

1. Answer: D—11, *Word Pairs and Comparisons*

In a comparison, it's important that the compared items follow some level of parallel structure. The first compared article is the action "unbricking a kiln." It should be compared to an action of the same tense: "uncovering buried treasure." Note that omission is often correct when available.

2. Answer: H—16, *Diction and Register*

The key word in the question is "pace." Only one answer addresses the *pace*, while they could arguably show caution and anticipation. **J** uses the word anticipation specifically, however does not illustrate the cautious pace of the action.

3. Answer: A—8, *Verbs: Agreement and Tense*

Don't be confused by the subject of this sentence. While "gleaming shapes" is plural, the actual subject is "an expanding view," which is singular. Thus, a singular present verb is necessary.

4. Answer: G—12, *Modifications*

This modification of "my friend Ellen" is best wrded as in **G** because it is concise and clear, as well as sensible. The preposition "for" does not work in this context. The word "more" is redundant, and "mostly" is just unnecessary.

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

Omission is very often correct when provided as an option. In this case, the phrase "as time goes by" is redundant and unnecessary because this passage is implied by the preceding phrase "over many weeks."

6. Answer: H—12, *Modifications & 4, Non-Essential and Essential Clauses*

The underlined portion begins an additional clause which is a modification of the noun "kiln." The clause is non-essential, and serves as an expanded description. It functions the same as a **4.2** clause, but the comma at the end is a period in this case as the sentence ends.

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

It does not actually matter whether the phrase should be kept or deleted. The correct answer is that which best supports its argument. In this case, **B** correctly identifies the focus of the essay and relates it to the essay. This is the best evidence provided, thus is correct.

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

The phrases offered in **G-J** all include a synonym for "crouch," which is already used in the sentence. This redundancy is better left out.

9. Answer: B—4.2, *Non-Essential Clause ". . . ,"*

The additional clause "using twigs for kindling" should be nested between commas to show that it is not aa functioning part of the sentence. Any others are extraneous or incorrect because they cause the clause to be incorrectly subdivided.

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

The descriptive noun "inferno" is much stronger than the neutral words in options **G & H**, and the unsure "a kind of" leading option **J** nulls any strength the words may have had.

11. Answer: D—17, *Transitions*

Note that this is a "NOT" question. The incorrect answer, **D**, is wrong because the expression should use the conjunction "and," not "or." If it said "time and again," it could be correct. As it stands, though, it is not.

12. Answer: F—13.2, *Parallel Structure: Prepositions*

Answer **F** is incorrect because the prepositions do not suit the sentence. Due to the nature of modifications, "in the night sky" does not describe where the sparks shoot, but rather the chimney. "The chimney in the night sky" is not the intended subject, and is incorrect.

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

The most appropriate answer is **C** because it matches the tone of the essay. While **D** is more informationally accurate, it does not suit the narrative tone of the essay. Similarly, **A & B** are *too* casual, failing to even provide meaningful information.

14. Answer: J—8.1, *Verbs: Agreement & 12, Modifications*

As-written, this sentence makes the statement that Ellen dies down before bricking up the firebox. The use of "having" creates a modification of "she," the antecedent being Ellen. **G** creates a new independent clause and fails to separate it correctly from the following independent clause. **H** is possessive, stating Ellen has a flame that dies. All of these are subtle faults which prove **J** correct.

15. Answer: A—12, Modifications

Here, a modification of “results” is being made. The results are belonging to both Ellen’s labor and the fire’s magic. A new clause should not be created here, particularly an incorrectly joined independent clause.

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

When omission is an option, always consider it carefully; it is often correct. In this case, the underlined portion is redundant because the phrase “business trip” already informs the reader of the work connection.

17. Answer: C—12, Modifications

The introductory clause leading this sentence is a modification which provides a context of chronology. The preposition “as” is comparative, and cannot be used in this context without a parallel for comparison (“as soon as...”). This is not provided, however, so it is incorrect.

