

Sentence Correction Communication

SC21011.01

250. The prime lending rate is a key rate in the economy: not only are the interest rates on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses tied to the prime, but also on a growing number of consumer loans, including home equity loans.

- A. not only are the interest rates on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses tied to the prime, but also on
- B. tied to the prime are the interest rates not only on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses, but also on
- C. the interest rates not only on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses are tied to the prime, but also
- D. not only the interest rates on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses are tied to the prime, but also on
- E. the interest rates are tied to the prime, not only on most loans to small and medium-sized businesses, but also

Logical predication; Parallelism

The sentence tells us that the interest rates on two classes of loans are affected by the prime lending rate. The structure *not only . . . but also . . .*, consisting of two adverbial modifiers, conveys this.

The position of the two modifiers is crucial in order to know what each modifies. Furthermore, it is essential that the two things modified be parallel.

- A. In this choice, not only are the interest rates . . . but also on is not parallel.
- B. **Correct.** This choice uses a correctly parallel form not only on . . . but also on . . .
- C. In this choice, the interest rates not only on . . . but also is not parallel.
- D. In this choice, not only the interest rates on . . . are . . . is idiomatically incorrect: when not only begins an independent statement, the order of subject and verb in the not only part must be inverted as in not only are . . .
- E. In this choice, the interest rates not only on . . . but also is not parallel.

The correct answer is B.

SC83811.01

251. Lacking information about energy use, people tend to overestimate the amount of energy used by equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate that used by unobtrusive equipment, such as water heaters.

- A. equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate that
- B. equipment, such as lights, that are visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate it when
- C. equipment, such as lights, that is visible and must be turned on and off and underestimate it when
- D. visible equipment, such as lights, that must be turned on and off and underestimate that
- E. visible equipment, such as lights, that must be turned on and off and underestimate it when

Rhetorical construction; Agreement

This sentence, as worded, has a subject-verb agreement problem: the noun *equipment*, not *lights*, serves as the subject of the verb *are*; because *equipment* is singular, *is* should be used. Furthermore, the sentence would read more clearly if *visible equipment* were used rather than *equipment . . . that [is] visible*. This would create a less wordy sentence that has a more parallel structure, in which *visible equipment* is contrasted with *unobtrusive equipment*.

- A. This version is flawed for the reasons given above.
- B. This version has the same subject-verb agreement problem as in A. Furthermore, it is unclear what the referent of the pronoun *it* is here. Finally, this version, like A, is wordy, and its structure is not parallel.
- C. This version correctly uses the singular verb *is*. However, as in choice B, the pronoun *it* has no clear referent. Finally, this version, like A and B, is wordy, and its structure is not parallel.
- D. **Correct.** This version is free of subject-verb agreement errors and its structure is parallel.
- E. Although this version is free of subject-verb agreement errors and appropriately uses a parallel structure, it retains the problem from choices B and C: the pronoun *it* has no clear referent.

The correct answer is D.

SC37561.01

252. Evidence of some shifts in the character of violence on television is emerging from a new study of 500 television programs by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center in Washington, D.C., a study that is underwritten by a number of educational institutions.

- A. programs by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center in Washington, D.C., a study that is underwritten by a number of educational institutions
- B. programs by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research

center in Washington, D.C., and it is underwritten by a number of educational institutions

- C. programs underwritten by a number of educational institutions and conducted by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center based in Washington, D.C.
- D. programs, a study underwritten by a number of educational institutions and conducted by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center in Washington, D.C.
- E. programs, a study conducted by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center based in Washington, D.C., and it is underwritten by a number of educational institutions

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence gives three pieces of information: that a new study suggests the nature of violence on television is changing; that it was funded by educational institutions; and that it was conducted by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a nonprofit research center.

Our task is to order this information logically and grammatically. The most obvious defect in the given sentence is that the long phrase *a study . . . institutions* describing how the study was funded is placed too far from the first mention of the study (*a new study*), with too much distracting information in between.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons stated above.
- B. In this choice, it is ambiguous: it could, for example, refer to the evidence or the new study.
- C. In this choice, the modifying phrases underwritten by . . . and conducted by . . . appear to modify programs.
- D. **Correct.** This choice clearly organizes the information in the sentence, with no ambiguity.
- E. The pronoun it is ambiguous: it could refer to the new study or the evidence.

The correct answer is D.

SC48461.01

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253. Judge Lois Forer's study asks why do some litigants have a preferred status over others in the use of a public resource, the courts, which in theory are available to all but in fact are unequally distributed among rich and poor.

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- A. do some litigants have a preferred status over others in the use of a public resource, the courts, which in theory are available to all but in fact are unequally distributed among
- B. some litigants have a preferred status over others in the use of a public resource, the courts, which in theory are available to all but in fact are

- unequally distributed between
- C. do some litigants have a preferred status over another in the use of a public resource, the courts, in theory available to all but in fact are unequally distributed among
 - D. some litigants have a preferred status to another in the use of a public resource, the courts, in theory available to all but in fact not equally distributed between
 - E. does one litigant have a preferred status over the other in the use of a public resource, the courts, in theory available to all but in fact they are not equally distributed among

Diction; Parallelism

The word *do* between *why* and *some* is unnecessary here. It would be used if we were to present the question in quotation marks, for example: “Why do some litigants . . . ?” However, when simply reporting that a person has asked the question, we simply say *X asks why some litigants*.

Additionally, the sentence appears to be attempting to say that the rich have better access to courts than the poor. Given that there are only two groups, the appropriate preposition is *between* (used for two and only two things) rather than *among* (used for three or more things). That is, the sentence would more appropriately read *unequally distributed between rich and poor*.

- A. This choice is flawed for the reasons indicated above.
- B. **Correct.** This version of the sentence uses the appropriate preposition *between* and clearly conveys the intended idea.
- C. This choice has the same flaws as choice A. Additionally, remember that the sentence attempts to communicate that some litigants have preferred status over some others rather than simply over one specific person. For this reason, *over another* is incorrect; the correct wording would be *over others*. Finally, the wording of the final clause is unacceptable; *which in theory are available to all but in fact are unequally distributed* is preferable.
- D. The correct preposition to use after preferred status is *over*, not *to*. Additionally, as in choice C, *others rather than another* would be correct. Finally, the sentence would be more clearly worded if *unequally rather than not equally* had been used.
- E. As in choice A, the use of *does* is unnecessary. Note also that the question regarding the preferred status in the use of a public resource is not about two particular litigants, but about litigants in general. Therefore, *one litigant . . . over the other* does not clearly convey the intended meaning. Furthermore, the use of *does* is unnecessary, and the final clause would be better worded *which in theory are available to all but in fact are unequally distributed between* than what is found here.

The correct answer is B.

254. During an ice age, the buildup of ice at the poles and the drop in water levels near the equator speed up the earth's rotation, like a spinning figure skater whose speed increases when her arms are drawn in.

