

ENGLISH FULL-LENGTH PRACTICE TESTS 3



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

A Day in the City

When I woke up this morning, I made myself a bowl of cereal and sat, listening₁ to the traffic. Some of my friends ask me how I can stand living somewhere so noisy. It's true that

1. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. cereal and sat while listening
- B. cereal, sat listening
- C. cereal, sat, and listened
- D. cereal before sitting and listening

there's always some kind of noise in my neighborhood—taxi₂ drivers honking their horns, kids playing their radios so loud that the bass makes my teeth vibrate, or people yelling in the street. I know that some people wouldn't like it, but to me, these are the sounds of life.³

2. F. NO CHANGE

- G. neighborhood, taxi
- H. neighborhood; taxi
- J. neighborhood taxi

3. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, the essay would primarily lose:

- A. a contrast to the positive tone of the essay.
- B. an explanation for the narrator's trip to the park.
- C. information that shows the author's attitude toward the place she lives.
- D. nothing at all; this information is not relevant to the essay.

It's₄ Saturday, so this morning I decided to go to the park. The train is the fastest way to go but I took the bus instead.

4. F. NO CHANGE

- G.** Since today it is finally
- H.** Allowing for it being
- J.** The day of the week is

When I ride₅ the bus, you get to see so much more of the city. It can be kind of loud on the bus, with some people talking

5. A. NO CHANGE

- B.** one is riding
- C.** you ride
- D.** they are riding

on their phones, others chatting sociable with₆ their friends, and others playing music. Just like the traffic's sounds, though, the

6. F. NO CHANGE

- G.** sociably, with
- H.** sociable with,
- J.** sociably with

noise on the bus represents people working₇, relaxing, and living.

7. A. NO CHANGE

- B.** people, working;
- C.** people; working
- D.** people, working,

Once I get to the park, I pick a bench over near the play area. The city added the bench so they₈ could play while their

8. F. NO CHANGE

- G.** kids

- H. because they
- J. that it

parents sit nearby, obviously₉ I like to sit there because there's a great big oak tree for shade. I can see and hear almost

9. A. NO CHANGE

- B. nearby.
- C. nearby,
- D. nearby, because

everything from there. I sit there watching, and listening₁₀ to the people around me. People-watching is one of my favorite

10. F. NO CHANGE

- G. there, watching, and listening,
- H. there, watching and listening
- J. there watching and listening,

things to do₁₁ I like listening even better. The park is the best place because you get to see and hear everything. The only problem is that there's so much to see and hear!

11. A. NO CHANGE

- B. do, nevertheless,
- C. do, but
- D. do, however

That's why people get so tired₁₂ after a little while. That way, I can pay more attention to the sounds and not get distracted by what I see. With my eyes closed, I can pick out parts of

12. Which choice most effectively introduces the idea discussed in this rest of the paragraph?

F. NO CHANGE

G. I close my eyes

H. the park is interesting

J. some people like quiet

two old men's familiar conversation¹³. One of them is telling the other about something his grandson said. I can't hear the rest, but whatever it was must have been hilarious because his

13. Which choice would emphasize the narrator's curiosity and interest in the old men's conversation in the most logical and effective way?

A. NO CHANGE

B. noisy chatter.

C. animated discussion.

D. entertaining stories.

friends'¹⁴ laugh is so loud, it startles me.

Later that night, after I've ridden the bus back home, I think about those old men. When I'm old, I hope that I too will have a friend who will sit in the park with me, and who will enjoy listening to the sounds of the city as much as I do.

14. **F.** NO CHANGE

G. friends's

H. friends

J. friend's

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 15.** Suppose the writer’s assignment was to write an essay analyzing one reason people might choose to live in a large city. Would this essay fit that description?
- A. Yes, because it discusses the convenience of public transportation.
 - B. Yes, because it explains the narrator’s enjoyment of one of the city’s parks.
 - C. No, because it focuses on one detail of city living that most people dislike.
 - D. No, because it only discusses why the narrator prefers listening to watching.
-

PASSAGE II

The Bridge They Said Couldn’t Be Built

Visible in the fog as well as the sun, the Golden Gate Bridge is a symbol of San Francisco. The bridge was once famous for having the longest suspension span in the world; even today, its suspension span is the second longest in the United States. It is open to cars and pedestrians alike and has only been shut down three times in that₁₆ seventy-year history. The amount of concrete needed to anchor the bridge was

16. F. NO CHANGE

- G. their
- H. its
- J. DELETE the underlined portion.

enough to construct a sidewalk five feet wide,₁₇ all the way from San Francisco to New York City. Since the Golden Gate opened, almost two billion cars have crossed the bridge and it has been featured in countless movies.

