

# Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

## DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a "NO CHANGE" option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

### Benjamin Banneker: Marking Time

Benjamin Banneker gained local fame for making a working clock in 1753, a time when few people owned clocks, let alone understood **1** they're mechanics. A twenty-two-year-old free black man living in Maryland, Banneker learned how to make the clock by examining the insides of a watch a merchant friend had lent him. His sharp skills in measuring the passage of time would eventually lead Banneker to the job of determining the official borders of the new United States capital.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) their
- C) it's
- D) its

Studious from an early age, Banneker completed his formal education only up through algebra, at which point his father pulled him out of school to help on the family farm. A former teacher, however, encouraged Banneker to pursue his education independently and lent him the books to do so. Banneker also studied the night **2** sky, he charted how the migration of the stars relates to the passage of time.

**3** When the wealthy Ellicott family built a flour mill not far from his farm, Banneker befriended George **4** Ellicott. Ellicott's knowledge about science and astronomy impressed him. They met regularly at the flour mill and **5** Banneker's home, where they met to discuss debates in astronomy. From Ellicott, Banneker borrowed books by authors such as James Ferguson, a leading astronomer of the time.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sky. Charting
- C) sky, charting
- D) sky, he also charted

3

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A) In the 1770s, Banneker made a fortuitous friendship.
- B) The 1770s were filled with social and political upheaval.
- C) Banneker's life was significantly influenced by several people.
- D) Banneker continued his studies in science and math.

4

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) Ellicott of whom
- B) Ellicott, from whom his
- C) Ellicott, while Ellicott's
- D) Ellicott, whose

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) at Banneker's home, meeting
- C) Banneker's home
- D) Banneker's home, meeting

[1] In that same decade, the United States became a fledgling nation with no permanent capital. [2] Federal legislators met in eight different northern cities before they decided that, as part of a broader compromise, a capital should be built farther south. [3] His cousin George likely recommended Banneker for the job. [4] In 1791 President Washington issued a directive: the capital would be situated on the Potomac River and encompass a ten-mile square that included the booming ports of Georgetown, then a part of Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia. [5] Leading the team to determine the capital's boundaries [6] were Major Andrew Ellicott, a well-known land surveyor who needed a capable assistant. [6] Land surveying, the art of measuring horizontal and vertical distances between objects, demands a strong command of trigonometry and astronomy, [7] particularly to the ability to chart mathematically the course of celestial bodies in relation to the curvature of the rotating Earth—skills Banneker possessed. [8]

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) will be
- C) have been
- D) was

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) particular about
- C) particularly
- D) in particularly

8

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 4.
- C) after sentence 5.
- D) after sentence 6.

Banneker and the rest of Major Ellicott’s crew set up camp on Jones Point in early March 1791. A peninsula extending into the Potomac River, the point offered an expansive view of the territory. **9** Additionally, a National Park Service plaque at Jones Point **10** commemorates the men’s contributions in shaping the capital. On a clear day, looking north across the water, visitors can see the domed Capitol Building rising toward the sky. **11**

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Not surprisingly,
- C) After some time,
- D) Today,

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) memorizes
- C) magnifies
- D) fossilizes

11

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Visitors to Jones Point can also enjoy activities such as fishing and kayaking.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it contributes to the description of Jones Point as it is in the present.
- B) Yes, because it encourages readers to visit a place of historical importance.
- C) No, because it strays from the paragraph’s focus on Banneker’s publications.
- D) No, because it tacks on irrelevant information at the end of the passage.

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

### Energy Storage Under Pressure

Renewable energy **12** sources pose a challenge for the businesses and utilities that use them: the need to store surplus energy to use later, during times **13** of peak demand. For example, wind fluctuates and generally produces more energy during the night, when demand is lower. Conversely, solar power generates most of its electricity during the day and provides little power at night. A method of storage called Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) **14** is one method that may be one of the best solutions to this problem.

12

The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following.

sources, such as hydropower, wind power, and solar power,

Should the writer make this revision here?

- A) Yes, because it sets up how the information in the passage will be structured.
- B) Yes, because it offers examples that clarify a key term in the passage.
- C) No, because it groups together examples that are too different to be of use to the passage.
- D) No, because it conflicts with information presented later in the sentence.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for peak
- C) of peeked
- D) for peaked

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is a particular means of storage that
- C) constitutes a form of storage that
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

[1] Power plants with CAES systems use surplus energy produced during off-peak hours to pump air into large underground cavities, such as naturally occurring or human-made salt or rock caverns. [2] The expanding air drives a turbine, generating electricity. [3] The walls of these spaces have been specially fortified to handle the high pressure and density of pressurized air. [4] As air is pumped into the inflexible cavern, the pressure increases to 1,100 pounds per square inch. [5] When energy is needed later, the power plant releases pressurized air from the cavity, causing the air to expand. **15**

**15**

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 2 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 3.
- C) after sentence 4.
- D) after sentence 5.