- A. like a spinning figure skater whose speed increases when her arms are drawn in
- B. like the increased speed of a figure skater when her arms are drawn in
- C. like a figure skater who increases speed while spinning with her arms drawn in
- D. just as a spinning figure skater who increases speed by drawing in her arms
- E. just as a spinning figure skater increases speed by drawing in her arms

Logical predication; Parallelism

Each of the incorrect answer choices makes a faulty comparison.

- A. Grammatically, the comparison here is between the buildup of ice . . . and the drop in water levels . . . on one hand and a spinning figure skater on the other. However, the appropriate comparison would be either between the figure skater and earth, or between the skater's rotation and the earth's rotation.
- B. Grammatically, the comparison here is between the buildup of ice . . . and the drop in water levels . . . on one hand and the increased speed of a figure skater on the other. However, the appropriate comparison would be between the increased speed of earth's rotation and the increased speed of a figure skater. Furthermore, note that this answer choice nowhere suggests that the skater is spinning.
- C. Grammatically, as in choice A, the comparison here is between the buildup of ice . . . and the drop in water levels . . . on one hand and a spinning figure skater on the other. However, the appropriate comparison would be either between the figure skater and earth, or between the skater's rotation and earth's rotation.
- D. When just as is used to mean in the same way as, it must link two independent clauses. The clause beginning who increases speed . . . is a dependent clause.
- E. **Correct.** In this version just as is appropriately used to create a comparison between the way the buildup of ice at the poles, along with the drop in water levels at the equator, increases the speed of earth's rotation and the way a figure skater increases the speed of her spin by drawing in her arms

The correct answer is E.

255. Added to the increase in hourly wages requested last July, the railroad employees are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits.

- A. Added to the increase in hourly wages requested last July, the railroad employees are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits.
- B. Added to the increase in hourly wages which had been requested last July, the employees of the railroad are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits.
- C. The railroad employees are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits added to the increase in hourly wages that were requested last July.
- D. In addition to the increase in hourly wages that were requested last July, the railroad employees are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits.
- E. In addition to the increase in hourly wages requested last July, the employees of the railroad are now seeking an expanded program of retirement benefits.

Logical predication; Agreement

The phrase *Added to the increase in hourly wages . . .*

modifies what immediately follows the comma, *the railroad employees*. This would mean that the railroad employees themselves are being added to the increase in hourly wages, which is absurd.

The idea the sentence is intended to convey is that the railroad employees are now seeking to have an expanded program of retirement benefits added to the increase in hourly earnings requested last July.

The correct answer will be the choice that most clearly, idiomatically, and grammatically expresses this idea.

- A. As indicated above, the phrase added to the increase in hourly wages requested last July . . . incorrectly modifies the railroad employees.
- B. The phrase Added to the increase in hourly wages which had been requested last July modifies the railroad employees, which is not what is intended.
- C. Unlike the prior two choices, this choice does not make any modification errors. However, seeking an expanded program . . . added is not correct; seeking to have an expanded program . . . added would be acceptable. In the other answer choices, seeking most nearly means trying to acquire. In this choice, however, because it is used in conjunction with another verb (added), seeking most nearly means trying. When used in this sense, seeking should be followed by an infinitive.
- D. Like C, but unlike A and B, this choice does not have any modification errors. However, it has an agreement flaw: the noun the increase in hourly wages is singular, so the verb must be was requested rather

than were requested.

E. **Correct.** This version clearly and correctly conveys the intended idea.

The correct answer is E.

SC21561.01

256. The use of gravity waves, which do not interact with matter in the way electromagnetic waves do, hopefully will enable astronomers to study the actual formation of black holes and neutron stars.

- A. in the way electromagnetic waves do, hopefully will enable
- B. in the way electromagnetic waves do, will, it is hoped, enable
- C. like electromagnetic waves, hopefully will enable
- D. like electromagnetic waves, would enable, hopefully
- E. such as electromagnetic waves do, will, it is hoped, enable

Rhetorical Construction; Diction

While the use of *hopefully*, as used in the sentence as written, to mean *I hope that* or *let's hope that*, is well established, this use is considered to be informal. For this reason, it is generally avoided in writing.

When it is used in this way in writing, however, it must be used at the beginning of a sentence or at the beginning of an independent clause, and be set off by the use of commas. In any case, the use of *hopefully* in this sentence is incorrect: in a technical sense, it implies that the enabling of the astronomers will be hopeful.

- A. The use of *hopefully* here is incorrect, for the reasons given above.
- B. **Correct.** The use of *it is hoped* (as opposed to *hopefully*) here properly conveys the intended meaning of the sentence. Furthermore, the use of *in the way* appropriately conveys, unlike the answer choices using *like* or *such as*, that what is being compared is the interaction, or lack thereof, of gravity waves, on one hand, and electromagnetic waves, on the other, with matter.
- C. The use of *like* incorrectly implies that electromagnetic waves are a type of matter. Furthermore, the use of *hopefully* is incorrect, for the reasons given above.
- D. The use of *like* incorrectly implies that electromagnetic waves are a type of matter. Furthermore, the use of *hopefully* is incorrect, for the reasons given above.
- E. The use of *such as* is inappropriate here: first, *such as* must be followed by a noun, or list of nouns, rather than a noun followed by a verb, as in *electromagnetic waves do*; second, the use of *like* incorrectly implies that electromagnetic waves are a type of matter.

The correct answer is B.

SC61561.01

257. Many of them chiseled from solid rock centuries ago, the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia are dotted with hundreds of monasteries.

- A. Many of them chiseled from solid rock centuries ago, the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia are dotted with hundreds of monasteries.
- B. Chiseled from solid rock centuries ago, the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia are dotted with many hundreds of monasteries.
- C. Hundreds of monasteries, many of them chiseled from solid rock centuries ago, are dotting the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia.
- D. The mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia are dotted with hundreds of monasteries, many of which are chiseled from solid rock centuries ago.
- E. The mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia are dotted with hundreds of monasteries, many of them chiseled from solid rock centuries ago.

Logical predication; Verb form

This sentence should indicate that *hundreds of monasteries* were *chiseled from solid rock*. As written, however, the phrase at the beginning of the sentence modifies the noun that immediately follows the comma: therefore, as worded, the sentence states that *the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia* were what was *chiseled from solid rock*.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons described above.
- B. This choice, like A, has an incorrect placement of its modifying phrase. As a result, it too says that the mountainous regions are what were chiseled from solid rock. The regions themselves were not chiseled; it was the monasteries.
- C. The present continuous are dotting suggests that the dotting is something that is actively occurring at this moment. It would be more idiomatically appropriate to use the present tense dot.
- D. The chiseling took place centuries ago. This requires the past were chiseled rather than the present tense are chiseled.
- E. **Correct.** This version of the sentence clearly states the intended meaning: many of the monasteries that dot the mountainous regions of northern Ethiopia were chiseled from solid rock centuries ago.