17. A. NO CHANGE

- B.** sidewalk five feet wide
- C.** sidewalk—five feet wide
- D.** sidewalk, five feet wide

The fame of the Golden Gate Bridge wasn't always assured. [A] When Joseph Strauss announced his intention of building the bridge, people flocked to support him.¹⁸ A combination of factors made building a bridge in that location difficult: cold, stormy seas below, foggy and damp weather, and winds that regularly reach speeds of 60 miles per hour.

18. Which choice provides the conclusion that relates to the rest of the paragraph in the most logical way?

- F. NO CHANGE**
- G.** many said it was impossible.
- H.** some admired his vision.
- J.** he had already built other bridges.

[B] After two years of discussion, the voters approved a bond:¹⁹ that would raise \$35 million, all dedicated to building the

19. A. NO CHANGE

- B.** bond,
- C.** bond;
- D.** bond

bridge. Even then, there were many skeptics whom²⁰ believed that it couldn't be done.

20. F. NO CHANGE

- G.** that

H. who

J. DELETE the underlined portion.

Strauss, a veteran bridge builder, refused to give up.
Construction began in 1933 and ended in 1937,²¹ and lasted a

21. A. NO CHANGE

B. being completed by 1937,

C. ending four years later

D. DELETE the underlined portion.

little more than four years. On May 28, 1937. The bridge,
arching grandly²² over the water, opened to pedestrians. More
than 200,000 people walked across the bridge that day to
celebrate the grand achievement.²³

[C] By the time it was completed, the bridge had exceeded
everyone's expectations. Not only was it built, it was also ahead
of schedule and under budget. To top it off,

22. F. NO CHANGE

G. 1937; the bridge arching grandly

H. 1937, the bridge, arching grandly

J. 1937, the bridge, arching grandly,

23. A. NO CHANGE

B. an achievement that was extremely impressive because it
symbolized a significant victory over difficult circumstances.

C. the successful completion of a project that was amazing both
because of the obstacles that had been overcome and because of
the magnitude of the product that was the result of the project.

D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

it was beautiful. Nevertheless,²⁴ the Golden Gate Bridge is
considered an artistic masterpiece, recognizable all around the

world. At its highest point, the bridge rises 746 feet into the air
—²⁵191 feet taller than the Washington Monument.

24. F. NO CHANGE

- G. At the time,
- H. Regardless,
- J. Even today,

25. A. NO CHANGE

- B. air;
- C. air
- D. air, rising

The name “Golden Gate” refers not to the color of the bridge, which is actually orange, but to the stretch of water below, where the San Francisco Bay connects to the Pacific Ocean. [D] The color, called “International Orange,” was chosen partly because it matched the natural surroundings²⁶ and

26. F. NO CHANGE

- G. nature surrounding
- H. nature surrounded
- J. natural surrounds

partly because it would allow the bridge to remain visible on foggy days.²⁷

27. The writer is considering deleting the phrase “on foggy days” from the preceding sentence in order to make the paragraph more concise. If the writer were to make this deletion, the sentence would primarily lose information that:

- A. explains why the color of the bridge is referred to as “International Orange.”

- B.** demonstrates the ways in which the bridge's color matches the environment.
- C.** reveals the danger that the bridge can cause for some ships during bad weather, regardless of color.
- D.** adds a detail that provides a specific situation in which the bridge's visibility is particularly important.

Today, the bridge is divided into six lanes for cars, plus pedestrian lanes for people and bicycles. On sunny days, crowds of people flock to the bridge to enjoy the view. Rising out of the sea like a vision from a dream, the Golden Gate Bridge captures the imagination today, just as it did when

Strauss first envisioned it.²⁸

28. The writer is considering adding a sentence that demonstrates the wide variety of the bridge's uses today. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most clearly and effectively accomplish the writer's goal?

- F.** On weekdays, during the busiest times of day, the direction of certain lanes changes to accommodate rush hour commuters.
- G.** The weather in San Francisco is often foggy, but when the sky is clear, the bright orange of the bridge stands out against its surroundings.
- H.** The bridge is 1.7 miles long, so some people walk across in one direction but hire a taxi or take the bus to return.
- J.** People use it to commute to work, to go on day trips to Marin or San Francisco, and even just to enjoy the beauty of the bridge itself.

