. fragments, have been sinking
- J. fragments, sinking

that us see<sub>19</sub> today represent unique species; however, when she first collected them, many thought that they were hoaxes or existing species.

**19. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. as we see them
- C. as they are seen by we
- D. as we see it

[2]

Fossils are remains of ancient life and<sub>20</sub> can contain organic remains or records of organisms' activities. Examples include fossilized bones, teeth, footprints, feces, and eggshells. [B] During the creation of a fossil, calcite, a slowly hardening, stable compound that creates fossils<sub>21</sub> forms around remains to preserve their shape and structure.

**20. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. life, and
- H. life; and
- J. life. And

**21. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. stable compound that slowly hardens over a long time,
- C. stable, slowly hardening compound that forms over a long time,
- D. stable compound that slowly hardens,

Not tolerating<sub>22</sub> rough handling due to their fragility, paleontologists must use extreme care and precise tools when working with the remains. Today's paleontologists and

**22. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. Since they don't tolerate
- H. Because fossils are not tolerant of
- J. Intolerant of

geobiologists has used<sub>23</sub> advanced tools to get a close look at the

**23. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. uses
- C. use
- D. is using

ancient remains. One of these tools provide<sub>24</sub> scientists with a glimpse into the life of a fossilized organism through electron microscopy. All of this information

**24. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. provides
- H. have provided
- J. are providing

does a really good job when it comes to<sub>25</sub> determining whether a fossil is from an extinct or existing species.

**25. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. works pretty well with
- C. is really good for
- D. is especially helpful for

[3]

Age analysis of Lyme Regis’s cliffs, combined with information gained from early fossil analysis done on samples taken from them, suggested that some<sub>26</sub> were actually from extinct species. [C] Although many people thought that Anning’s fossils were created by modern engineering, scientific analysis of the samples proved that they contained fossils of organisms that lived only a few<sub>27</sub> years ago. [D] Her discoveries helped build a strong case for evolution and extinction.

**26. F. NO CHANGE**

**G. fossils**

**H. Anning’s fossils**

**J. they**

**27.** Which choice draws the most specific contrast between the assumed age of Anning’s fossils and the actual age of the fossils she uncovered?

**A. NO CHANGE**

**B. not that many**

**C. millions of**

**D. DELETE the underlined portion.**

When anatomist Georges Cuvier<sub>28</sub> learned of Anning’s claims, he stated, “Why has not anyone seen that fossils alone gave birth to a theory about the formation of the earth?”

**28. F. NO CHANGE**

**G. anatomist, Georges Cuvier,**

**H. anatomist, Georges Cuvier**

**J. anatomist Georges Cuvier,**

Questions 29 and 30 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

**29.** The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

Fossils are made from a wide variety of natural processes involving mineral crystallization.

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 3.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 3.

**30.** Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to provide a short account of the life of an important paleontologist. Would this essay accomplish this purpose?

- F. Yes, because it states that Anning was the one to prove that organisms can go extinct.
- G. Yes, because it outlines one paleontologist's contribution to the theories of evolution and extinction.
- H. No, because it provides details about other paleontologists in addition to Anning.
- J. No, because it centers on how a few fossil discoveries altered a long-established scientific viewpoint.

### **PASSAGE III**

#### **The First Trains in Manhattan**

On April 20, 1871, Manhattan's first successful mass transit train, the *Ninth Avenue Elevated*, began operation between Dey

Street and<sup>31</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Street

**31. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. on the trip to**
- C. and also**
- D. to**

in Manhattan.<sup>32</sup> The steam-powered locomotive,

**32. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. signifying the initial ride of a train used for mass transit.**
- H. in the 1870s.**
- J. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.**

ironically,<sup>33</sup> ran on a raised platform above the street. New Yorkers had long relied on horse-drawn carriages, cable cars, or walking to commute. The *Ninth Avenue* train was faster than any of these methods by a considerable amount, so it quickly gained popularity.

**33. Which choice most strongly reinforces the information in the rest of the sentence?**

- A. NO CHANGE**
- B. known as an “elevated train” or “el,”**
- C. as reported by journalists,**
- D. during that time,**

Underground subway trains are now considered to be a staple of New York City transit.<sup>34</sup> The Gilbert Elevated Railway’s *Sixth Avenue Elevated* train began operating in 1878, followed by the *Second Avenue Elevated* train later that year.

**34.** Given that all of the choices are true, which one best introduces the topic of the paragraph?

**F.** NO CHANGE

**G.** It is now possible to travel among four out of the five boroughs in New York City via train.

**H.** By the end of the decade, elevated trains ran throughout Manhattan.

**J.** Upper Manhattan contained mostly rural land until the late 19th century.

Transit lines in Manhattan extended through many of the downtown, but<sup>35</sup> some of the uptown neighborhoods.

**35.** **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** downtown and

**C.** downtown and,

**D.** downtown, and

The train system thus offered a mobility unparalleled in<sup>36</sup> public transportation in New York City at the time.