Currently, only two power plants use **16** CAES; one in McIntosh, Alabama, and another in Huntorf, Germany. The McIntosh power plant can produce up to 110 megawatts of electrical **17** power, the German plant can produce 321 megawatts. **18** Combined, that's enough energy to service approximately 431,000 homes. There are a few other CAES projects in progress across the United States, including pilot projects in Ohio, California, and New Jersey.

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) CAES. One
- C) CAES: one
- D) CAES, one:

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) power, as well as
- C) power, and
- D) power; while

18

The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it shows the impact of the two CAES plants currently in use.
- B) Kept, because it provides a transition to another point about how to provide electricity to homes.
- C) Deleted, because it ignores differences in the levels of energy usage of individual homes.
- D) Deleted, because it interrupts the paragraph's description of the McIntosh facility.

There are a number of reasons that so few CAES units have been built, despite the fact that CAES is one of only a few reliable ways to store energy from renewable energy sources. First, huge underground cavities are possible only in certain types of land. Second, even where these formations exist, reinforcing them and building the infrastructure for **19** CAES, can cost upwards of \$100 million. Finally, traditional methods of CAES **20** requires heat to compress the air, which can lower the energy efficiency of the process.

Though the system is initially expensive and involves an expenditure of energy, CAES has proven to be reliable and economically viable in the long term. Furthermore, researchers have developed methods of CAES that reach much better efficiency levels by **21** apprehending the heat required to compress the air and reusing it to heat the decompressing air. These methods can be used in CAES units built in the future. Given the growing shift to renewable energy, **22** the only stumbling blocks to additional innovations may be national energy policies that make potential investors hesitate.

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) CAES;
- C) CAES
- D) CAES—

20

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had required
- C) does require
- D) require

21

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) capturing
- C) arresting
- D) seizing

22

The writer wants a conclusion that restates the main idea of the passage. Which choice most effectively accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) CAES is a promising solution to one of alternative energy's biggest challenges.
- C) it is dismaying that CAES technology is not yet as efficient as it could be.
- D) residential applications of CAES technology—in addition to large operations—are likely to become feasible soon.



Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

### A Man of Many Words

In 1747 the author Samuel **23** Johnson announced an ambitious plan for a new English-language dictionary. He did so with the encouragement of a group of London booksellers. Johnson's goal was to produce an authoritative guide to the language "by which its purity may be preserved." The completed *Dictionary of the English Language* finally appeared in **24** 1755, its release was every bit the publishing event that the writer and his backers had imagined. Along **25** one's laborious journey from planning to publication, however, Johnson's *Dictionary* had become a book with more humble ambitions—one that no longer aspired to preserve the purity of the language. Johnson had come to realize that, like all languages, the English language was a living, changing thing that could not be preserved, only described.

23

Which choice best combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) Johnson announced an ambitious plan for a new English-language dictionary and was encouraged by a group of London booksellers.
- B) Johnson, announcing an ambitious plan for a new English-language dictionary, was encouraged by a group of London booksellers.
- C) Johnson announced an ambitious plan for a new English-language dictionary; he was encouraged in this by a group of London booksellers.
- D) Johnson, encouraged by a group of London booksellers, announced an ambitious plan for a new English-language dictionary.

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 1755, and
- C) 1755, as
- D) 1755 with

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) each one's
- C) it's
- D) its

Johnson had begun his work in 1746, furnishing his house with several large tables and massive heaps of books. To provide examples of proper word use for his *Dictionary*, Johnson looked to those he considered the **26** hotshot experts on the English language: the leading English writers of the past and present. Johnson read through the works of hundreds of **27** writers, his marking the passages he viewed as exemplary. He then handed the books off to six scribes he had hired to copy out his chosen excerpts.

**28** Johnson was extremely selective in the passages he used to illustrate his words. No earlier English lexicographer, or dictionary writer, had attempted to define words as precisely as Johnson did. However, Johnson’s careful analysis of his sources revealed subtle but inexorable changes in the ways words were used by different writers at different times. When the *Dictionary* was published in 1755, Johnson’s preface **29** acknowledged this inherent mutability of language, noting that no lexicographer “shall imagine that his dictionary can embalm his language, and secure it from corruption and decay.”

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) foremost
- C) big-name
- D) primo

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) writers,
- C) writers, and
- D) writers by

28

Which choice best introduces the topic of this paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) It is unknown precisely how much work Johnson’s scribes did beyond copying down passages.
- C) Johnson was not the first writer to create a dictionary of the English language.
- D) Next, Johnson undertook the more difficult task of composing definitions.

29

Which choice best sets up the quotation from Johnson later in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) bemoaned the low status of dictionary writers,
- C) explained how the writer determined which words to include,
- D) stated that the quotations were carefully chosen for their style or subject matter,

This recognition did not mean that Johnson had no opinions about how words should be used. On the contrary, Johnson **30** used the *Dictionary* to promote words he favored and to protest words he disliked. **31** In the definition for “pictorial,” a term coined by Sir Thomas Browne, Johnson described the word as one “not adopted by other writers, but elegant and useful.” **32** By the same token, the word “writative,” which Johnson had found in the letters of Alexander Pope, was not even granted a definition; Johnson simply wrote “A word of Pope’s coining: not to be imitated.” Johnson understood that he could not preserve his language—but he **33** could—at the very least, try to shape its future use. In that more modest goal he appears to have succeeded: Johnson’s work stood as the definitive English dictionary for well over a century, influencing generations of English writers and readers.