Question 29 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

29. Upon reviewing the essay, the writer realizes that some information has been omitted. The writer wants to incorporate that information

and composes the following sentence:

The local community began to consider building a bridge to connect the San Francisco peninsula in 1928.

If the writer were to add this sentence to the essay, the most logical place to insert it would be at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 2.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 3.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 5.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 6.

PASSAGE III

Father of a Language

The Italian language wasn't always the single, unified,³⁰ language that it is today. In fact, during the Middle Ages, Italy wasn't a unified country. Even today, though Italy is politically unified, each region speaks its own dialect. In some regions, such as Tuscany, the dialect is virtually identical to the "official" Italian language. In other regions, such as Venice, however, the language is still distinct in many ways.

30. F. NO CHANGE

- G. single yet unified,
- H. single, and unified,
- J. single, unified

Dante Alighieri, more commonly known simply as Dante, is sometimes called the "father of the Italian language." He was born in Florence during the thirteenth century³¹ and was a prolific writer. In approximately 1305, he published an essay

entitled “De Vulgari Eloquentia,” or “In Defense of the Vernacular.” About three years later, Dante began work on his masterpiece: *The Divine Comedy*. Today he is considered one

- 31.** The writer is considering removing the underlined phrase. The primary effect of the deletion would be the loss of a detail that:
- A. provides context that may be helpful in understanding the passage.
 - B. creates confusion regarding the writer’s point in this paragraph.
 - C. interrupts the flow of the passage without adding any new information.
 - D. provides a grammatically necessary connection.

of the greatest writers of the Western world. 32 During his

- 32.** The writer is considering adding the following phrase to the end of the preceding sentence (changing the period after “world” to a comma)

alongside other recognized greats such as Homer, Shakespeare, and Sophocles.

Should the writer make this addition?

- F. Yes, because it provides necessary context for the sentence’s previous statement.
- G. Yes, because it explains the important role the creation of Italian played in Western literature.
- H. No, because it adds details that distract from the primary point of the sentence.
- J. No, the list of important writers does not include all important writers in the Western tradition.

life, however, his work was more controversial. Some₃₃ of the main reasons for this was his decision not to write in Latin, but

in “Italian.”

33. A. NO CHANGE

- B. One**
- C. Few**
- D. Each**

At that time, high literature was written not in the various local languages and₃₄ in Latin. Dante believed that literature

34. F. NO CHANGE

- G. for**
- H. as**
- J. but**

should be available not only to the educated elite who had education₃₅ but also to the common people. In order to make

35. A. NO CHANGE

- B. who had been taught**
- C. with a school background**
- D. DELETE the underlined portion.**

this dream possible, Dante “created” a new language as he called₃₆ “Italian.” This new language wasn’t really new at all; it consisted of bits and pieces from the different languages already spoken throughout Italy, and drew most heavily on Dante’s native Tuscan dialect. Dante’s creation laid the foundation for the unified language to be spoken₃₇ in Italy today.

36. F. NO CHANGE

- G. and called**
- H. that he called**

J. calling

37. A. NO CHANGE

B. spoken

C. if spoken

D. to speak

The Divine Comedy is, in some ways, the beginning of national Italian literature. By writing it in the language spoken by the Italian people;³⁸ Dante made *The Divine Comedy*

38. F. NO CHANGE

G. people,

H. people.

J. people:

available to the people. Dante for his opinion that literature to anyone should be accessible drew criticism.³⁹ However, the

39. A. NO CHANGE

B. Dante should be accessible for his opinion that literature to anyone drew criticism.

C. Dante drew criticism for his opinion that literature should be accessible to anyone.

D. Dante drew criticism to anyone for his opinion that literature should be accessible.

movement that Dante helped begin led to diminished⁴⁰ literacy among the Italian people, which, in turn, eventually led to the Renaissance.