**36.** **F.** NO CHANGE

**G.** unparalleled on

**H.** unparalleled with

**J.** that unparalleled

Reduced travel time made it feasible for more people to travel from suburban communities, to workplaces,<sup>37</sup> in Manhattan. For instance, the trip from Yonkers, just north of Manhattan, to the New York Stock Exchange took most of

**37.** **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** communities to workplaces,

**C.** communities, to workplaces

D. communities to workplaces

the day: by horse-drawn carriage<sup>38</sup> elevated trains reduced the

**38. F. NO CHANGE**

G. day by horse-drawn carriage;

H. day, by horse-drawn carriage,

J. day by horse-drawn carriage,

length of the trip noticeably<sup>39</sup> Real estate development skyrocketed, as people decided to settle in more rural areas surrounding Manhattan and commute to work by way of an elevated train.

**39.** Given that all the choices are accurate, which one best completes the contrast set up in the first part of the sentence?

A. NO CHANGE

B. with regard to time.

C. in Manhattan.

D. to an hour or less.

During its<sup>40</sup> golden age, the elevated train system carried millions of people. However, it was not without its flaws. Though the system allowed people to travel quickly through Manhattan—an island with an area of approximately 23 square miles<sup>41</sup> the trains were loud and deposited debris on the streets, buildings, and passersby beneath the tracks.

**40. F. NO CHANGE**

G. it's

H. their

J. its'

**41. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. miles;**
- C. miles—**
- D. miles,**

Difficult to operate in the snow and ice, the elevated train<sup>42</sup> was hazardous and unreliable during New York City's cold winters.

**42. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. riding an elevated train**
- H. elevated train transit as a whole**
- J. an elevated train ride**

By the turn of the twentieth century, an electric underground subway system had risen in popularity, and it was overtaken<sup>43</sup> by the elevated train as the city's most convenient form of transit.

**43. A. NO CHANGE**

- B. overtaken by**
- C. overtaken for use by**
- D. overtaking**

As the subway did not construct<sup>44</sup> debris and was not affected by weather, it gradually replaced many of the elevated trains in Manhattan. However, elevated trains continue their legacy today in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx.

**44. F. NO CHANGE**

- G. manufacture**
- H. build**
- J. produce**

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 45.** Suppose the writer’s primary purpose had been to provide an in-depth comparison of steam-powered elevated trains and electric subway cars that ran in Manhattan in the 1800s. Would this essay accomplish this purpose?
- A.** Yes, because the essay discusses the utility, design, and price of both types of trains in Manhattan.
  - B.** Yes, because the essay shows how electric subway cars were cleaner and less affected by winter weather than elevated trains were.
  - C.** No, because although the essay provides information about electric subway cars, it centers on the development and operation of steam-powered elevated trains in Manhattan.
  - D.** No, because the essay centers on the ways in which electric subway cars caused elevated trains to decline in popularity in Manhattan.

## **PASSAGE IV**

### **Communicating with Chimps**

[1] It enables us to watch movies, follow breaking news on television, and learn new concepts remotely. [2] In academia, actions recorded on video can be used as data to inform the work of animal behaviorists. [3] Video recording technology is often used to capture and preserve important actions. 46

- 46.** Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
- F.** NO CHANGE
  - G.** 3, 2, 1
  - H.** 3, 1, 2
  - J.** 1, 3, 2

One of the main forms of communication used by chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists is<sup>47</sup> visual communication. This type of communication is difficult to study.

**47. A. NO CHANGE**

- B.** chimpanzees according to animal behaviorists, is
- C.** chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists is,
- D.** chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists, is

Technology-averse scientists essentially process<sup>48</sup> data from direct observation, causing them to rely only on their memories to form conclusions.

**48. F. NO CHANGE**

- G.** scientists, essentially processing
- H.** scientists who are essentially processing
- J.** scientists, who essentially process

Video technology enables scientists to take a detour around<sup>49</sup> sole reliance on memory, allowing them to re-watch videos containing visual gestures as many times as necessary.

**49. A. NO CHANGE**

- B.** bypass
- C.** work their way around
- D.** cut

Regardless,<sup>50</sup> video technology is useful to the study of visual communication.

**50. F. NO CHANGE**

- G.** Likewise,
- H.** Therefore,

**J.** However,

Raphaela Heesen and a team of animal behaviorists recently analyzed videos of chimpanzees and made a groundbreaking discovery about<sub>51</sub> chimpanzee communication. Heesen's team traveled to the Budongo Forest Reserve in Uganda to study chimpanzees in their natural habitat. They recorded thousands of instances of gestures being used by wild chimpanzees. Video technology enabled the team to watch the gestures repeatedly, scrutinizing them in the greatest detail possible. As a result, the scientists were able to begin sketching out<sub>52</sub> connections among a number of instances.