18. Answer: F—5, Other Comma Uses and Misuses

There is no need for a comma or other form of punctuation here. “Aunt said” is the simple noun-verb relation of the sentence, and to interfere would be incorrect.

19. Answer: B—18.2, Is it Relevant: Deleting

The word “but” can serve as an important indicator here. “But” is generally used to show contrast, which is the key word in option **B**. Making this connection should quickly signal the correct path to take in answering the question.

20. Answer: F—8, Verbs: Agreement and Tense

Answers **H** & **J** should be ruled out IMMEDIATELY. “Must of” is not correct! Never, never *ever*, say “must of/could of/might of/etc.” It is wrong, and should be a free answer! **G** is incorrect because it would imply Rosie heard not the talking itself, but rather had heard elsewhere about the talking.

21. Answer: C—2, Sentences and Fragments

Option **C** may be the shortest, but this time it isn’t correct! Beginning the sentence this way would create an independent clause, and the rest of the sentence is not set up to accommodate one.

22. Answer: F—19.1, Sentence Order

This is the most appropriate place for the sentence for two main reasons. The first is the usage of the name “Rosie” for each following sentence; the name must

be introduced first. The other main hint is the pronoun “this,” which needs an antecedent. Where is an appropriate antecedent? These two questions should easily direct you to sentence **1**.

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

The clause “it turns out” is non-essential; it serves no grammatical function in the sentence. As such, it should be punctuated with a comma before and after to separate it from the functioning clauses, and naught else.

24. Answer: H—8.2, Verbs: Tense

The preposition “up” here is unnecessary. The common phrase “to start up” is not grammatically valid. The fact that the other options are easily verifiable should clue you in that this is the imposter.

25. Answer: B—8, Verbs: Agreement and Tense

It would only make sense given the context for the aunt to have already checked with the speaker’s parents. While the others choices are grammatically viable, they make seemingly nonsensical implications. **B** is simple and sensible.

26. Answer: G—17, Transitions

There must be a means to transition from the narrative to a presentation of facts about tortoises. The sensible option is the narrator seeking information in the narrative, in this case by asking her aunt. The information can follow, presumably as heard from the aunt, and remain relevant.

27. Answer: D—15, Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness & 16, Diction and Register

The best option here is the short, simple, sensible approach. While **A** & **B** may well be true, they do not pertain adequately to the context, nor address each other’s point. **C** does not have an appropriate tone for the passage.

28. Answer: F—18, Is it Relevant: Replacing

The simple and precise phrase already provided is specific enough for this context. In fact, it’s *more* specific than the other options, all of which unduly imply other potential foods.

29. Answer: A—1, Apostrophes: Possessive vs. Plural

Because “parents” is plural already, the apostrophe must be placed *after* the “s.” If t is before, it becomes a singular possessive. Without any, it is plural but not possessive. The comma in **D** is nonsense to confuse you.

30. Answer: G—12, *Modifications*

The tortoise is a family *of* reptile, not “in.” While this can be confusing due to the abstract nature of nomenclature, fluency in English should help find the sensible answer by what just sounds correct.

31. Answer: B—1, *Apostrophes: Possessive vs. Plural*

The singular “family” should be followed by an apostrophe-s in order to make it possessive. There is no need to pluralize the noun.

32. Answer: F—2, *Sentences and Fragments*

The incorrect choice is F. An independent clause should be placed in the underlined portion, made dependent by the leading word “though.” F is dependent, and the subsequent clause is incorrect.

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

This isn’t a relative pronoun because it refers to her grandmother. It is used as a modification *relative* to the subject. “Who” is correct because it refers to a person, and as it is not paired with a preposition it does not need to be “whom.” Note that in this case, omission is incorrect.

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

Although the detail can be connected to the preceding sentence, the fact that it is not built upon further and effectively provides no depth of understanding to the passage renders it unnecessary and best left out.

35. Answer: C—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

Two independent clauses can be joined many ways. If a comma is used, it must also have a conjunction. One without the other, as used here, is incorrect.