40. The writer wants to imply that prior to Dante's development of "Italian," illiteracy was common. Which choice best accomplishes that goal?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. an increase in
- H. a passion for
- J. compulsory

The title of *The Divine Comedy* confusing some⁴¹ people. At one time, the label of “comedy” was attached to any work not written in Latin. *The Divine Comedy* wasn’t written in

41. A. NO CHANGE

- B. confusing
- C. confuses some
- D. that confuses

Latin, but⁴² it was considered a comedy; however, today it is widely considered a masterpiece of serious literature. Dante’s

42. F. NO CHANGE

- G. since
- H. because
- J. so

brave decision, while⁴³ in defiance of the common beliefs of his time, demonstrated that it was not necessary for a literary masterpiece to be written in Latin, paved the way for future writers and readers alike. Nevertheless⁴⁴ *The Divine Comedy* remains a symbol of both literature and innovation today.

43. A. NO CHANGE

- B. and
- C. which,
- D. so that,

44. F. NO CHANGE

- G. In contrast,
 - H. However,
 - J. DELETE the underlined portion.
-

PASSAGE IV

Baking Lessons

[1]

Both of my parents worked full-time when I was a little girl, so my grandmother would stay at our house during the day. We would sit in the living room on the couch at my family's house₄₅ and watch game shows. Our favorite was

45. A. NO CHANGE

- B. on the couch in the living room at my family's house
- C. in the living room at my family's house on the couch
- D. at my family's house on the couch in the living room

The Price is Right. We would call out their₄₆ answers along with the contestants. When our answers were right, we would

46. F. NO CHANGE

- G. my
- H. our
- J. her

scream with excitement, and when₄₇ the contestants were wrong, we would moan with disappointment. [A]

47. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. excitement, when
- B. excitement; when
- C. excitement. When
- D. excitement, or when

[2]

[1] When I got older and started going to school, we couldn't watch our game shows regular.⁴⁸ [2] That was okay with me, though, because the one thing I liked better than watching game shows with my grandmother was helping her bake. [49] [3] Watching her in the kitchen was magical: she never seemed to need the recipes but everything she made tasted like heaven.

48. F. NO CHANGE

- G. as regular.
- H. but regularly.
- J. as regularly.

49. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. If the sentence were removed, the essay would primarily lose:

- A. a transition from the narrator's discussion of watching game shows to the subject focused on in the remainder of the essay.
- B. unnecessary information that serves only to detract from the primary subject being discussed in the paragraph.
- C. details that are critical to understanding why the narrator took such pleasure in watching game shows with her grandmother.
- D. an insight into why the narrator would choose to spend her afternoons watching television with her grandmother.

[3]

[1] As I got older, she let me help with₅₀ the easy parts, such as sifting the flour and measuring the sugar. [2] At first I would

50. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

F. during G.

her with H.

out with J.

along

just sit on the kitchen stool and watch, even though I didn't understand what she was doing.₅₁ [3] The day she let me separate



Answers and Explanations

ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST 3 EXPLANATIONS

Passage I

1. B

The question asks you to find the answer choice that is NOT acceptable as a replacement for the underlined portion—remember, that means the passage is correct as written. Look at the answer choices—some change words, and some change punctuation. In a case like this, you’ll need to check each answer choice. Choices (A), (C), and (D) can all be inserted in place of the underlined portion without creating an error, but (B) makes the sentence *When I woke up this morning, I made myself a bowl of cereal, sat listening to the traffic,* which isn’t an appropriate way to join the two ideas and therefore can NOT be used.

2. F

When you see answer choices “stacked” like this, using all the same words with Stop and Go punctuation changing in the same spot, check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of that spot. In this case, *It’s true that there’s always some kind of noise in my neighborhood* is complete, and *taxi drivers honking their horns, kids playing their radios so loud that the bass makes my teeth vibrate, or people yelling in the street* is incomplete. Since Stop punctuation can separate only two complete ideas, eliminate (H). You definitely need some kind of pause after *neighborhood*, so (J) can be eliminated. Now you must choose between a comma and a dash. Using a comma would make it seem like the sentence is giving a list of things that are true, when the intention is to list the kinds of noises in the neighborhood. Remember a single dash is the same thing as a colon—it must follow a complete idea and must itself be followed by a list, definition, or explanation of

the first complete idea. That's what the sentence has as written, so choose (F).

3. C

The preceding sentence is *I know that some people wouldn't like it, but to me, these are the sounds of life*. This is almost the exact opposite of what (A) says—the narrator is putting a positive spin on what many would find an annoyance. There is no trip to the park mentioned as in (B), and (D) is incorrect because this sentence is very much relevant to the essay—choose (C).