# Answers and Explanation

# ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST 1 EXPLANATIONS

## Passage I

### 1. B

Punctuation is changing in the answer choices, but some of these punctuation marks are commas that change around a phrase, so the question is testing comma rules. The phrase *Rudd Weatherwax* is unnecessary information, since *the dog's trainer* refers only to *Weatherwax*, so it needs a comma before and after. Eliminate (A) and (C) because each uses a semicolon, not a comma, after *Weatherwax*. Both (B) and (D) feature a comma in the correct place, so consider the meaning of the words in each choice. Keep (B) because it makes the sentence complete: *While Pal's talent landed him many projects...the significant care and instruction provided by the dog's trainer, Rudd Weatherwax, warrant recognition*. Eliminate (D) because the addition of *who* makes the sentence incomplete. The answer correct is (B).

### 2. H

Note the question! The question asks whether the sentence should be added, so it's testing consistency. If the content of the new sentence is consistent with the ideas surrounding it, then it should be added. The paragraph introduces *Pal* and his trainer, *Rudd Weatherwax*, and the passage is about their relationship. The new sentence discusses *Fred Wilcox*, who is a secondary figure. This statement is not consistent with the ideas in the text; the sentence should not be added. Eliminate (F) and (G). Keep (H) because it states that the new sentence *distracts from the paragraph's goal*. Eliminate (J) because the text only discusses one dog that has *starred in movies*. The correct answer is (H).

3. **A**

Punctuation is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing Stop and Go punctuation. Use the Vertical Line Test, and identify the ideas as complete or incomplete. Draw the vertical line between the words *regularly* and *guiding*. The phrase *Weatherwax trained the dog regularly* is a complete idea, and the phrase *guiding him through basic obedience, a training program often used for dogs* is an incomplete idea. To connect a complete idea to an incomplete idea, Half-Stop or Go punctuation is needed. The comma is Go punctuation, so keep (A). The semicolon is Stop punctuation, so eliminate (B). The period is Stop punctuation, so eliminate (C). The comma is Go punctuation, but adding the word *he* before *guided* makes the second part of the sentence complete. A comma cannot connect two complete ideas, so eliminate (D). The correct answer is (A).

4. **H**

Verbs are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency of verbs. The answer choices are in different forms, so look for a clue in the sentence to identify the appropriate verb form. The underlined verb is part of a list, in which the other two items have verbs that end in *-ing*: *sitting* and *staying*. All verbs in a list must be in the same form to be consistent, so the underlined verb must also have the suffix *-ing*. Eliminate (F), (G), and (J) because they are not consistent with the other verbs. Keep (H) because *walking* correctly includes the suffix *-ing*. The correct answer is (H).

5. **B**

Note the question! The question asks whether the phrase should be added, so it's testing consistency. If the content of the new phrase is consistent with the ideas surrounding it, then it should be added. The

sentence that would contain the new phrase says that Weatherwax *wanted to ensure that Pal would behave calmly on a bustling movie set*. The new phrase discusses things that might be found on a *bustling movie set*, so is consistent with the ideas in the text; the sentence should be added. Eliminate (C) and (D). Eliminate (A) because the new phrase does not discuss *Weatherwax's training program for Pal*. Keep (B) because the new phrase does specify *challenges Pal could face on the movie set*. The correct answer is (B).

6. F

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. Commas are changing around the word *compassion*, so check to see whether the word is necessary. *Weatherwax's unfailing compassion* is the subject of the sentence, so *compassion* is necessary. Therefore, it should not be surrounded by commas. Eliminate (J) because it surrounds *compassion* with commas. Keep (F) because it does not use commas around *compassion*. There is no reason to use a comma after *unfailing*, so eliminate (G). Likewise, there is no reason to use a comma after *compassion*, so eliminate (H). The correct answer is (F).

7. C

Transitions are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency with transitions. Look at the previous sentence to determine how the two ideas are related. The previous sentence describes one action that Weatherwax would take to give Pal a safe working environment, and this sentence explains another such action. These two ideas agree, so eliminate (D), which uses an opposite-direction transition. Eliminate (A) because it suggests that the second sentence states an example of an idea in the first sentence. Eliminate (B) because it implies that the second sentence states a conclusion that follows from an idea in the first sentence. Keep (C) because it

preserves the idea that the two sentences are both examples of actions taken by Weatherwax. No transition is needed. The correct answer is (C).

8. **G**

Vocabulary is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing word choice. Determine what meaning of the underlined portion would be consistent with the sentence and would make the sentence complete. The underlined portion must describe *Weatherwax* while he was *off camera*. Eliminate (F) and (H) because *observantly* is an adverb. An adverb describes a verb, not a noun. Since there is no verb for the adverb to describe, both choices make the sentence incomplete. Keep (G) because *observant of* describes Weatherwax's state while he was *off camera*. Eliminate (J) because *observation* does not describe a person. The correct answer is (G).