36. Answer: H—2.1, *Arranging a Sentence*

This is a difficult question. In general, it is best to consider what the active verb is in order to determine how to arrange a complex predicate. In this case, the important action is the *displaying*. The additional parts are modification, telling what and how he displayed.

37. Answer: C—1.1, *Apostrophe’s: It’s/Its*

The possessive form should be used because the “components” are possessed by the pocket watch. As there is no conjunction, and thus no “missing” letters, no apostrophe is necessary.

38. Answer: H—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

The past-tense “kept” is appropriate here, as the action took place in the simple past.

39. Answer: D—16, *Diction and Register*

The additional exclamations are not only unnecessary, but inappropriate for this passage. They are very informal, and should not be included in this informative piece.

40. Answer: F—3.1, *Joining and Separating Sentences: Period*

These sentences are best kept separate. The transition “in addition” is more sensible than “therefore” because it introduces a new point, rather than analyze a consequence.

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

It’s easiest to answer this question through elimination. There is no direct link, ruling out B. There is neither humor present nor an “extensive” digression, as it is short and concise. The only reasonable answer is that it supports his love of learning.

42. Answer: G—9.2, *Pronouns: Case*

The use of a pronoun here is ambiguous and confusing. It would be far more appropriate to simply address the calculations directly.

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

It is redundant to use any of these options because the word “annual” is used immediately beforehand, already dictating the yearly nature. Redundancy is always best omitted.

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

How would one best summarize the entirety of the essay? Your answer should be neither too broad nor too specific. The other options provided fail to capture the entirety of Banneker’s description, instead focusing on specific aspects.

45. Answer: A—19.2, *Paragraph Order*

This is a sensible place for the paragraph to be placed. Banneker has been introduced, his character illustrated, and this development led into by the preceding information. It also is naturally followed by the conclusion, which further builds upon his love of education, as exemplified by this paragraph.

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

As is often the case, omission is the correct answer. It’s redundant to describe the wilderness as “wild.” The best option is to delete the statement and begin a new sentence.

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

As the sentence refers to “kayaks” as a whole, a plural pronoun is appropriate. “Which” is incorrectly relative, when a direct pronoun is correct in this context.

48. Answer: G—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

The yes-or-no portion here is not what is important, particularly as this one could go either way. Instead, choose the answer with the best supporting evidence. As it does not differentiate types of kayaks, nor is it wordy or irrelevant, the best option is **G** because it *does* provide a visual description.

49. Answer: C—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

Do not be confused by this, as it seems to begin a list. There is no need for punctuation here, as the sentence is actually of simple construction (“these-are-these”).

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

As the size is being compared between only two objects, “larger” is correct. The “-est” suffix is used in groups of more than two.

51. Answer: C—4.2, *Non-Essential Clause “, . . . ,”*

This clause is not functionally necessary to the sentence. It provides detail and clarification, however, so is still worth including. These non-essential clauses are best punctuated with a comma on each end so as to differentiate it from the rest of the sentence.

52. Answer: J—17, *Transitions*

Although not at the start of the sentence, this is still a transition word. The correct choice is “nevertheless” because it presents a fact which would seem to be contrary to the previous statement: namely, that kayakers wear safety gear even though the kayaks are quite safe.

53. Answer: D—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

The use of “yet” as a transition word makes **D** the *least* viable option. The sentence would be an independent clause without it, but with it becomes dependent on the prior sentence, and is thus a fragment

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

The most appropriate name for the people in this sentence is “nature watcher,” because it adequately describes what they do as well as why this is relevant to them.

55. Answer: C—17, *Transitions*

The break would be most appropriate here because this is where the second topic, the sea kayak, is introduced. There is no transitional word or phrase, so the ideas are best separated down the middle.

56. Answer: G—8.1, *Verbs: Agreement*

The subject of this sentence is “equipment,” *NOT* “kayaks.” As such, a singular verb conjugation is necessary.

57. Answer: B—3.3, *Joining and Separating Sentences: Comma + FANBOYS*

These two independent clauses already have a comma between them, so the conjunction “and” is necessary. Of course, it does not need to be “and,” but that is the only appropriate option provide.