4. F

The sentence has a comma with the FANBOYS word *so*, which is Stop punctuation, so the sentence must have two complete ideas. This means the first part of the sentence needs to be complete. Eliminate (G) and (H) because they make the first part incomplete. Between (F) and (J), (F) is more concise, so it is the correct answer.

5. C

Careful—all of these answer choices may seem fit to use, but on the ACT, there is always a reason to choose the best answer choice. In this case the entire sentence reads *When I ride the bus, you get to see so much more of the city*. The underlined portion you select must have a pronoun that is consistent with the non-underlined *you get*, which is (C), *you ride*.

6. J

Here you need to choose between *sociable* and *sociably*, but there's punctuation changing as well—start easy! You need the adverb *sociably* because it's describing how the people are chatting—

eliminate (F) and (H). Choice (G) is incorrect because there's no need for a pause after *sociably*, so no comma is needed.

7. **A**

The answer choices have “stacked” words with Stop and Go punctuation changing in one spot, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of that spot. *Just like the traffic's sounds, though, the noise on the bus represents people* is complete (but awkward), and *working, relaxing, and living* is incomplete, so you need Go punctuation—eliminate (B) and (C). Choice (D) is incorrect because you don't need a comma after *people*—you need commas only to separate the items in the list of things the people are doing.

8. **G**

Here you have three answer choices using pronouns and one that uses the noun *kids*, so check that one first. *Kids* makes sense in the context of the sentence and is consistent with the non-underlined *their parents*.

9. **B**

In the answer choices, you see Stop and Go punctuation changing after the word *nearby*, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of the punctuation. *The city added the bench so kids could play while their parents sit nearby* is complete, and, regardless of whether it begins with *obviously*, or not, *I like to sit there because there's a great big oak tree for shade* is also complete. Two complete ideas must be connected with Stop punctuation—eliminate (A) and (C). While adding the word *because* in (D) makes the second idea incomplete and might make you think it's okay to use a comma, it's still incorrect: to use the word *because*, you need a causal relationship between the ideas, and there is none in this case.

10. **H**

This question is testing proper comma placement. You don't need a comma after either *watching* or *listening*, since the idea being expressed is *watching and listening to the people around me*—eliminate (F), (G), and (J).

11. **C**

In the answer choices, you see Stop and Go punctuation changing after the word *do*, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of the punctuation. *People-watching is one of my favorite things to do* is complete, and *I like listening even better* is complete as well. Two complete ideas must be connected with Stop punctuation—eliminate (A). You can also eliminate (B) and (D), because even though they respectively add *nevertheless* and *however* after the punctuation change, both of those are transition words that only indicate direction—they don't make a complete idea incomplete. Choice (C), which uses a comma + FANBOYS (but), is the only choice that gives you the Stop punctuation you're looking for.

12. **G**

The following sentence says *That way, I can pay more attention to the sounds and not get distracted by what I see*, so the most logical introduction would be one that has the narrator closing her eyes—(G).

13. **D**

You need to emphasize the narrator's curiosity and interest in the old men's conversation, so the correct answer choice needs to incorporate the narrator's point of view. Choices (A), (B), and (C) are all objective descriptions of the conversation itself or the old men. Choice (D)

characterizes the stories as entertaining, meaning *entertaining* to the narrator, and so is the best answer.

14. **J**

Here apostrophes are being used to show possession. You know there are two old men having the conversation, so the laugh that comes in response to the story one of them is telling must come from his *friend*, not his *friends*. To show possession for a singular noun, all you have to do is add 's—(J).

15. **B**

This essay is definitely pro-city living, and really explores only one aspect of what the narrator likes about the city, so you can eliminate (C) and (D). Choice (A) is incorrect, because although public transportation is mentioned, it isn't the convenience the narrator enjoys—it's the sounds and sights of the city.

Passage II

16. **H**

When you see DELETE as an answer choice, try that first. In this case, taking out *that* causes a syntax error—you wouldn't say...*three times in seventy-year history*. You need to find the correct pronoun, so the first step is to identify the noun that the pronoun replaces—it's *bridge*. Since *bridge* is a singular noun, eliminate (G); you can't replace a singular noun with a plural pronoun. The pronoun *that* in the sentence as written is incorrect; you can't use it because there is no prior reference to the seventy-year history.

17. **B**

The sentence is saying the amount of concrete was *enough to construct a sidewalk five feet wide all the way from San Francisco to New York City*. There isn't a reason to use commas here, so eliminate (A) and (D). Choice (C) has a dash (which is the same as a colon) after *sidewalk*, which creates an awkward and unclear construction afterward.