9. **D**

The phrase after *dangers* is changing in the answer choices, so the question could be testing concision. There is also the option to DELETE; consider this choice carefully as it's often the correct answer. First determine whether the underlined phrase is necessary. The sentence already states that the SPCA *observed Pal perform stunts* and *watched for any dangers*. There is no need to repeat the idea that the organization was looking out for *visible* indications of danger, so eliminate (A) and (B). Likewise, there is no need to repeat the idea that the organization was *observing him perform*, so eliminate (C). The correct answer is (D).

10. **H**

Pronouns are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing clarity with pronouns. First determine who or what the

pronoun refers to. The subject of the sentence is *People*, and the pronoun refers to this subject. The phrase *of which* does not work because *which* cannot be used to refer to people, so eliminate (F). Since the underlined pronoun must provide a subject for the verb *saw*, a subject pronoun is needed. Eliminate (G) and (J) because each uses the object pronoun *whom*. Keep (H) because it uses the subject pronoun *who*. The correct answer is (H).

11. C

Note the question! The question asks for *the best place to begin the new paragraph*, so it's testing consistency. Paragraphs should contain information related to one main idea, so look for the main ideas in the existing paragraph. The first part of the paragraph discusses Weatherwax's training program before Pal worked on set, and the second part of the paragraph discusses Pal's work on set. Therefore, the new paragraph should be started with the first sentence that discusses Pal's work on set. Eliminate (A) because it would start the new paragraph too early (while the text still discusses Weatherwax's training program). Choice (B) is tricky because the sentence that follows point B says that Weatherwax *wanted to ensure that Pal would behave calmly on a bustling movie set*. This sentence only discusses Weatherwax's ambitions, not Pal's actions on set. It is still discussing Pal's *training*. Therefore, it should not be part of the new paragraph. Eliminate (B). Keep (C) because the sentence that follows point C is the first that discusses Pal's actions on set. Eliminate (D) because it would begin the new paragraph too late. The correct answer is (C).

12. G

Note the question! The question asks which alternative *to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable*. Cross off the word *NOT* and label each answer with a checkmark or an X. Notice that

each choice contains a transition, so the question is testing consistency with transitions. Look at the previous sentence to determine how the two ideas are related. The previous sentence states a fact, and this sentence gives an example supporting that fact. Therefore, an acceptable transition must indicate that this sentence is an example. Give a checkmark to (F), (H), and (J) because each of these indicates that the information that follows is an example. Give (G) an X because it is the only transition that does not indicate an example (*therefore* implies a conclusion), so it is not an acceptable alternative. The correct answer is (G).

13. **D**

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. The phrase *Carol Riggins* is unnecessary information. *Carol Riggins* is the only indicated *employee* who carried on Weatherwax's *animal training work*, and the sentence would still make sense without her name, so the name is unnecessary information. *Carol Riggins* needs a comma before and after. Eliminate (A) because it lacks a comma after the phrase. Eliminate (B) because it lacks a comma before the phrase and uses an unnecessary comma after *but*. When dealing with two phrases with the same meaning, the second should be set off in commas, not the first. Eliminate (C) because it surrounds *his employee*, not *Carol Riggins* with commas. Keep (D) because it surrounds *Carol Riggins* with commas. The answer correct is (D).

14. **G**

Verbs are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency of verbs. The answer choices are in different tenses, so look for a clue in the sentence or surrounding sentences to identify the appropriate tense. The underlined verb is part of a list of two items that describes Pal's expression in a picture. Both or all items in a list

must be consistent. The first item is *his paw resting*, so the underlined portion must also use a present tense verb with the suffix *-ing*.

Eliminate (F) because *gazed* is past tense. Keep (G) because *gazing* is present tense and has the suffix *-ing*. Eliminate (H) because *would gaze* is not consistent with *resting*. Eliminate (J) because *gaze*, though present tense, doesn't include the suffix *-ing*. The correct answer is (G).

15. **D**

Note the question! The question asks which option reinforces *the essay's main point*. The essay discusses the strong bond between *Pal* and *Weatherwax*. Check each answer choice to see whether it has to do with this strong bond. Eliminate (A) because, though it mentions *a loving relationship between dog and man*, it does not mention *Pal* or *Weatherwax* by name and is therefore too vague. Eliminate (B) because it does not mention the bond between *Pal* and *Weatherwax*. Eliminate (C) because it refers to *Pal* but does not mention his bond with *Weatherwax*. Keep (D) because it mentions *the deep connection between Pal and Rudd Weatherwax*. The correct answer is (D).

## Passage II

16. **F**

Note the question! The question asks whether a portion of the sentence should be revised, so it's testing consistency. If the content of the revision is consistent with the ideas surrounding it and more precise than the underlined information, then it should be added. The sentence says that *Anning's samples...represent many interesting species*. The proposed revision indicates that *Anning's samples represent at least three previously undiscovered species*. Since the revision is consistent with the sentence but more clear and specific than the underlined phrase (it mentions a specific fact), it should replace the underlined phrase. Eliminate choices (H) and (J). Keep (F)

because it states that the proposed revision provides a *specific detail* about *Anning's discoveries*. Eliminate (G) because the proposed revision does not explain *why there are so many fossils in Lyme Regis*. The correct answer is (F).