The correct answer is E.

SC81561.01

258. Plausible though it sounds, the weakness of the hypothesis is that it does not incorporate all relevant evidence.

- A. Plausible though it sounds, the weakness of the hypothesis
- B. Even though it sounds plausible, the weakness of the hypothesis

- C. Though plausible, the hypothesis' weakness
- D. Though the hypothesis sounds plausible, its weakness
- E. The weakness of the hypothesis which sounds plausible

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The phrase *plausible though it sounds* modifies the noun that comes immediately after the comma, namely, *the weakness of the hypothesis*. As a result, the sentence says that the weakness itself is plausible. It is reasonably clear, however, that the sentence is intended to indicate that the hypothesis sounds plausible, not that the weakness does. Additionally, the referent of the pronoun *it* is ambiguous. The referent could be either *weakness* or *hypothesis*.

- A. This choice suffers from the above errors.
- B. This choice also inappropriately says that the weakness is what is plausible.
- C. This choice also inappropriately says that the weakness is what is plausible
- D. **Correct.** This version appropriately describes the hypothesis itself as plausible.
- E. The phrase which sounds plausible should be set off with commas, or else which should be replaced with that. Furthermore, this choice fails rhetorically in that it does not convey, as it should, how surprising it is that the plausible-sounding hypothesis has this weakness.

The correct answer is D.

SC32561.01

259. In despite of the steady population flow out from rural areas into urban clusters, nearly 5 million farm households are still in Japan out of a total population of some 116 million people.

- A. In despite of the steady population flow out from rural areas into urban clusters, nearly 5 million farm households are still in Japan
- B. In spite of the steady population flow out from rural areas into urban clusters, nearly 5 million farm households are still in Japan
- C. Despite the steady population flow from rural areas into urban clusters, Japan's farm households are still nearly 5 million
- D. Despite the steady population flow from rural areas to urban clusters, there are still nearly 5 million farm households in Japan
- E. In Japan, despite the steady population flow out from rural areas into urban clusters, still there are nearly 5 million farm households

Rhetorical construction; Diction

In despite of is idiomatically incorrect; either *in spite of* or *despite* is acceptable. Also, *nearly 5 million farm households are still in Japan* is stated

confusingly; the idea is not that the farm households are leaving Japan itself, but rather that people are leaving rural areas. The sentence would be more appropriately phrased if it said *there are still 5 million farm households in Japan*.

- A. This choice is flawed for the reasons given above.
- B. In spite of is correct, but, as in A, nearly 5 million . . . are still in fails to convey the intended meaning clearly.
- C. Japan's farm households are still nearly 5 million is confusingly phrased. As worded, it seems to indicate that there are 5 million people on farms in Japan rather than that the number of farm households in Japan is 5 million. The intended meaning would be better conveyed if it said there are still nearly 5 million farm households in Japan.
- D. **Correct.** This choice conveys the intended idea clearly and is grammatically correct.
- E. The time indicator still should be placed after the verb are. That is, the appropriate sentence should read there are still nearly . . . As worded here, still could be read in a way that does not indicate time, but rather means something like nevertheless, which would be redundant, given the earlier occurrence of despite.

The correct answer is D.

SC52561.01

260. Financial uncertainties from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove even more deterring to the nuclear industry than political opposition is.

- A. from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove even more deterring to the nuclear industry than political opposition is
- B. from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove to be even more serious a deterrent to the nuclear industry than political opposition
- C. from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove to be an even more serious deterrent to the nuclear industry than political opposition
- D. resulting from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove to be an even more serious deterrent to the nuclear industry than is political opposition
- E. resulting from the accident at Three Mile Island may prove even more deterring to the nuclear industry than political opposition

Grammatical construction; Parallelism

First, *deterring to the nuclear industry* is not correct, as *deter* is a transitive verb and requires a direct object. Furthermore, while *prove* does not have to be followed by *to be*, here *to be* is required for parallelism with *political opposition is*. Finally, even though *financial uncertainties from* is not strictly incorrect, *financial uncertainties resulting from* would be clearer.

- A. This choice is flawed for the reasons above.

- B. As worded, this choice can be read as comparing the degree to which the financial uncertainties are a deterrent with the degree to which the financial uncertainties are political opposition. To fix this, we must insert the verb *is* either before or after political opposition. Furthermore, the sentence would be clearer if it said *resulting from*. Finally, even more serious a deterrent would more appropriately read an even more serious deterrent.
- C. The comparison is again faulty as in choice B. Also, the sentence would be clearer if it said *resulting from*.
- D. **Correct.** This choice clearly conveys the intended meaning. While it is possible to argue that *is* would be better placed after political opposition, it is technically correct in either place. Realistically, this issue is minor compared to those in each of the other choices.
- E. *Deterring to the nuclear industry* is not correct, as *deter* is a transitive verb and requires a direct object.

The correct answer is D.

SC72561.01

261. Remembered almost as an epic among America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims is the digging of Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s, one of the proudest of family legends.

- A. Remembered almost as an epic among America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims is the digging of Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s, one of the proudest of family legends.
- B. Almost an epic among America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims is the digging in the early 1900s of Chicago's subway tunnels, one of the proudest of family legends.
- C. Digging Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s, America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims remember it almost as an epic and it is the one of the proudest of family legends.
- D. America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims remember almost as an epic the digging of Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s, one of the proudest of family legends.
- E. One of the proudest of family legends, remembered almost as an epic among America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims, is the digging of Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s.

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

An epic is a work of art or legend conveying heroic deeds. Therefore, presumably what is meant to be remembered *almost as an epic* is the family legend relating to the digging of Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s.

However, as it is worded, the sentence states that the digging itself is remembered *almost as an epic*.

Furthermore, it is not immediately clear what *one of the proudest of family legends* modifies. Whenever possible, it is best to place a phrase close to what it modifies.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons described above.
- B. This choice does not describe the family legend as almost an epic. Instead, it describes the digging of the subways that way. Additionally, as worded, the sentence seems to say that Chicago's subway tunnels themselves are one of the proudest of family legends.
- C. In this choice, the phrase digging Chicago's subway tunnels in the early 1900s modifies America's 12,000 Bosnian Muslims. However, it was an earlier generation who dug the tunnels, not the 12,000 Bosnian Muslims currently living in America. Additionally, as in previous choices, this version of the sentence also describes the digging rather than the legend as being remembered almost as an epic.
- D. This choice also incorrectly describes the digging of the subway tunnels, not the family legend, as being almost as an epic.
- E. **Correct.** This version clearly states that it is the family legend that is remembered almost as an epic.

The correct answer is E.

SC92561.01

262. Like the one reputed to live in Loch Ness, also an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river, inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster."

