

1. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

The words “associated” and “connected” are synonyms, so there is no reason to include both. Redundant phrases should be removed.

2. Answer: F—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

Again, all options here are unnecessarily complicated and add no new ideas to the statement. As such, the simplest choice is correct.

3. Answer: B—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

Don’t be fooled by the fact **A & D** both use a semicolon! Despite the words following being rearranged, both are correct as they are still independent clauses. The only answer in which two independent clauses are not validly separated is **C**, which lacks the necessary FANBOYS conjunction.

4. Answer: J—12, *Modifications*

The modification of “music” only needs a comma to differentiate it from the main clause. Make sure the verb agrees, as **H** has a correct comma but an incorrect conjugation.

5. Answer: A—5, *Additional Comma Uses and Misuses*

There is no need to include a comma here, as no new clause or article is presented. “Itself” is a simple modification of “word,” and does not warrant separation.

6. Answer: G—8.1, *Verbs: Agreement*

Note that the active verb does not match the subject. The dance does not perform itself, nor dance itself. The subject must be the dancers in some respect, which is only an option in **G**.

7. Answer: A—10, *Adjectives and Adverbs*

“Long past” is used not to describe “play,” but “midnight.” They are adjectives within a modification, requiring no punctuation. They should not be separated from that which they are describing.

8. Answer: G—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

The start of this sentence sets the tense with the present “step.” The word “as” is an important clue that the following verb needs to match in tense, so the present “are also stepping” is correct.

9. Answer: A—1.2, *Apostrophes: They’re, Their, There*

The plural possessive “there” is correct for the history as possessed by the plural noun “dancers.” Forms of “it” are incorrect because they do not agree with the antecedent.

10. Answer: J—18.1, *Is it Relevant: Inserting*

Remember to prioritize the supporting evidence, not the “yes” or “no,” when determining answers for this type of question. In this case, the sentence is not relevant, as properly recognized only in answer **J**.

11. Answer: C—19.1, *Sentence Order*

The fact that “of Spanish mercenaries” is a modifier of “guitars” necessitates that they stay together, so the phrase may not be placed between them, lest the modification be invalidated.

12. Answer: J—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

The simple past tense, conjugated with only the “-ed” ending, is correct in this sentence. There is no sense of continuity or ongoing action, nor any need for the reflexive “were borrowed” which would cause the O’odham to be no longer the acting subject but instead the acted-upon object.

13. Answer: A—18.3, *Is it Relevant: Replacing*

The point of this sentence is to explain the introduction of woodwinds to waila, and this is made clear only by the parenthetical. No replacement similarly reflects the intent of the sentence.

14. Answer: G—2, *Sentences and Fragments*

This sentence has a very simple structure despite the compound subject. “Around this time” is a non-essential transitional clause; “the polka music and button accordion” is a compound subject; “played by German immigrant railroad workers” is a modifier; “left their mark on waila” is the predicate. Though the subject is very large, this sentence essential follows basic subject-predicate structure and thus has no need for additional punctuation.

15. Answer: C—19.2, *Paragraph Order*

The clue in this sentence is the pronoun “those.” Where is there an antecedent matching? It must be a mention of German influences, because “those” are the “same.” The only appropriate placement is after the mention of German railroad workers’ music in paragraph 3.

16. Answer: J—11, *Word Pairs and Comparisons*

The word “difference” implies more of a state of being rather than an action. “Contest” and “dispute” both imply this active nature, while “change” clearly indicates a shift of states.

17. Answer: B—4.2, *Non-Essential Clause “, . . . ,”*

The extra clause “according . . . system” should be nested within commas to separate it from the necessary parts of the sentence and prevent any warping of clauses.

18. Answer: J—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

It is not relevant to this paragraph to make this statement. As such, it is better removed. The replacement options are no better, as they offer similarly irrelevant statements regarding the universal nature of birthdays.

19. Answer: A—11, *Word Pairs and Comparisons*

The difference is subtle, but “heightened” is the most correct option. “Raised” and “lifted” imply an actual vertical movement, and “lighted” an element of illumination. “Heightened” is used as an intensifier rather than an actual measure of height, thus is most correct.

20. Answer: F—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

To find what would be lost, one must consider what is added by this sentence. It both states and explains the added importance of New Year’s Day in Korea. It is not a “repetitive reminder,” nor a “defense,” nor an “illustration” of counting. The only valid option is that it comments on the significance of New Year’s in Korea.