17. **B**

Vocabulary is changing in the answers, so the question is testing word choice. Determine what meaning of the underlined portion would be consistent with the sentence. The underlined portion should mean something like “submerged.” *Obscured* means “hidden,” which doesn’t match “submerged” in context. The sentence implies that the area was underwater but not necessarily that it was hidden. Eliminate (A). Keep (B) because *covered by water* means “submerged.” Eliminate (C) because *buried* means “underground,” not underwater. Eliminate (D) because *shrouded* means “hidden,” which does not match “submerged.” The correct answer is (B).

18. **J**

Verb forms are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing sentence structure. Identify the subject and verb of the part of the sentence after the word *as*, which needs to be a complete idea. The subject of that part of the sentence is *shale and limestone fragments*, and the verb is *settled*. There is a comma before the verb, so if there is a comma separating a subject and verb, there must be a second comma around the unnecessary phrase in between. Therefore, the answer must include a comma to go before the phrase. Eliminate (F) and (G) because they do not include a comma. Choice (H) has a verb in a form that could make it the main verb. Since *settled* is the main verb, (H) does not work. Eliminate (H). Choice (J) uses an *-ing* verb, which cannot be the main verb but can start an unnecessary phrase, which is exactly what appears in this sentence. The correct answer is (J).

19. **B**

The wording of the phrase and pronouns change in the answer choices, so the question is testing pronoun case and number. A pronoun must be consistent in number with the noun it is replacing. The underlined portion refers to the noun *cliffs*, which is plural. To be consistent, the pronoun referring to the cliffs must also be plural. Eliminate (D) because *it* is singular. To choose between the remaining choices, consider pronoun case. *We* is a subject pronoun, and *us* is an object pronoun. Eliminate (A) because *us see* incorrectly uses the object pronoun *us* as the subject of the verb. Keep (B) because *we see them* is correct. Eliminate (C) because *seen by we* incorrectly uses the subject pronoun *we* as an object of the preposition *by*. The correct answer is (B).

20. **F**

Punctuation is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing Stop and Go punctuation. Use the Vertical Line Test, and identify the ideas as complete or incomplete. Because the sentence contains the FANBOYS word *and*, draw two lines around the word *and* and consider the parts of the sentence before and after it. The phrase *Fossils are remains of ancient life* is a complete idea, and the phrase *can contain organic remains or records of organisms' activities* is an incomplete idea. To connect a complete idea to an incomplete idea, Half-Stop or Go punctuation is needed. No punctuation is Go, so keep (F). A comma with FANBOYS is Stop punctuation, so eliminate (G). A semicolon is Stop punctuation, so eliminate (H). A period is Stop punctuation, so eliminate (J). The correct answer is (F).

21. **D**

The length of the phrase is changing in the answer choices, so the question could be testing concision. First determine what parts of the

phrase are necessary. The sentence already states that *calcite* does something *during the creation of a fossil* so there is no need to repeat that idea. Eliminate (A) because *that creates fossils* is redundant. There is no need to say *slowly* and *over a long time*, since both indicate that calcite hardens slowly. Eliminate (B) and (C) because both are redundant. Choice (D) is the most concise. The correct answer is (D).

22. H

The order of the words is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency with a modifier. The non-underlined portion says *rough handling due to their fragility, paleontologists must use extreme care and precise tools when working with the remains*. The phrase before the comma modifies the subject of the phrase that comes after the comma. So, the modifying phrase must relate to *paleontologists*. The *paleontologists* are *not tolerating rough handling*, the fossils are. Eliminate (F), (G), and (H) because none of these mentions fossils, and each suggests that the *paleontologists* are tolerant of *rough handling*. Choice (H) correctly states that *fossils* are not tolerant of *rough handling*. The correct answer is (H).

23. C

Verbs are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency of verbs. A verb must be consistent in number with its subject. The subject of the sentence is *paleontologists and geobiologists*, which is plural. The verb must be plural to be consistent. Eliminate (A) because *has used* is singular. Eliminate (B) because *uses* is singular. Keep (C) because *use* is plural. Eliminate (D) because *is using* is singular. The correct answer is (C).

24. G

Verbs are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency of verbs. A verb must be consistent in number with its subject. The subject of the sentence is *one*; *of these tools* is a prepositional phrase and cannot contain the subject. Because *one* is singular, the verb must also be singular. Eliminate (F) because *provide* is plural. Keep (G) because *provides* is singular. Eliminate (H) because *have provided* is plural. Eliminate (J) because *are providing* is plural. The correct answer is (G).