- A. Like the one reputed to live in Loch Ness, also an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river, inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster."
- B. Inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster" similar to the one reputed to live in Loch Ness, which, like Lake Champlain is an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river.
- C. Inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster" similar to Loch Ness's, which, like Lake Champlain, is an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river.
- D. Like Loch Ness's reputed monster, inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain, also an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river, claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster."
- E. Similar to that reputed to live in Loch Ness, inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain, also an inland lake connected to the ocean by a river, claim sightings of a long and narrow "sea monster."

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

As written, the phrase *Like the one reputed to live in Loch Ness . . .* compares *the one* to what comes immediately after the comma directly after the *river*, namely *inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain*. That is surely not the intended comparison.

The intended meaning of the sentence, of course, is that the “sea monster” reputedly sighted at Loch Ness is like the “sea monster” reputedly sighted at Lake Champlain.

An additional problem with this sentence is that the separation between *one* and “sea monster” is too great; as a result, it is not clear what the word *one* refers to.

- A. This choice suffers from the problems indicated above.
- B. **Correct.** This choice clearly and efficiently conveys its intended meaning.
- C. This version of the sentence appears to assert that the Loch Ness “sea monster” actually exists. Furthermore, it inappropriately uses the phrase is an inland lake to modify Loch Ness's [sea monster], not Loch Ness.
- D. As in choice A, this version of the sentence inappropriately compares Loch Ness's reputed monster to inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain.
- E. This version of the sentence inappropriately uses the phrase Similar to that reputed to live in Loch Ness to modify inhabitants of the area around Lake Champlain.

The correct answer is B.

SC43561.01

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263. A star will compress itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole after it passes through a red giant stage, depending on mass.

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- A. A star will compress itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole after it passes through a red giant stage, depending on mass.
 - B. After passing through a red giant stage, depending on its mass, a star will compress itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole.
 - C. After passing through a red giant stage, a star's mass will determine if it compresses itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole.
 - D. Mass determines whether a star, after passing through the red giant stage, will compress itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole.
 - E. The mass of a star, after passing through the red giant stage, will determine whether it compresses itself into a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole.

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence attempts to convey the idea that a star will compress itself into one of three forms after it passes through the red giant stage: a white dwarf, a neutron star, or a black hole. The sentence also indicates that which one of these three forms the star will compress itself into is determined by the star's mass. As worded, these ideas are not clearly and unambiguously conveyed. For example, it is not clear what the modifying phrase *depending on mass* is supposed to modify. Because of its placement, it appears to modify *red giant stage*; it should, however, modify *star*. Given this problem, the sentence fails to convey its intended meaning clearly.

- A. As indicated above, this version fails to convey its intended meaning clearly.
- B. The referent of the pronoun *its* is unclear. Given that *red giant stage* is the only noun before *its*, the sentence would seem to indicate that *red giant stage* is the referent, but the meaning would be correct only if *its* refers to *star*. Furthermore, the modifying statement *depending on its mass* appears to modify *red giant stage* rather than *star*.
- C. The modifying phrase *After passing through a red giant stage* modifies a star's mass but it should describe the star itself. Given that the mass is not what passes through the red giant stage, this is incorrect.
- D. **Correct.** In this version, it is clear that the sentence is saying that the star itself passes through the red giant stage and that the star will ultimately compress itself into one of the three listed options: white dwarf, neutron star, or black hole.
- E. The pronoun *it* refers to the mass of a star, rather than a star, as intended. Likewise, the star itself passes through the red giant stage, not its mass.

The correct answer is D.

SC53561.01

264. Although many art patrons can readily differentiate a good debenture from an undesirable one, they are much less expert in distinguishing good paintings and poor ones, authentic art and fakes.

- A. much less expert in distinguishing good paintings and poor ones, authentic art and
- B. far less expert in distinguishing good paintings from poor ones, authentic art from
- C. much less expert when it comes to distinguishing good paintings and poor ones, authentic art from
- D. far less expert in distinguishing good paintings and poor ones, authentic art and
- E. far less the expert when it comes to distinguishing between good painting, poor ones, authentic art, and

Idiom; Parallelism

The preferred idiomatic form is *distinguishing X from Y*, rather than *distinguishing X and Y*.

- A. This version uses the incorrect idiomatic form distinguishing X and Y.
- B. **Correct.** This version uses the preferred idiomatic form distinguishing X from Y.
- C. This version uses the incorrect idiomatic form distinguishing X and Y. Furthermore, expert when it comes to is excessively wordy in comparison to expert in as seen in choices A, B, and D.
- D. This version uses the incorrect idiomatic form distinguishing X and Y.
- E. Although the form distinguishing between X and Y is an acceptable alternative to distinguishing X from Y, this version fails to capture that what art patrons have difficulty distinguishing between are good paintings and poor ones on the one hand, and authentic art and fakes on the other.

The correct answer is B.

SC83561.01

265. A site once used as an observatory by the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico, has been recently discovered where patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle.

- A. A site once used as an observatory by the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico, has been recently discovered where patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle.
- B. A recently discovered site was once used as an observatory by the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico, where patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle.
- C. At a recently discovered site once used as an observatory by the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico, patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle.
- D. Patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle at a site that was recently discovered and was once used by the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico.
- E. Patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle at a recently discovered place that the Anasazi, ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico, once used the site as an observatory.

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The most reasonable interpretation of this sentence is that there is a recently discovered site that was used as an observatory by the Anasazi, who were ancient pueblo dwellers of New Mexico. At this observatory, patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the Sun and Moon over a nineteen-year cycle.

The correct answer choice will clearly convey this idea. However, the sentence as worded does not do so. There is no clear indication of when the patterns of light and shadow were employed for the indicated purpose.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reason indicated above.
- B. This choice suggests that the entire clause where patterns of light and shadow were employed to establish the precise limits of the positions . . . actually modifies New Mexico rather than observatory.
- C. **Correct.** This choice eliminates the above flaws; it clearly and cleanly conveys the intended idea.
- D. This choice does not clearly convey the idea that the Anasazi used the site as an observatory, nor that they employed patterns of light and shadow for the purpose indicated.
- E. This choice does not clearly convey the idea that the Anasazi employed patterns of light and shadow for the purpose indicated. Furthermore, at a recently discovered place that the Anasazi . . . once used the site as an observatory unnecessarily inserts the site, which is redundant (with place) and renders the sentence grammatically incorrect.

The correct answer is C.

SC93561.01

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266. The cathedrals of the Middle Ages were community centers just as much as they were purely religious edifices; and they were structures that represented a city's commitment to a public realm, the opposite of being a private one.