21. Answer: C—17, *Transitions*

The implications of each transition are subtle, but greatly impact the meaning of the sentence. The correct “in fact” builds off of the prior point and adds a new point or example. “Though” implies contradiction, “otherwise” similarly notes an exception, and “then” a chronological ordering.

22. Answer: F—12, *Modifications*

The prepositions can be difficult to differentiate. They are best determined through common-sense and familiarity. While we know the combination “points on” is wrong, determination between “points at” and “points to” is only clear through knowledge of English.

23. Answer: A—1, *Apostrophes: Possessive vs. Plural*

Because “a person” is singular and this person is in ownership of “age,” a singular possessive is

necessary. This means there will likely be an apostrophe followed by an “s.” Option **D** is incorrect due to the extraneous comma following “age,” so **A** is correct.

24. Answer: J—9, *Pronouns: Agreement and Case*

All of the incorrect options are possessive with ambiguous antecedents. Because it is not clear what is said to be owning the idea, it is best foregone in favor of “this,” which allows it to exist independent of any possession.

25. Answer: B—12, *Modifications*

“By” is the only option which creates a grammatically correct sentence. “When,” “while,” and “as if” all fail to create a complete predicate. Those modifications mandate a second action for comparison, and as there is none the sentence is incomplete. “By” does not require a comparative article, and thus is a valid sentence.

26. Answer: F—16, *Diction and Register*

Options **G–J** do not provide any indication of “positive attitude.” The “great enthusiasm” mentioned in **F**, however, portrays just that.

27. Answer: A—14, *Relative Pronouns: Who(se), Whom, Which, Where, and That*

Although the difference between “which” and “that” can be subtle, fortunately they are not both options here. “Whose” is incorrectly possessive. “Whom” is used in reference to people, not objects. “This” is not a relative pronoun, as is necessary herein.

28. Answer: H—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

The most significant indicator here is the word “details” leading option **H**. It should be identified right away that both phrases in question are details, so this should stand out as a strong option. The others can be ruled out due to lack of humor, preference, and personal input from the author.

29. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

In this case, the words “refuse” and “hesitate” are unnecessary and in fact scarcely far from nonsensical. The shortest option amongst like choices is often correct, and the simple “balk” is appropriate and does not sacrifice any meaning.

30. Answer: G—11, *Word Pairs and Comparisons*

The word “apparently” implies something not being as it appears, which is precisely what this sentence discusses. It is by far the most appropriate option for this sentence.

31. Answer: C—16, *Diction and Register*

Option C provides examples which help to illustrate the term “dress code” in this context. The other options do not help promote understanding of the term because they offer no insight into *what* was being prohibited.

32. Answer: J—16, *Diction and Register*

In this essay, it is inappropriate to include slang terms and colloquialisms such as “blow off” or “bored to tears.” Instead, descriptive and professional adjectives such as those in J are ideal.

33. Answer: A—18.3, *Is it Relevant: Replacing*

The replacement options do not effectively introduce this paragraph. If you read ahead, you will note that this paragraph deals with the constitutional implications of the case. Options B-D do not address this, and are largely irrelevant.

34. Answer: H—5, *Other Comma Uses and Misuses*

“The United States District Court of New Hampshire” should not have any internal commas because it is all one title. No punctuation is necessary following it, either, because the subject is followed immediately by the predicate, and no extraneous clauses or modifications need be denoted.

35. Answer: C—12, *Modifications*

One does not have a right “for” or “of” something nearly as often as “to” something. In this case, that is indeed correct. This is a matter of context, with no hard-set rules to dictate answers.

36. Answer: G—4.3, *Non-Essential Clause “,...,”*

The “however” in question is not a necessary clause, and thus is best nested between commas to denote its properties as an addition.

37. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

The non-essential clauses here are all irrelevant and best deleted. Remember: *Shorter is Better!* If a short option seems just as valid as a long option, the short option is almost always correct.

38. Answer: H—1.1, *Apostrophes: It’s/Its*

The possessive form is “Its,” which is correct here. The apostrophe should always remind you that “It’s” is a contraction, because the missing space and “i” are replaced with it.