25. **D**

The wording of the phrase is changing in the answers, so the question is testing word choice. Determine which choice would be consistent in meaning and tone with the sentence. The sentence says that *information* helps to determine *whether a fossil is from an extinct or existing species*. All of the choices have the same meaning in context, so consider the tone. The passage is academic and formal in tone. Both *really good* and *works pretty well* are too informal to match the tone of the passage. Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). The phrase *especially helpful* is consistent with the academic tone of the passage, so keep (D). The correct answer is (D).

26. **H**

Pronouns and nouns are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing clarity with pronouns. Determine who or what the pronoun refers to, and choose an answer that makes the meaning 100% clear. The subject of *were actually from extinct species* pertains to the fossils collected by Anning, so the underlined pronoun should make this meaning clear. The pronoun *some* does not make this meaning clear; eliminate (F). *Fossils* provides a specific noun, rather than a pronoun, but the sentence discusses Anning's fossils, specifically, not all fossils. Eliminate (G). Keep (H) because the

sentence discusses *Anning's fossils*. The pronoun *they* does not clearly refer back to one noun; eliminate (J). The correct answer is (H).

27. C

Note the question! The question asks which option *draws the most specific contrast between the assumed age of Anning's fossils and the actual age of the fossils she uncovered*. Check each answer choice to see what each indicates about the age of fossils. The sentence says that *many people thought that Anning's fossils were created by modern engineering*, so look for the choice that will provide the greatest contrast in age to the present. There is also the option to DELETE; consider this choice carefully as it's often the correct answer. Eliminating the phrase indicates that the organisms lived *years ago*. This could provide a contrast with *modern*, so keep (D) but check the other options. Eliminate (A) and (B) because *only a few years ago* and *not that many years ago* do not strongly contrast *modern*. Keep (C) because *millions of years ago* strongly contrasts with *modern*. The question asks for the *most specific contrast*, so eliminate (D) because *years ago* is not as specific as *millions of years ago*. The correct answer is (C).

28. F

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. The phrase *Georges Cuvier* is necessary information (without this phrase, we would not know which *anatomist* is being discussed), so there should be no punctuation around the phrase. Keep (F) because it does not surround the phrase with punctuation. Eliminate (G) because it surrounds the phrase with commas. Eliminate (H) and (J) because there is no reason to use a comma after *anatomist* or *Cuvier*. The correct answer is (F).

29. B

Note the question! The question asks where the new sentence should be placed, so it's testing consistency. Look for a clue in the sentence to determine what idea it needs to come before or after. The new sentence discusses how *fossils are made*. Only Paragraph 2 discusses the creation of fossils, and the sentence after point B discusses the *creation of a fossil*. Therefore, the new sentence should be placed at point B in Paragraph 2. The correct answer is (B).

30. J

Note the question! The question asks whether the essay provides *a short account of the life of an important paleontologist*. Consider the main idea of the passage and use Process of Elimination. The passage is about the contribution of one scientist to the field of paleontology; it is not about the life of a paleontologist. Eliminate (F) and (G). Eliminate (H) because the purpose of the passage is not to discuss *other paleontologists*. Keep (J) because it is true that the passage *centers on how a few fossil discoveries altered a long-established scientific viewpoint*. The correct answer is (J).

### Passage III

31. A

Connecting words are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency. The part before the underlined portion contains the word *between*. The correct idiom is *between...and*. Eliminate (B) and (D) because they do not contain the word *and*. Choice (C) adds the word *also*, which is not necessary because the sentence already uses the word *and*. Eliminate (C). The correct answer is (A).

32. J

Vocabulary is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing word choice. There is also the option to DELETE; consider

this choice carefully as it's often the correct answer. Choice (F) is redundant because the sentence already used the word *Manhattan's* to describe the train. Eliminate (F). Choice (G) is redundant because the train was already described as the *first successful mass transit train*, so eliminate (G). Choice (H) is redundant because the sentence previously stated that the events occurred in *1871*, so eliminate (H). The correct answer is (J).

33. **B**

Note the question! The question asks which option *most strongly reinforces the information in the rest of the sentence*. First identify the information in the rest of the sentence: it states that the train *ran on a raised platform above the street*. The correct answer must reinforce this idea. Check each answer choice. Eliminate (A) because nothing from the second part of the sentence implies *irony*. Keep (B) because *elevated train* matches with *raised platform above the street*. Eliminate (C) because *journalists* are not consistent with the content of the rest of the sentence. Eliminate (D) because *during that time* doesn't reinforce the fact that the train was *raised*. The correct answer is (B).

34. **H**

Note the question! The question asks which option *best introduces the topic of the paragraph*. First read the paragraph to determine its topic: the paragraph mentions two train lines and then states that *Transit lines in Manhattan extended through many neighborhoods and provided a great amount of mobility*. Check each answer choice to see whether it introduces the idea of the trains becoming common throughout the city. Eliminate (F) and (G) because the availability of trains *now* is not relevant to the paragraph's focus on trains in the 1870s. Keep (H) because *by the end of the decade* is consistent with *1878*, and *elevated trains ran throughout Manhattan* is consistent with

the paragraph's main idea. Eliminate (J) because it doesn't mention the trains. The correct answer is (H).