18. **G**

The sentence immediately following details the various reasons San Francisco Bay is a bad spot for bridge-building, so a logical introduction will introduce this theme. Neither (F), (H), nor (J) does this as well as (G) does.

19. **D**

Here you see Stop and Go Punctuation changing after the word *bond* in each answer choice, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of the punctuation. *After two years of discussion, the voters approved a bond* is complete, and *that would raise \$35 million, all dedicated to building the bridge* is incomplete, so eliminate (C). Choice (A) has a colon after a complete idea, but the incomplete idea after it is awkward and unclear. Choice (B) is incorrect because the phrase *that would raise \$35 million* is necessary, and thus there is no need for a comma here.

20. **H**

You have the option to DELETE the underlined portion, so try that first. That leaves *Even then, there were many skeptics believed that it couldn't be done*, which is a bad sentence—eliminate (J). Now you have to choose the correct pronoun, so identify the noun that's being replaced—it's *skeptics*. You can't use *that* to replace skeptics: it's singular and *that* can't be used to refer to people, so eliminate (G). If

you have trouble deciding between *who* and *whom*, try substituting a different pronoun: there are multiple skeptics, so you can use “they” and “them.” You would use the subject-case “they believed it couldn’t be done,” not the object-case “them believed it couldn’t be done.” That means you need to use the subject-case *who*—(H).

21. **D**

When DELETE is an option, you should always check that first—you know ACT likes things concise. Taking out the underlined portion leaves *Construction began in 1933 and lasted a little more than four years*. That’s a perfectly good sentence, and you’re not adding any new information with (A), (B), or (C)—(D) is the best (most concise) answer.

22. **H**

The answer choices have “stacked” words with Stop and Go punctuation changing after *1937*, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side of that spot. *On May 28, 1937* is an incomplete idea, so you know you can’t use Stop punctuation—that’s only for connecting two complete ideas—eliminate (F) and (G). Choices (H) and (J) both give you the comma you need after *1937*, but (J) goes a little too far by adding another that you don’t need after *grandly*. Choice (H) is correct.

23. **A**

DELETE the underlined portion first, since that’s an option. That leaves *More than 200,000 people walked across the bridge that day to celebrate*, which is a complete idea, but is not as clear as it could be (celebrate what?). The better option is (A)—it’s a little less concise, but much more clear. Choices (B) and (C) are much too wordy; neither says anything that (A) doesn’t.

24. **J**

The answer choices are all transition words, which is usually a sign that the question is testing direction. The two sentences on either side are *To top it off, it was beautiful* and *the Golden Gate Bridge is considered an artistic masterpiece*—two similar ideas (although note the shift in tense between the two from past to present.) You can eliminate the two opposite-direction transitions, (F) and (H), and eliminate (G) because it’s still past tense; you want a transition that will make the change to present tense, as *Even today* does.

25. **A**

The answer choices all have Stop and Go punctuation (and a dash) changing after the word *air*, so check for Complete/Incomplete before and after the punctuation. Before the punctuation is *At its highest point, the bridge rises 746 feet into the air*, which is complete, and afterward is *191 feet taller than the Washington Monument*, an incomplete idea. Eliminate (B)—you can’t use Stop punctuation here. We can do without the extra *rising*, so eliminate (D). We do, however, need some kind of pause after *air*, so eliminate (C).

26. **F**

The answer choices are all different word combinations—you just have to pick the correct one. The idiomatic expression for “environment” is *natural surroundings*—(F). If you’re not sure here, you can try substituting each answer choice into the sentence; you should at least be able to eliminate one or two answer choices. Always keep in mind that NO CHANGE is going to be correct about 25 percent of the time it appears, so don’t be afraid to pick it—especially if you can’t identify an error in the sentence as it’s written.

27. **D**

The whole sentence says *The color, called “International Orange,” was chosen partly because it matched the natural surroundings and partly because it would allow the bridge to remain visible on foggy days.* Saying *on foggy days* provides a detail about when the bridge might be hard to see, so if you take out that portion, you would lose that detail. That most closely matches (D).

28. J

You need to emphasize the *wide variety of the bridge’s uses* here, so the correct answer choice must do that. Choice (F) talks only about commuter traffic, (G) describes the bridge itself, not how it is used, and (H) talks about how some people cross the bridge—none of which describe *a wide variety of uses*. Choice (J) talks about the bridge’s multiple uses for commuters and travelers and as a tourist destination in its own right, so it is the best answer choice.