- A. community centers just as much as they were purely religious edifices; and they were structures that represented a city's commitment to a public realm, the opposite of being a private one
- B. community centers as much as purely religious edifices; they were structures representing a city's commitment to a public realm, as opposed to private
- C. community centers as well as purely religious edifices; they were structures that represented a city's commitment to a public realm, not private ones
- D. as much community centers as purely religious edifices, structures that represented a city's commitment to a public realm, as opposed to a private one

- E. as much community centers as they were purely religious edifices, structures representing a city's commitment to a public realm, opposite of a private one

Rhetorical construction; Diction

The given sentence conveys the idea that the medieval cathedrals were community centers as well as religious edifices. Therefore, these cathedrals represented cities' commitment to a public realm.

- A. In the sentence as written, the referent of the pronoun they is unclear. Furthermore, the sentence is unnecessarily wordy: just as much as would be better written as much as, and the word being is unnecessary.
- B. In this choice, the referent of the pronoun they is unclear. Furthermore, the phrase as opposed to private is misplaced; it would be correct if placed immediately before realm.
- C. In this choice, the plural phrase not private ones refers to the singular a public realm.
- D. **Correct.** This choice avoids using a pronoun with no clear referent and correctly expresses the comparison between a public realm, as opposed to a private one, where both noun phrases are singular.
- E. This choice uses opposite of a private one to refer to a public realm, unreasonably suggesting that a public realm cannot coexist with a private realm.

The correct answer is D.

SC14561.01

267. The newspaper story accurately recounted the history of the colonial mansion, that it contained thirteen rooms, and that it had a reputation for being a haunted house.

- A. mansion, that it contained thirteen rooms, and that it had a reputation for being a haunted house
- B. mansion, that it contained thirteen rooms, and that it had a reputation of being haunted
- C. mansion, that the mansion contained thirteen rooms, and said that it had a reputation for being haunted
- D. mansion, said that it contained thirteen rooms and had a reputation for being a haunted house
- E. mansion and said that the mansion contained thirteen rooms and had the reputation of being haunted

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The given sentence consists of three disjointed pieces; the second and third each begin with *that*. The verb *recounted* appropriately takes *history* as its

object. Note that the two *that*-clauses that also appear, inappropriately, to be objects of the verb *recount*. Furthermore, the noun *history* and these *that*-clauses are not parallel.

Note that these *that*-clauses work better as objects of the verb *said* rather than the verb *recount*. The correct answer option will need to better integrate the two *that*-clauses into the sentence as a whole. A common way in which different thoughts are made into one sentence is by use of *and*. Choice E succeeds in creating an integrated sentence using *and* to combine three different thoughts.

- A. In this choice, the two *that*-clauses inappropriately appear to be objects of the verb *recount*.
- B. In this choice, the two *that*-clauses inappropriately appear to be objects of the verb *recount*.
- C. In this choice, the first *that*-clause inappropriately appears to be the object of the verb *recount*.
- D. In this choice, the referent of the pronoun *it* is unclear. Furthermore, *had a reputation for being a haunted house* is wordy and would be better phrased *had the reputation of being haunted* as in choice E.
- E. **Correct.** This choice correctly uses the *that*-clause as the object of the verb *said* and uses the appropriate, less-wordy predicate *had the reputation of being haunted*.

The correct answer is E.

SC24561.01

268. An archaeological excavation at what might have been a workshop where statues were reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures, including 7 intact statues.

- A. what might have been a workshop where statues were reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures, including
- B. what might have been a workshop where statues were reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures and
- C. the site of a possible workshop where statues were reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures and
- D. the site of a possible workshop where statues were reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures, including
- E. the site of a possible workshop where statues might have been reproduced yielded 1,532 fragments of human figures, including

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The sentence tells us that an excavation yielded fragments of human figures as well as 7 intact statues. However, as written, the sentence implies that these 7

intact statues were actually fragments. This contradiction is presumably not intended.

- A. This choice is incorrect because it incorrectly implies that the 7 intact statues are fragments.
- B. **Correct.** The use of the word *might* makes clear that the suggestion that the structure was a workshop and that statues were reproduced there is just a hypothesis.
- C. This choice is incorrect because it suggests, nonsensically, that the statues were reproduced in a possible workshop.
- D. This choice is incorrect because it suggests, nonsensically, that the statues were reproduced in a possible workshop. Furthermore, it incorrectly implies that the 7 intact statues are fragments.
- E. This choice is incorrect because it suggests, nonsensically, that the statues were reproduced in a possible workshop. Furthermore, it incorrectly implies that the 7 intact statues are fragments.

The correct answer is B.

SC34561.01

269. Sophisticated laser-guided land graders can now flatten uneven farmland almost perfectly so as not to waste rainwater in runoff down sloping fields.

- A. so as not to waste rainwater
- B. so that rainwater is not wasted
- C. so that there is no wasted rainwater
- D. and thereby not waste rainwater
- E. and there is no rainwater wasted

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence is meant to indicate that the purpose of flattening uneven farmland is to prevent the waste of rainwater in runoff.

Note that purpose can be expressed in various ways, including by the use of a clause beginning with *so that*.

- A. In this choice, the implicit subject of the verb *waste* is the graders. That is, it suggests that these machines would themselves waste water unless they flattened land.
- B. **Correct.** This choice avoids errors found in the other choices and contains no other errors.
- C. This choice is incorrect because it unnecessarily uses the wordy *there is . . . form*; it would be more concise to use the passive-voice verb form *no rainwater is wasted*, as in choice B.
- D. As in choice A, this choice suggests that the graders themselves might waste rainwater.

- E. This choice omits the element of purpose conveyed by so that in choice B: and fails to convey purpose. As in choice C, the wordy form there is . . . is used.

The correct answer is B.

SC54561.01

270. Because there is not a linguistic census in France, as there is for Britain, there is difficulty in estimating the number of speakers of Breton, a Celtic language.

- A. Because there is not a linguistic census in France, as there is for Britain, there is difficulty in estimating
- B. Because there is no linguistic census in France, unlike Britain, it is difficult to estimate
- C. Unlike Britain, there is no linguistic census in France, and that fact makes for difficulty in estimating
- D. There is not a linguistic census in France, as there is for Britain, a fact making for difficulty in the estimation of
- E. There is no linguistic census in France, as there is in Britain, a fact that makes it difficult to estimate

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction; Parallelism

The sentence suggests that because France, unlike Britain, has no linguistic census, it is difficult to estimate how many people in France speak Breton.

- A. This choice is incorrect because in France is not parallel with for Britain. Furthermore, this choice uses the wordy construction not a linguistic census as opposed to the clearer no linguistic census as in choice E.
- B. This choice is incorrect because in France is not parallel with unlike Britain.
- C. This choice is incorrect because in France is not parallel with unlike Britain.
- D. This choice is incorrect because in France is not parallel with for Britain. Furthermore, this choice uses the wordy construction not a linguistic census as opposed to the clearer no linguistic census as in choice E. Furthermore, the construction making for difficulty in the estimation of unnecessarily turns the adjective difficult and the verb estimate into nouns.
- E. **Correct.** This choice uses the parallel in France and in Britain and correctly uses the comparison structure there is no X as there is Y.