35. **B**

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. Some options have a comma + FANBOYS, so use the Vertical Line Test. Draw lines before and after the FANBOYS word *but*. The phrase *Transit lines in Manhattan extended through many of the downtown* is an incomplete idea (because there must be a plural noun that *many* refers to), and *some of the uptown neighborhoods* is also an incomplete idea. Therefore, a comma + FANBOYS cannot be used because it is Stop punctuation, which only links two complete ideas. Eliminate (A) and (D). Choice (C) places a comma after *and*, but there is no reason to put a comma there, so eliminate (C). The correct answer is (B).

36. **F**

Connecting words are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency. The word that goes along with *unparalleled* is changing in the answers. The correct idiom is *unparalleled in*. Eliminate (G), (H), and (J) because they do not contain the word *in*. The correct answer is (F).

37. **D**

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. Consider whether there is a reason to use a comma. The sentence uses the word *to* to connect *suburban communities* to *workplaces in Manhattan*. The *communities* are not *in Manhattan* because they are *suburban*, so the phrase *in Manhattan* applies only to the *workplaces*. This means that *workplaces in Manhattan* is a phrase that should not have a comma in it. Eliminate (A) and (B) because

they each put a comma within that phrase. Choice (C) places a comma before *to*. There is no reason to put a comma in that spot, so eliminate (C). The correct answer is (D).

38. G

Punctuation is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing Stop, Half-Stop, and Go punctuation. Use the Vertical Line Test, and identify the ideas as complete or incomplete. Draw the vertical line between the words *day* and *by*. The phrase *For instance, the trip from Yonkers, just north of Manhattan, to the New York Stock Exchange took most of the day* is a complete idea, and the phrase *by horse-drawn carriage elevated trains reduced the length of the trip* could be a complete idea. However, while these are grammatically complete, the second part of the sentence does not make logical sense. *Elevated trains* did not run *by horse-drawn carriage*. This means that the sentence should not be separated into two parts between *day* and *by*. Eliminate (F) and (H) because they put punctuation between those ideas. Next consider (G), which has Stop punctuation between *carriage* and *elevated*. Draw a vertical line there: the first part of the sentence is complete, and so is the second part. This means that the semicolon is correct, so keep (G). Choice (J) puts a comma alone between two complete ideas, which isn't allowed, so eliminate (J). The correct answer is (G).

39. D

Note the question! The question asks which option *best completes the contrast set up in the first part of the sentence*. First look at the beginning of the sentence to find the contrast. The first part of the sentence states that *the trip from Yonkers...to the New York Stock Exchange took most of the day by horse-drawn carriage*. The second part of the sentence states that *elevated trains reduced the length of the trip*. Check each answer choice to see whether it correctly

contrasts with the fact that *the trip...took most of the day by horse-drawn carriage*. Choice (A) indicates a *noticeably* shorter trip by elevated train, so keep it. Choice (B) also indicates a shorter trip *with regard to time*, so keep (B). Choice (C) does not mention the length of the trip, so eliminate it. Choice (D) specifies that the trip was shortened *to an hour or less*. While (A) and (B) have some support, (D) provides the best contrast with the first part of the sentence by comparing the specific amount of time to the duration mentioned previously. Eliminate (A) and (B). The correct answer is (D).

40. F

Pronouns are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency of pronouns. A pronoun must be consistent in number with the noun it is replacing. The pronoun refers to the noun *the elevated train system*, which is singular. To be consistent, the pronoun in the answer choice must also be singular. Eliminate (H) because *their* is plural. Next, apostrophes are changing in the answer choices, so the question is also testing apostrophe usage. When used with a pronoun, the apostrophe indicates a contraction, in this case “it is.” In this sentence, *it* refers to *the elevated train system* and is possessing the *golden age*. Therefore, the apostrophe is not needed. Eliminate (G) and (J) because they both contain apostrophes. The correct answer is (F).

41. C

Punctuation is changing in the answer choices, so the question seems to be testing Stop, Half-Stop, and Go punctuation. However, notice that the sentence contains a dash after the word *Manhattan*. The phrase that follows (*an island with an area of approximately 23 square miles*) is unnecessary information that must be set off with commas, dashes, or parentheses. Since the phrase has a dash before it, it must have another dash after it. Eliminate (A), (B), and (D) because

they lack the dash after the unnecessary phrase. The correct answer is (C).