29. A

The added sentence talks about the original idea for building the bridge, so it belongs somewhere very early in the discussion of its construction—eliminate (C) and (D). Between (A) and (B), the more logical choice for the placement of the original idea for the bridge would be (A), just before the decision to actually build it.

Passage III

30. J

Here you have nicely “stacked” answer choices with Stop (comma + FANBOYS) and Go punctuation changing after *single*—check for Complete/Incomplete on either side. *The Italian language wasn’t always the single* is incomplete, as is *unified, language that it is today*. You’ll need Go punctuation to connect these two—eliminate (H).

Remember your comma rules; there's no reason to use a comma after *unified*—eliminate (F) and (G), leaving (J) as the best answer choice.

31. **A**

The phrase *during the thirteenth century* introduces the time period the passage will be talking about, so that's what you lose if you take it out—there's no confusion created as in (B), no interruption as in (C), and it's not grammatically necessary as (D) claims; (A) is the best answer.

32. **H**

Remember that less is more on the ACT; any time you have the option to add anything, make sure you have a compelling reason to do so. In this case, the sentence (not to mention the passage as a whole) is talking about Dante Alighieri, so adding a list of other writers doesn't add anything necessary to the essay. If you're still unsure, you can check the reasons given in the answer choices and eliminate those that don't agree with the passage: you can eliminate (F) as previously stated, there's no discussion of the creation of Italian as (G) states, and the reason you aren't adding the list isn't because it's not exhaustive, as (J) claims—it's because it's unnecessary.

33. **B**

The underlined portion acts as the subject of the singular verb *was* in the non-underlined portion. Choices (A) and (C) are plural. Choice (D) doesn't fit the context of the sentence.

34. **J**

The meaning of the sentence is not to say that literature was not written in the local languages and also not in Latin; the idea is that high literature was written in Latin instead of the local languages. To

express that, you need to say *literature was written not in the various local languages but in Latin*—(J).

35. **D**

DELETE is an answer choice, so try that first. Taking out the underlined portion leaves *Dante believed that literature should be available not only to the educated elite but also to the common people*. That is a complete sentence, and the meaning hasn't changed, so (D) is the best answer.

36. **H**

Three of the answer choices use *called* and one uses *calling*, so you should check that one first, but remember that ACT doesn't really like the "-ing" form of verbs, and you should pick it only when all the other answer choices have an actual error. In this case, however, it doesn't make sense in the sentence—Dante was not literally calling out the word "Italian"—you can eliminate (J), and also (F) and (G), which make the sentence read the same way.

37. **B**

Three of the answer choices use *spoken* and one uses *speak*, so you should check that one first. However, *to speak* doesn't make sense in the context of the sentence, so eliminate (D). There's no need to include *to be* or *if* as in (A) and (C); (B) makes the most sense—and it's the most concise—so it's the best answer choice.

38. **G**

The answer choices all have Stop and Go punctuation (plus a colon) changing after the word *people*, so check for Complete/Incomplete on either side to see which you need. In this case, *By writing it in the language spoken by the Italian people* is incomplete, and since Stop

punctuation can connect only two complete ideas, you can now eliminate (F) and (H). You can also eliminate (J), since a colon can follow only a complete idea. That leaves (G) as the only possible choice.

39. C

All of the answer choices use the exact same words, just in different orders—you'll need to select the one that is most clear. Dante thought literature should be available to everyone, and was criticized for that opinion. The answer choice that expresses that idea in the clearest fashion is (C).

40. G

Remember when ACT gives you a task to accomplish with an answer choice, you must read very literally—an answer choice that does the thing you want is a better choice than one that “could” do the thing you want. In this case, we need an answer choice that will imply that illiteracy changed from more common to less common. Be careful! If you just look at the words in the answer choices, *diminished* might seem the perfect candidate, but the passage is talking about *literacy*, not illiteracy. Therefore, you want the answer choice that says that literacy became more common, which would *imply* that illiteracy became less common—(G). Although both (H) and (J) might conceivably accompany an increase in literacy, neither states that as clearly as (G) does.

41. C

A good place to start here is to decide which verb form you need—always keeping in mind ACT's opinion of the “-ing” form. *Confuses* agrees with the subject, *title*, so eliminate (A) and (B). The use of *that*

in (D) makes the sentence an incomplete idea, so the best answer is (C).