The correct answer is E.

SC65561.01

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271. When adjusted for body weight, children of various age groups in the United States have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults.

- .
A. children of various age groups in the United States have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults
B. the caffeine intake of children of various age groups in the United States ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults
C. various age groups of children in the United States range in caffeine intake from 36 to 58 percent of that consumed by the average adult
D. in the United States, children of various age groups have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average adult's consumption
E. in the United States, the caffeine intake of children in various age groups ranges from 36 to 58 percent of that consumed by the average adult

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

In a study quantifying caffeine intake averages among children in the United States, an adjustment in the children's caffeine-intake averages was made for body weight, which varies with age group.

- A. In this choice, the modifying phrase adjusted for body weight is incorrectly applied to children.
B. **Correct.** The modifying phrase adjusted for body weight correctly applies to the caffeine intake of children of various age groups. Furthermore, the caffeine intake of children is correctly compared with the average amount consumed by adults.
C. In this choice, the modifying phrase adjusted for body weight is incorrectly applied to various age groups of children.
D. In this choice, the modifying phrase adjusted for body weight is incorrectly applied to children of various age groups.
E. The word that in the phrase of that consumed by the average adult actually refers to caffeine intake. This creates a nonsensical redundancy suggesting that the caffeine intake itself is what is consumed.

The correct answer is B.

SC06561.01

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272. When bitter managerial conflicts plague a small company, conflicts that in the past might have led to dissolution of the business, executives are likely to turn to outside professional counselors to help resolve disagreement.

- .
A. conflicts plague a small company, conflicts that in the past might have led to dissolution of the business, executives are likely to

- B. conflicts plague a small company, conflicts that might have in the past led to its dissolution, executives likely will
- C. conflicts plague a small company, which in the past it might have led to the business's dissolution, executives are liable to
- D. conflicts, which in the past might have led to dissolution of the business, plague a small company, executives are liable to
- E. conflicts, which in the past might have led to its dissolution, plague a small company, executives tend to

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The sentence is in order as it stands; the best answer choice is option A. The other four answer choices have significant errors.

- A. **Correct.** This choice is the best answer. It contains neither the errors in the other choices nor any other errors.
- B. The placement of the adverbial phrase in the past creates redundancy because have already indicates a past tense. Placing the phrase in the past preceding might, as in choice A, indicates that the adverbial phrase correctly modifies the entire verb might have led. But likely will . . . is common in speech and somewhat informal; in a formal writing context, are likely to, as in choice A, is better.
- C. This construction appears to make it the subject and which the object of the verb led, but the pronoun it has no logically plausible referent. Liable is sometimes used informally as a synonym of likely, but in formal written English, it is typically used only where the potential outcome is undesirable. In this sentence, likely is rhetorically a better choice.
- D. The phrase the business is inappropriate given that no business has, by this point, been mentioned. The verb plague is too far removed from its subject conflicts, making the sentence awkward and difficult to read.
- E. The possessive adjective its is meant to refer to a small company and could only do so if a company had already been mentioned. The verb plague is too far removed from its subject conflicts, making the sentence awkward and difficult to read.

The correct answer is A.

SC17561.01

273. A natural response of communities devastated by earthquake or flood is to rebuild on the same site, overlooking the possibility that the forces that caused it could be repeated.

- A. overlooking the possibility that the forces that caused it could be repeated
- B. overlooking the possibility that the forces causing it could be repeated
- C. overlooking that the forces that caused the disaster could also cause

another one

- D. without considering that the forces causing the disaster could be repeated
- E. without considering that the forces that caused the disaster could also cause another such disaster

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

Communities hit by an earthquake or a flood naturally desire to rebuild in the same place, yet sometimes fail to consider that the forces that caused the disaster could cause another, similar disaster.

- A. In this choice, possibility is redundant with could. Furthermore, this statement incorrectly suggests that the forces . . . could be repeated rather than that the disaster itself could be repeated. Note also that the pronoun it has no clear referent.
- B. This statement incorrectly suggests that the forces . . . could be repeated rather than that the disaster itself could be repeated.
- C. This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect form overlooking that. This choice is confusing also because overlooking has a physical meaning that can apply, for example, to a site but does not fit with overlooking that.
- D. This statement incorrectly suggests that the forces . . . could be repeated rather than that the disaster itself could be repeated.
- E. **Correct.** This choice clearly conveys the meaning of the sentence and has none of the flaws mentioned above.

The correct answer is E.

SC67561.01

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274. Avalanches at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park killed more than 200 people between 1885 and 1910, but they are now controlled if not prevented; cannons are fired at the slopes to make snow masses fall before they become dangerous.

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- A. Avalanches at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park killed more than 200 people between 1885 to 1910, but they
- B. More than 200 people have been killed by avalanches between 1885 and 1910 at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park, but they
- C. Between 1885 and 1910, more than 200 people were killed by avalanches at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park, but they
- D. More than 200 people have been killed by avalanches at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park between 1885 and 1910, but such avalanches
- E. Avalanches at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park killed more than 200 people between 1885 and 1910, but such avalanches

Logical predication; Verb form

In the sentence as written, the referent of the pronoun *they* is unclear. It may look, at first, as if the referent is the noun phrase *Avalanches* . . .

1910. However, this does not work as intended: obviously, avalanches that occurred at the turn of the nineteenth century cannot now be *controlled*. It is therefore clear that *they* does not refer correctly.

- A. In this choice, the pronoun *they* does not refer correctly.
- B. In this choice, the pronoun *they* does not refer correctly. Furthermore, it unnecessarily uses the passive form *people . . . killed by avalanches*.
- C. In this choice, the pronoun *they* does not refer correctly. Furthermore, it unnecessarily uses the passive form *people . . . killed by avalanches*.
- D. In this choice, the verb form *have been killed* suggests a recent event that perhaps continues to the present. It would be inappropriate to use this to refer to events that happened near the turn of the nineteenth century. Furthermore, it unnecessarily uses the passive form *people . . . killed by avalanches*.
- E. **Correct.** This choice avoids the unclear pronoun and uses the active form *glaciers . . . killed*, which produces a simple and rhetorically effective sentence. Furthermore, the phrase *such avalanches* refers, as intended, to actual or possible avalanches in more recent times than those mentioned in the sentence.

The correct answer is E.

SC77561.01

275. Because 70 percent of the people of India use wood as their sole fuel, ten million acres of forest have been lost there since 1960, resulting in wood now costing eight times as much to collect and distribute than in 1960.