39. Answer: A—14, *Relative Pronouns: Who(se), Whom, Which, Where, and That*

The correct option is the existing “that,” as it is expanding upon the word “claim” in such a way as to require this relative pronoun. Forms of “which” are not correct because there is not a question of specification, nor is “where” because it unduly implies location (physical or not).

40. Answer: J—17, *Transitions*

Although moved into the middle of the sentence, this is still a transition. It would make sense at the start of the sentence, too, which should be a strong indicator. “However” is appropriate because it shows an unexpected contrary, whereas “thus,” “therefore,” and “moreover” would all show some sort of result or further example.

41. Answer: C—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

The simple present conjugation “wearing” is adequate for this sentence because it presents the action as a noun, as in “the act of wearing.” This is the only correct option in this context.

42. Answer: F—18.3, *Is it Relevant: Replacing*

In this paragraph, the existing sentence is the best option. The question looks both for a strong opener and a conveyance of “the importance of this case.” The only option which addresses both aspects of this question correctly is F; the others fail to meet one or both requirements.

43. Answer: C—5, *Other Comma Uses and Misuses & 12, *Modifications**

“A review” is the noun being acted upon here by the active verb “initiated.” The following “of students’ rights...” is simply a modification, and as such requires no commas to separate it.

44. Answer: F—12, *Modifications*

The correct preposition here is “in,” because one does not have responsibility “on,” “with,” or “about” public education. It is the only answer which makes sense in context.

45. Answer: D—20, *Suppose the Writer’s Goal*

Be careful not to be caught up in the “yes” and “no” part of these questions, but instead to focus on the supporting evidence. The only option which both addresses the question’s “urging students” *and* correctly connects it to the passage is D. While others may do one or the other, they do not adequately fulfill both.

46. Answer: G—17, *Transitions*

“Because of” is the appropriate transition because it correctly portrays the correlation between cause and effect. The other options do not, and cause the sentence to become confusing.

47. Answer: A—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

While option **D** is almost correct, in that it does provide an important description, it is not one of setting. As such, option **A** is the best answer because the contrast is indeed very important to the paragraph and almost entirely set up by the opening sentence.

48. Answer: G—1, *Apostrophes: Possessive vs. Plural*

Because the noun is plural (multiple girls) and possessive (faces belonging to them), there must be an apostrophe following the letter “s.”

49. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

The shortest, simplest answer is often correct. When it does not lose out on any important meanings, it is definitely correct. In this case, “apparent” is a single word which is just as appropriate as the entire phrases in other options, making the sentence much more concise and readable.

50. Answer: G—14, *Relative Pronouns: Who(se), Whom, Which, Where, and That*

The pronoun “who” is appropriate here to refer to a human antecedent. While “they” can also be used for humans, it is not a relative pronoun and thus creates a new independent clause. Without a conjunction to make a compound sentence, this new clause is incorrect.

51. Answer: C—14, *Relative Pronouns: Who(se), Whom, Which, Where, and That* & 15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

While it is important to understand the preposition+pronoun relationship, you can still answer this question without understanding it. The correct answer is significantly shorter than the other options, so it is not hard to guess it safely.

52. Answer: H—4, *Non-Essential and Essential Clauses*

The clause starting with “who” is very similar to one starting with “which.” In both cases, the clause must be nested between commas so as to be separate from the functional parts of the sentence.

53. Answer: B—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

While option **C** is tempting, note that it specifically offers a *reason* for Houdini’s skepticism. The

sentence itself does not offer such a reason, but only explains said skepticism. Instead, **B** is correct because this information is necessary context for the following sentence.

54. Answer: J—2.1, *Arranging a Sentence*

Note that the clause at the start of the sentence does not in fact *need* to be at the start. As it could be at the end, if we imagine the sentence rearranged we can better understand the subject and predicate, identifying this clause as a modifier. As such, there is no need for a conjunction; only a comma to separate the essential and non-essential clauses.

55. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness*

The correct option is significantly shorter than the others, which should immediately strike you as a hint. The wordiness of options **A** & **B** is absurd, and though **C** is a little shorter there is no reason not to shorten it further.

56. Answer: J—17, *Transitions*

Transitioning also means knowing when, where, and how to split up ideas. In this case, the shift of focus from Houdini to the hoax’s reveal is cause enough to create a new paragraph. The transition “since” is unnecessary, and while another, more appropriate transition word could be included, it is optional.