42. **F**

The precise subject of the sentence is changing in the answer choices, and the subject follows a modifying phrase, so the question is testing consistency with a modifier. The phrase before the underlined portion is *Difficult to operate in the snow and ice*. Consider who or what this phrase describes, and check the answer choices. *The elevated train* could be *difficult to operate*, so keep (F). *Riding an elevated train* can't be *difficult to operate*, so eliminate (G). *Elevated train transit as a whole* can't be *difficult to operate in the snow and ice*—it's the trains specifically that were *difficult to operate*. Eliminate (H). *An elevated train ride* can't be *difficult to operate*, so eliminate (J). The correct answer is (F).

43. **D**

Verbs change in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency with verbs. Consider the difference between *overtaken* and *overtaking*. To overtake means to surpass or move ahead of. The sentence indicates that the *electric underground subway system had risen in popularity*, so the logical conclusion is that the underground subway system “overtook” the elevated train as *the city's most convenient form of transit*. This is confirmed in the next sentence, which states that the subway *replaced many of the elevated trains*. Answer choices (A), (B), and (C) all suggest the reverse: if the subway was *overtaken by* the elevated trains, then the elevated trains would be the most popular, but this contradicts the meaning of the sentence. Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). Choice (D) correctly states that the subway overtook the elevated trains. The correct answer is (D).

44. **J**

Vocabulary is changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing word choice. Determine what meaning of the underlined portion would be consistent with the rest of the sentence. The underlined portion should mean something like “give off” because earlier in the paragraph it states that the elevated train *deposited debris on the streets*. Eliminate (F), (G), and (H) because *construct*, *manufacture*, and *build* all mean “assemble,” and *debris* is not assembled. While *produce* can mean something like “assemble,” it can also mean “give off,” so it is consistent with the meaning of the rest of the sentence. The correct answer is (J).

45. C

Note the question! The question asks whether the essay provides *an in-depth comparison of steam-powered elevated trains and electric subway cars that ran in Manhattan in the 1800s*. Consider the main idea of the passage and use Process of Elimination. The passage is about the rise of elevated trains and how they revolutionized transportation in Manhattan. Near the end, the author mentions the drawbacks of elevated trains and how they were eventually largely *replaced* by the subway in Manhattan. Eliminate (A) and (B) because the author only briefly mentions *electric subway cars* at the end of the passage, and its focus is on the *elevated trains*. Keep (C) because it is true that the essay *provides information about electric subway cars* but *centers on the steam-powered elevated trains*. Eliminate (D) because the *decline of elevated trains* is not the main focus of the passage. The correct answer is (C).

## Passage IV

46. H

Note the question! The question asks which sequence of sentences makes the paragraph logical. Look for a clue in one sentence to determine what idea that sentence needs to come before or after.

Sentence 1 begins with the pronoun *It*, so the pronoun must have a clear reference noun in another sentence. The reference noun must *enable us to* do the things in the rest of the sentence. *Video recording technology* enables us to do the things in the list from Sentence 1. Therefore, Sentence 1 must follow Sentence 3. Eliminate (F), (G), and (J) because none of these has Sentence 3 followed by Sentence 1. The correct answer is (H).

47. **D**

Commas are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing comma rules. The phrase *according to animal behaviorists* is unnecessary information, so it needs a comma before and after. Eliminate (A) because it lacks a comma after the phrase, and eliminate (B) because it lacks a comma before the phrase. There is no need for a comma after *is*; eliminate (C). The correct answer is (D).

48. **F**

The wording of a phrase is changing in the answer choices, and some of the choices contain a comma, so the question is testing sentence structure. Locate the subject and verb of the sentence. The part after the comma is incomplete, so the first part must be complete. The subject is *scientists*, and there is no verb, so the underlined portion must contain the verb. Keep (F) because it contains a verb: *process*. Eliminate (G) because an *-ing* verb like *processing* cannot be the main verb in a sentence. Eliminate (H) and (J) because each choice also turns the underlined portion into a phrase that modifies the subject, leading to an incomplete sentence without a verb in each case. The correct answer is (F).

49. **B**

Vocabulary is changing in the answers, so the question is testing word choice. Determine what meaning of the underlined portion would be consistent with the sentence. The underlined portion should mean something like “avoid” and should convey that *scientists avoid sole reliance on memory*. Eliminate (D) because *cut* does not match “avoid” in context. The remaining choices can match “avoid,” so pick the one that is most concise. *Bypass* is the most concise option, and it preserves the meaning of the sentence. Keep (B) and eliminate (A) and (C) because they are overly wordy. The correct answer is (B).

50. H

Transitions are changing in the answer choices, so the question is testing consistency with transitions. Look at the previous sentence to determine how the two ideas are related. The previous sentence describes a benefit of *video recording technology*, and this sentence states that the technology is *useful*, which is a conclusion based on the previous information. The two ideas agree, so a same-direction transition is needed. Eliminate (F) and (J) because *Regardless* and *However* are opposite-direction transitions. Eliminate (G) because *Likewise* indicates two distinct things that have something in common; it does not suggest that the second idea is a conclusion drawn from the first. Keep (H) because *Therefore* indicates that the second idea is a conclusion that follows from the first. The correct answer is (H).