

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.

How a Cat in a Hat Changed Children’s Education

In a 1954 *Life* magazine article, author John Hersey expressed concern that children in the United States were disengaged from learning how to read. Among other problems, Hersey noted, the reading material available to grade-schoolers had a hard time competing with television, radio, **1** and other media for children’s attention. One solution he proposed was to make

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and with
- C) and also
- D) and competing with

children’s books more **2** interesting, since “an individual’s sense of wholeness . . . follows, and cannot precede, a sense of accomplishment.”

The story of *The Cat in the Hat*’s publication began when William **3** Spaulding, the director of the education division at the publishing company Houghton Mifflin, read Hersey’s article and had an idea. Spaulding agreed that there was a need for appealing books for beginning **4** readers. He thought he knew who should write one. He arranged to have dinner with Theodor Geisel, who wrote and illustrated children’s books under the name “Dr. Seuss,” and issued him a challenge: “Write me a story that first graders can’t put down!”

2

The writer wants to include a quotation by Hersey that supports the topic of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) interesting, since “learning starts with failure; the first failure is the beginning of education.”
- C) interesting because “journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.”
- D) interesting with “drawings like those of the wonderfully imaginative geniuses among children’s illustrators.”

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Spaulding the director
- C) Spaulding, the director,
- D) Spaulding—the director

4

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

- A) readers, and he
- B) readers—namely, he
- C) readers; and Spaulding
- D) readers, and meanwhile he

Having **5** known Spaulding for many years and having maintained a professional relationship with him, Geisel was an experienced writer and illustrator.

6 However, this new project presented him with an obstacle. Spaulding told Geisel to write his entire book using a restricted vocabulary from an elementary school list of 348 words. Geisel started two stories, only to abandon them when he found that he needed to use words that were not on the list. On the verge of giving up,

7 Geisel's story finally hit upon an image that became its basis: a cat wearing a battered stovepipe hat. His main character established, Geisel commenced the difficult task of writing a book with a limited vocabulary. **8** At the end of a duration nine months long, *The Cat in the Hat* was complete.

5

Which choice best supports the information that follows in the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) acquired a reputation for perfectionism and for setting high standards for his work,
- C) been interested in politics before breaking into the genre of children's literature,
- D) published nine children's books and having received three nominations for the prestigious Caldecott Medal,

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For example,
- C) Furthermore,
- D) At any rate,

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) an image that Geisel finally hit upon became the basis of his story:
- C) Geisel finally hit upon the image that became the basis for his story:
- D) the story was finally based on an image that Geisel hit upon:

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) After thirty-six weeks—or nine months—had passed,
- C) After a length of nine months had elapsed,
- D) Nine months later,

The book was a hit. Children were entertained by its plot about the antics of a mischievous cat and **9** is captivated by its eye-catching illustrations and memorable rhythms and rhymes. Its sales inspired another publishing company, Random House, to establish a series for early readers called Beginner Books, which featured works by Geisel and other writers, and other publishers quickly followed suit. In the years that **10** followed. Many talented writers and illustrators of children's books imitated Geisel's formula of restricted vocabulary and whimsical artwork. But perhaps the best proof of *The Cat in the Hat's* success is not its influence on other books but its **11** limited vocabulary and appealing word choices.

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) was
- C) has been
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) followed; many
- C) followed, many
- D) followed—many

11

The writer wants a conclusion that restates the main themes of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) impressive worldwide sales that continue to remain high to this day.
- C) enduring ability to delight children and engage them in learning how to read.
- D) important role in the history of illustration in the twentieth century.