- A. resulting in wood now costing eight times as much to collect and distribute than
- B. resulting in wood now costing eight times as much to collect and distribute as
- C. resulting in wood now costing eight times as much to collect and distribute than it did
- D. and as a result wood now costs eight times as much to collect and distribute as it did
- E. and wood now costs eight times as much as a result to collect and distribute than

Idiom; Grammatical construction

Logically, the sentence attempts to say that the loss of forest has increased the price of wood. In the sentence as written, as well as choices B and C, the participle *resulting* modifies *ten million acres of forest* rather than the loss.

Note that any of the choices containing the comparison error *as much . . . than* are incorrect. This disqualifies A, C, and E. That leaves only B and D for consideration.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons stated above. Furthermore, it is unclear what role costing plays: it could be either an adjective form of the verb to cost or a noun form of to cost.
- B. This choice is incorrect because the participle resulting modifies ten million acres of forest rather than the loss. Furthermore, it is unclear what role costing plays: it could be either an adjective form of the verb to cost or a noun form of to cost.
- C. This choice is incorrect because the participle resulting modifies ten million acres of forest rather than the loss. Furthermore, it is unclear what role costing plays: it could be either an adjective form of the verb to cost or a noun form of to cost.
- D. **Correct.** This clearly expresses the consequence that the loss of forest has increased prices of wood and uses the correct comparison *as much . . . as*.
- E. This choice is incorrect because it uses the incorrect comparison *as much . . . than*.

The correct answer is D.

SC09561.01

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276. In a crowded, acquisitive world, the disappearance of lifestyles such as those once followed by southern Africa's Bushmen and Australia's Aboriginal people, requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seem inevitably doomed.

- .
- A. requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seem inevitably doomed
 - B. requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seems to be inevitably doomed
 - C. which require vast wild spaces and permit little accumulation of goods, seem to be inevitably doomed
 - D. lifestyles that require vast wild spaces and permit little accumulation of goods, seem inevitable
 - E. lifestyles requiring vast wild spaces and permitting little accumulation of goods, seems inevitable

Logical predication; Agreement

In the sentence as written, the singular subject *the disappearance of . . .* and the plural verb *seem* do not agree in number. It does not make sense to say that *the disappearance* is *inevitably doomed*; presumably the sentence intends to suggest that the *lifestyles* themselves are inevitably doomed or perhaps that *the disappearance of . . . these lifestyles* is inevitable.

- A. For the reasons explained previously, the sentence as written is incorrect.
- B. This choice fixes the verb error: the disappearance of . . . and seems agree in number. However, it retains the problem that the disappearance is what is described as inevitably doomed.
- C. In this sentence, the subject the disappearance of . . . and the verb seem do not agree in number. Furthermore, the pronoun which incorrectly refers to Aboriginal people rather than to lifestyles.
- D. In this sentence, the subject the disappearance of . . . and the verb seem do not agree in number.
- E. **Correct.** This sentence is well formed. The singular subject the disappearance agrees in number with the singular verb seems. Furthermore, it is clearly the disappearance that seems inevitable.

The correct answer is E.

SC42561.01

277. Before Colette, the female writers of France had been aristocrats, from Mme de Lafayette to Anne de Noailles; there were no Jane Austens or Brontë sisters, perhaps because there were almost no clergymen's daughters.

- A. were no Jane Austens or
- B. were not Jane Austens or
- C. was not Jane Austen nor the
- D. was not a Jane Austen or the
- E. was no Jane Austen or no

Idiom; Diction

The sentence attempts to convey that, before Collette, female writers in France were members of the aristocracy. Furthermore, the sentence suggests that the explanation of why there were no non-aristocratic writers—as there had been in England—may be because there were almost no clergymen's daughters.

The sentence exemplifies the non-aristocratic writers of England by reference to Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters. However, the sentence uses these authors to indicate a particular type of author. That is, the point is not to say, for example, that Jane Austen herself did not write in France at the time, but rather to say that no author like Jane Austen wrote in France at the time.

This is conveyed idiomatically by saying *there were no Jane Austens or Brontë sisters*, which the sentence correctly uses to indicate “there were no authors of the Jane Austen or Brontë sister type.” Several of the answer choices do not present this idiom correctly.

- A. **Correct.** As indicated above, the sentence is clear and idiomatically correct.
- B. Were not Jane Austens or Brontë sisters is not idiomatically correct.

- C. Was not Jane Austen nor the Brontë sisters is not idiomatically correct.
- D. Was not a Jane Austen or the Brontë sisters is not idiomatically correct.
- E. Was no Jane Austen or no Brontë sisters is not idiomatically correct.

The correct answer is A.

SC73561.01

278. Chinese public buildings erected under a construction code of the Sung dynasty have withstood earthquakes well because the white cedar used has four times the tensile strength of steel and the timber frame, incorporating many joints and few nails, is flexible.

- A. used has four times the tensile strength of steel and the timber frame, incorporating
- B. used in them has four times the tensile strength of steel has and the timber frame, incorporating
- C. that was used in them has four times the tensile strength steel has, and the timber frame, incorporating
- D. that was used has four times as much tensile strength as steel, and the timber frame incorporates
- E. that was used has four times the tensile strength steel does, and the timber frame incorporates

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

The sentence presents two reasons the Chinese buildings built under the code described have withstood earthquakes: the white cedar used in them has four times the tensile strength of steel, and the timber frame, which incorporates many joints and few nails, is flexible. The sentence is correct as worded because it clearly specifies these reasons.

- A. **Correct.** As stated above, this version clearly conveys the intended meaning.
- B. The construction has four times the tensile strength of steel has is idiomatically incorrect. The correct construction is has four times the tensile strength of steel.
- C. The comma after has breaks up the sentence in such a way that only the great tensile strength of white cedar is offered as an explanation of the buildings' ability to withstand earthquakes, rather than both white cedar's tensile strength and the timber frame's flexibility. The statement regarding the timber frame's flexibility is mentioned simply as a separate fact not falling under the scope of because.
- D. This choice presents a similar problem to the one in choice C: the comma after steel breaks up the sentence in such a way that only the great tensile strength of white cedar is offered as an explanation of the buildings' ability to withstand earthquakes, rather than both white cedar's tensile strength

and the timber frame's flexibility. Furthermore, the timber frame incorporates many joints and few nails, is flexible is ungrammatical.

- E. The construction has four times the tensile strength steel does is incorrect. The correct construction is has four times the tensile strength of steel. Furthermore, the comma after does creates the same problem that the initial commas in choices C and D cause, suggesting that the only factor allowing the buildings to withstand the earthquakes is the white cedar's tensile strength. Finally, the sentence ends with the same ungrammatical construction as in choice D: the timber frame incorporates many joints and few nails, is flexible.

The correct answer is A.

SC28561.01

- .
279. Some historians of science have argued that science moves forward not so much because of the insights of great thinkers but because of more mundane developments, such as improved tools and technologies.