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had used
- C) will use
- D) uses

31

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

When it was finished, Johnson’s *Dictionary* contained 42,773 words, which made it neither the longest nor the shortest dictionary of the eighteenth century.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides relevant contextual information about eighteenth-century dictionaries.
- B) Yes, because it puts in perspective just how many words Johnson had influence over.
- C) No, because it interrupts the discussion of how Johnson used his *Dictionary* to affect the English language.
- D) No, because it merely repeats information about Johnson’s *Dictionary* that appears earlier in the passage.

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) On the other hand,
- C) For example,
- D) Nevertheless,

33

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) could, at the very least—
- C) could, at the very least,
- D) could; at the very least,

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

### Retailers Profit from Paying Well

Many retailers rely on discount prices to attract customers, and these companies' executives and managers often assume that they must maintain low employee costs to preserve these discounts. However, in recent years, several retailers have challenged this **34** conventional wisdom, offering better-than-average wages and **35** benefits, and they have done so, while keeping costs down and performing well financially.

The cost of better compensation for employees is lower than many employers may realize. A 2012 study by Demos, a public policy research and advocacy organization, noted that if retail workers' annual earnings were increased so that on average the lowest-paid workers received a 27 percent raise, the additional cost to employers would amount to only 0.5 percent of total retail sales. **36** Stores could increase their prices to make up for this expenditure. The additional cost to consumers if they did so would average 30 cents per shopping trip—hardly enough to keep most customers away.

34

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) habitual
- C) routine
- D) accustomed

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) benefits—and they have done so
- C) benefits: and they have done so,
- D) benefits and they have done so,

36

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) If stores increased their prices to make up for this expenditure, the additional cost to consumers
- B) Increasing their prices to make up for this expenditure, stores could make an additional cost to consumers that
- C) The additional cost to consumers to make up for this expenditure would be increased store prices so that they
- D) If the additional cost to consumers made up for this expenditure by increasing store prices, it

Yet this modest price increase would probably be unnecessary because increasing pay at retail businesses increases sales performance. When Professor Zeynep Ton at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology compared two chains of warehouse club **37** stores—one with better-than-average pay and benefits and another with lower employee wages, she found that the average number of sales per employee at the higher-wage club store was double **38** the employees at the lower-wage club store. According to Ton’s study, well-paid workers were friendlier and more helpful to customers, and they were more knowledgeable about the company’s products. As a result of their experiences with these employees, customers were more likely to make purchases.

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) stores,
- C) stores:
- D) stores;

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the ones
- C) the number
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

By contrast, many employees at retail stores that pay average or below-average wages quit each year, a phenomenon known as employee turnover, forcing these businesses to rely on inexperienced workers and to devote resources to finding, hiring, and training new workers. **39** When examined, the same pair of club stores that Ton studied, Professor Wayne F. Cascio of the University of Colorado found that **40** full-time employees at the lower-paying club store make an average of \$17 per hour, which costs the firm an estimated \$5,274 per full-time employee. He found that the turnover rate at the higher-paying club store, however, was lower— **41** the firm’s 67,600 full-time employees made an average of \$17 per hour.

Comparison of Two Warehouse Club Store Chains

	Total full-time employees	Estimated average hourly wage	Annual full-time employee turnover rate	Annual estimated cost of turnover per full-time employee
Company A	110,200	\$10	44%	\$5,274
Company B	67,600	\$17	17%	\$3,628

Source: Data from Wayne F. Cascio, "The High Cost of Low Wages."  
©2006 by Harvard Business School Publishing.

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) An examination of
- C) When they examined
- D) Examining

40

Which choice provides accurate information from the table to support the writer’s argument?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) 44 percent of full-time employees at the lower-paying club store leave their jobs each year,
- C) 110,200 full-time employees at the lower-paying club store leave their jobs each year,
- D) full-time employees at the lower-paying club store make an average of \$5,274 each year,

41

The writer wants to include relevant information from the table to illustrate the point made in the first part of the sentence. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and its staff, at 67,600 full-time employees, was significantly smaller.
- C) 17 percent, at a lesser cost of \$3,628 per full-time employee.
- D) and it paid its full-time employees \$17 per hour compared with its competitor’s \$10 per hour.

The club store chains that Ton and Cascio studied **42** are both successful. Grocery stores, convenience stores, and numerous other businesses have been able to thrive in their respective industries while paying significantly higher employee wages than their rivals. The success of these businesses **43** highlight that paying workers well **44** can be a profitable strategy for retailers.

42

Which choice best introduces the information that follows?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have large workforces.
- C) are not unique.
- D) are managed differently.

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have highlighted
- C) would highlight
- D) highlights

44

Which choice provides the most logical conclusion to the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) may be surprisingly difficult to implement.
- C) is one of several ways to boost employee morale.
- D) is still the subject of much debate among employers.

## STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.  
Do not turn to any other section.**