58. Answer: J—12, *Modifications & 2.1, Arranging a Sentence*

The best way to organize this sentence is to consider it one piece at a time. The start is, of course, “the paddler.” Next, the paddler does what? Pulls. Pulls what? One end. Of what? The paddle. Through where? The water. What water? On alternating sides of the boat. It’s a bit of a convoluted process, but it will almost always find the right answer.

59. Answer: B—10, *Adjectives and Adverbs*

There is no need to punctuate here. Despite the “but,” this is still just the use of adjectives to modify “boat.”

60. Answer: G—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

Process of elimination is the best route for answering this question. It is not difficult to determine this paragraph is not a detailed description of muscles, nor a scientific explanation, nor a plea of safety. The only reasonable answer is **G**.

61. Answer: C—12, *Modifications*

This latter portion of the sentence is a long modifier. “Seams” is modified by “of burning rock miles beneath Earth’s surface.” There is no reason to punctuate within this modification.

62. Answer: J—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

When given an independent and a dependent clause, it is easy to combine them. When separating them, however, one must be careful not to strand a dependent clause. **J** incorrectly uses a period to separate the dependent clause without making it independent.

63. Answer: C—8.1, *Verbs: Agreement*

The simplest way to check if a verb agrees with the sentence is to compare it to another verb when available. In this case, “to feed” can be assumed correct, so the same conjugation should be applied to the second “to breed.”

64. Answer: H—16, *Diction and Register*

Phrases such as “to a tee” or “all right” are casual and inappropriate for a formal, informative essay. Instead, the clear, concise, professional option **H** is appropriate

65. Answer: B—13.1, *Parallel Structure: Lists*

The list here should, first and foremost, be corrected to use “too” instead of “to.” This should also rule out option **D**. The difference between is the remaining answers is the concluding comma, which should not be included as it incorrectly separates the modifications from their subject.

66. Answer: G—4.2, *Non-Essential Clause “,...,”*

The additional clause here, which provides the name (an extra detail), should not be a functional part of the sentence. As such, a comma on each end denotes it as separate.

67. Answer: D—3, *Joining and Separating Sentences*

The two independent clauses provided can be separated in a number of ways. It should immediately stand out as incorrect to provide *no* punctuation or other change in order to separate these ideas.

68. Answer: J—8.2, *Verbs: Tense*

The simple present-tense conjugation “flourish” is appropriate because the action is continuing in the present; had thermophiles all died off, the past could have been applicable. They did not, however, and still flourish in the present.

69. Answer: D—15, *Shorter is Better: Redundancy and Wordiness* & 18, *Is it Relevant*

This additional information is irrelevant and should be deleted. The same is true for the replacement options. When one answer is so notably longer than the others, it should immediately catch your eye.

70. Answer: G—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

Remember, it is not the affirmative or negative that matters. Determine your answer based on the supporting evidence. The options are all easily verified as incorrect *except G*, which is true. While it is not a fantastic reason in-and-of-itself, it is the only viable option.

71. Answer: A—16, *Diction and Register*

The other options do not actually describe the terrain. They mention the cause, however only option **A** meets the question’s request for “specifically and vividly” describing the underwater terrain.

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

It is important that each modification is clearly matched to its subject. The modification “from cracks” best modifies the verb “gush,” so should follow it. This also shifts the remaining words into a sensible order.

73. Answer: A—17, *Transitions*

This answer is LEAST correct because it does not specify the Psychrophile’s affinity for cold. This is a necessary detail to provide a contrast to the previous paragraph, creating a transition.

74. Answer: G—18.2, *Is it Relevant: Deleting*

This portion of the sentence is important to making a real connection to the scientific conjecture which follows. Option **G** is the only answer which accurately connects its support to both the question *and* the context.

75. Answer: D—17, *Transitions*

Options **A-C** imply some sort of contradiction or seemingly contrary evidence, whereas this is in fact introducing an idea in total agreement with the preceding sentence. Only “indeed” builds off of the former sentence without implying something to the contrary will follow.