57. Answer: C—9, *Pronouns: Agreement and Case*

When determining the correct pronoun for a situation with multiple pronouns, imagine the one in question by itself. Without “her cousin,” the sentence would read “...admitted that she had staged...” This means, even with her cousin added in, the correct pronoun is still “she.”

58. Answer: H—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

Four out of the five options use the same tense for the verb: this should be a pretty strong indicator to look at the fifth. The present-tense “using” is not correct for an action which was very much in the past.

59. Answer: B—18.3, *Is it Relevant: Replacing*

The question specifically seeks a link to the opening sentence. If you don’t remember the opening, flip back and look: it’s about Sherlock Holmes. As such, **B** is the appropriate link.

60. Answer: J—20, *Suppose the Writer’s Goal*

Remember to prioritize the supporting evidence when analyzing these answers. **J** is correct because it both addresses the concern of the question *and* accurately references the text: no incorrect answer manages both.

61. Answer: C—9, Pronouns: Agreement and Case

The reference to “her invalid mother” in this sentence introduces a second possible antecedent to any following pronouns. As such, it is best and least ambiguous to state the antecedent instead of repeating potentially confusing pronouns.

62. Answer: F—6, Colons

The colon is used following an independent clause to lead into an example or explanation. In this case, the count of letters and recipients furthers the explanation of the preceding independent clause. Note that a dependent clause does not need anything else to follow a colon!

63. Answer: B—17, Transitions

There is no reason to create a new paragraph here. Leaving one sentence by itself is poor form, and should be a good clue that this should remain one paragraph. Between options **A** and **B**, only **B** correctly places the comma after the transitional modification phrase.

64. Answer: F—13.2, Parallel Structure: Prepositions

When multiple prepositions are used like this (both linked to the same action), they should be the same or similar. As such, Dickinson “wrote of ___ and of ___” is the correct wording. Options **H** & **J** are wordy and easily eliminated.

65. Answer: D—18.3, Is it Relevant: Replacing

The question states the paragraph’s focus (“roles that letters played in Emily Dickinson’s life”). This should be the foremost consideration in determining an answer. In addition, the sentence should make sense in context. The best option is **D**, which fits very well in this place as well as develops the focus of the paragraph.

66. Answer: H—12, Modifications

The underlined portion separates a modification from its subject. As such, all that is necessary is a comma. Were the sentence to continue past the modification, a comma would be necessary on both sides; the period, however, supersedes the comma.

67. Answer: B—14, Relative Pronouns: Who(se), Whom, Which, Where, and That

“Whom” is only used after a preposition. “Who” is correct here: **C** creates an entirely new meaning, and **D** incorrectly changes the subject of the verb phrase “had died.”

68. Answer: G—3, Joining and Separating Sentences

There is no need to include any punctuation in the underlined portion. It is organized in a basic subject-predicate order with no extra clauses or modifications.

69. Answer: C—9, Pronouns: Agreement and Case

The fact that Susan and Emily are both mentioned means the antecedent to “her” is ambiguous. Whenever an ambiguous pronoun is present, it is best resolved by including the antecedent, as in **C**.

70. Answer: J—15, Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness

None of the additional descriptions provided are relevant to the sentence. While they may well be factual, this is not the place to include them. The shortest answer is often correct, so consider **J** extensively right off the bat.

71. Answer: D—18.3, Is it Relevant: Replacing

The question asks for a replacement which “clearly describe[s] the interaction. . . during the writing process.” Only option **D** shows an interaction and not just an action; that is, shows both women taking part in different ways.

72. Answer: F—15, Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness

The other options here are redundant and wordy. None of them offer any extra insight, only unnecessary restatements and phrasing.

73. Answer: B—8.1, Verbs: Agreement

The plural “years” needs a plural verb conjugation (“reveal”) to match. **C** & **D** can be IMMEDIATELY ruled out because they said “would/will of” instead of “could/will have.”

74. Answer: H—9, Pronouns: Agreement and Case

“Her” is the correct pronoun because the intended antecedent is Dickinson. The other options change the meaning of the sentence incorrectly.

75. Answer: D—5, Other Comma Uses and Misuses

There is no need to include any commas in the underlined portion. Do not be tempted to put a comma after “perhaps” as with most transitions; it is not correct in this context.