42. J

There are transition words changing in the answer choices, but not punctuation, which will typically mean ACT is testing direction. Make sure you read enough to get the proper context! The two ideas we have to connect are *The Divine Comedy wasn't written in Latin* and *it was considered a comedy*. The sentence prior to this says *the label of "comedy" was attached to any work not written in Latin*, so you're going to need a same-direction transition—eliminate (F). Choices (G), (H), and (J) are all same-direction transitions, but (G) and (H) have the relationship wrong—*The Divine Comedy* wasn't written in Latin as a result of being considered a comedy; it was the other way around. Note that in this case, (G) and (H) are “same” answer choices: *since* and *because* mean the exact same thing in this context, which means one cannot be more correct than the other; therefore, you cannot select either one.

43. C

The answer choices all feature different transition words, but there's some punctuation changing as well. In fact, three of the answer choices use a comma and one doesn't—start there. In this instance, *and* causes an error, so eliminate (B). All the other answer choices end in a comma, which means the phrase *in defiance of the common beliefs of his time* is unnecessary since it's set off by a pair of commas—it may help to cross it out or simply ignore it to help answer the question. Without the unnecessary phrase (and its commas), the sentence now reads *Dante's brave decision, while demonstrated that it was not necessary for a literary masterpiece to be written in Latin, paved the way for future writers and readers alike*. That's not correct,

so eliminate (A), and substituting *so that* for *while* doesn't help either—eliminate (D). That leaves (C), *which*, as the correct answer.

44. J

You have the option to DELETE the underlined portion, so try that first. You're left with a complete sentence, so it's at least possible to take out that word without creating an error. However, notice that the other choices are all transition words, so it may be a good idea to assess whether a transition is needed here. The prior sentence (now) reads *Dante's brave decision, which, in defiance of the common beliefs of his time, demonstrated that it was not necessary for a literary masterpiece to be written in Latin, paved the way for future writers and readers alike, and then you have The Divine Comedy remains a symbol of both literature and innovation today.* No transition is really needed here, and even if one were, it wouldn't be an opposite-direction one, as are (F), (G), and (H).

Passage IV

45. B

The answer choices are all different arrangements of the same three modifying phrases. On the ACT, (and in good writing in general), a modifying phrase must be placed next to the thing it's modifying. In this case, the words right before the underlined portion are *We would sit*, and the phrase that most directly modifies that is *on the couch*, so the correct answer choice must start with that phrase. Only (B) matches that description.

46. H

You have possessive pronouns changing in the answer choices, so to choose the correct one, you'll need to find the context in the non-underlined part of the passage. The answers being called out belong to

the narrator and her grandmother, and since the passage is written in the first person, you need to use *our*, (H). If you're still unsure, notice that using *our* is consistent with the following sentence: *When our answers were right....*

47. A

You need to find the answer choice that is NOT a suitable replacement for the correctly written underlined portion in the passage. The answer choices all have Stop and Go punctuation changing after the word *excitement*, so you should check for Complete/Incomplete on either side. Notice the sentence as written uses Stop punctuation (comma + FANBOYS), so you know the two ideas are complete. Choices (B), (C), and (D) all use different forms of Stop punctuation and therefore work to connect the two complete ideas. What can NOT be used as a replacement is (A), which uses a comma to separate two complete ideas.

48. J

The first decision to make here is whether you need *regular* or *regularly*. The verb *watch* is being modified, so you need the adverb *regularly*—eliminate (F) and (G). Choice (H) is incorrect because it uses the correct adverb but the wrong conjunction—the narrator and her grandmother don't watch the shows *as regularly* as they did prior to school starting.

49. A

The sentence *That was okay with me, though, because the one thing I liked better than watching game shows with my grandmother was helping her bake* introduces the main idea of the essay, and so serves as a transition between the discussion of the two activities the narrator enjoys with her grandmother. That's not unnecessary or detracting

information as in (B), and (C) and (D) can be eliminated because they talk only about watching television.

50. **J**

You need to find the answer choice that is NOT a suitable replacement for the correctly written underlined portion in the passage. Choices (F), (G), and (H) all keep the original meaning of the sentence, but *help along* has a different meaning, and *help along the easy parts* doesn't really make sense; therefore (J) is NOT a suitable replacement.