- .
A. because of the insights of great thinkers but because of
B. because of the insights of great thinkers as the results of
C. because of the insights of great thinkers as because of
D. through the insights of great thinkers but through
E. through the insights of great thinkers but results from

Idiom; Parallelism

The sentence contains a comparison introduced by *not so much*. However, the comparison is executed with correct idiomatic usage only in one of the answer options.

As written, the comparison *not so much . . . but . . .* is incorrect. This is also true in choices D and E.

- A. This is incorrect for the reason stated above.
B. In this choice, because of is not parallel with the results of.
C. **Correct.** This uses the comparison not so much . . . as . . . correctly and correctly makes because of parallel with because of.
D. In this choice, because of is not parallel with through the insights of.
E. In this choice, because of is not parallel with through the insights of.

The correct answer is C.

Sentence Correction

Grammar

SC27561.01

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280. Indoor air pollution can threaten the health of closely confined farm animals and the workers who tend them and perhaps as well impairs the quality of such farm products like eggs, poultry, and pork.

- .
- A. perhaps as well impairs the quality of such farm products like
- B. perhaps as well impairs the quality of such farm products as
- C. perhaps also impairs the quality of such farm products like
- D. may also impair the quality of such farm products like
- E. may also impair the quality of such farm products as

Agreement; Diction

In the sentence as written, the phrase *as well* is used incorrectly as a substitute for *also*. Furthermore, the incorrect construction *such . . . like* is used rather than *such . . . as*.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons mentioned above.
- B. This choice incorrectly uses *as well* as a substitute for *also*.
- C. This choice correctly uses *also*, but it uses the incorrect construction *such . . . like*.
- D. This choice correctly uses *also*, but it uses the incorrect construction *such . . . like*.
- E. **Correct.** This choice correctly uses the construction *such . . . as* and correctly uses *also* instead of *as well*.

The correct answer is E.

SC12811.01

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281. Carbon-14 dating reveals that the megalithic monuments in Brittany are nearly 2,000 years as old as any of their supposed Mediterranean predecessors.

- .
- A. as old as any of their supposed
- B. older than any of their supposed
- C. as old as their supposed
- D. older than any of their supposedly
- E. as old as their supposedly

Diction; Grammatical construction

The sentence suggests that, based on carbon-14 dating evidence, the megalithic monuments in Brittany are 2,000 years older than certain other monuments previously believed to predate them.

The construction *2,000 years as old as . . .* fails to convey this age difference; the sentences using this construction are nonsensical and can be firmly eliminated as possibilities.

- A. This choice uses the nonsensical construction *2,000 years as old as*.

- B. **Correct.** This choice uses the correct construction *older than* and correctly uses the adjective *supposed* to modify the noun predecessors.
- C. This choice uses the nonsensical construction *2,000 years as old as*.
- D. This choice uses the correct construction *older than*. However, it incorrectly uses the adverb *supposedly* to modify the adjective *Mediterranean* rather than using *supposed* as an adjective modifying predecessors.
- E. This choice uses the nonsensical construction *2,000 years as old as*. Furthermore, it incorrectly uses the adverb *supposedly* to modify the adjective *Mediterranean* rather than using *supposed* as an adjective modifying predecessors.

The correct answer is B.

SC68461.01

282. Some biographers have not only disputed the common notion that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also questioned whether he drank at all.

- A. have not only disputed the common notion that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also questioned whether he drank
- B. not only have disputed the common notion that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also over whether he drank
- C. have disputed not only the common notion that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also whether he may not have drunk
- D. not only have disputed the common notion that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also questioned whether or not he had drunk
- E. have disputed the common notion not only that Edgar Allan Poe drank to excess but also questioned whether he may not have drunk

Parallelism; Idiom

All the possible answer choices here use the construction *not only . . . but also . . .*. We can easily eliminate the choices that use the construction inappropriately. The construction is used appropriately only if what immediately follows *not only* and *but also* are grammatically parallel. For example, if what immediately follows *not only* is an adjectival phrase, then what immediately follows *but also* must also be an adjectival phrase. If what immediately follows *not only* is a verb phrase, then what immediately follows *but also* must also be a verb phrase. And so on. The sentence here correctly uses the *not only . . . but also . . .* construction: what immediately follows *not only* is a verb phrase (*disputed the common notion . . .*), and what immediately follows *but also* (*questioned whether he drank at all*) is a verb phrase as well.

- A. **Correct.** This choice uses *not only . . . but also . . .* appropriately, employing appropriately parallel structures.

- B. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . appropriately, because what immediately follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what immediately follows but only.
- C. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . appropriately, because what immediately follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what immediately follows but only.
- D. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . appropriately, because what immediately follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what immediately follows but only.
- E. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . appropriately, because what immediately follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what immediately follows but only.

The correct answer is A.

SC90561.01

283. The large populations and impressive cultural achievements of the Aztecs, the Mayas, and the Incas could not have come about without corn, which was not only nutritious but also was able to be dried, transported, and stored for long periods.

- A. which was not only nutritious but also was able to be
- B. which not only was nutritious but also could be
- C. which was not only nutritious but also it could be
- D. not only nutritious but it could also be
- E. not only nutritious but also able to be

Parallelism; Grammatical construction

To answer this question, we need to understand the correct use of the construction *not only . . . but also . . .*. We can easily eliminate the choices that use the construction inappropriately. Note that whatever immediately follows *not only* and *but also* must be grammatically parallel.

In this sentence, what immediately follows *not only* is an adjective (*nutritious*), but what immediately follows *but also* is a verb phrase (*was able to be dried, . . .*). Therefore, this sentence does not use *not only . . . but also . . .* correctly, because what follows *not only* is not grammatically parallel with what follows *but only*.

Furthermore, *could be dried* is more idiomatically correct than *was able to be dried*, as is used here.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons discussed above.
- B. **Correct.** This choice uses not only . . . but also ... correctly. What immediately follows not only is a verb phrase (was nutritious), as is what immediately follows but also (could be dried, . . .). Therefore, this choice has an appropriate, grammatically parallel structure.

- C. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . correctly, because what follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what follows but only. What immediately follows not only is an adjective (nutritious), whereas what immediately follows but also is an independent clause (it could be dried, . . .).
- D. This choice uses a slight variation on the not only . . . but also construction. It is idiomatically acceptable to separate the but and also; for instance, rather than writing but also could be, you could correctly write but could also be. This variation, however should function in essentially the same way as not only . . . but alsodoes. Grammatically parallel structures must be associated with both not only and but . . . also . . . But that is not the case in this choice: what is associated with not only is an adjective (nutritious), but what is associated with but . . . also . . . is an independent clause (it could also be dried, . . .). Therefore, this choice is not correct.
- E. This choice does not use not only . . . but also . . . correctly, because what follows not only is not grammatically parallel with what follows but also. What immediately follows not only is an adjective, whereas what follows but also is a verb phrase. Furthermore, could be dried is more idiomatically correct than able to be dried, as is used here.

The correct answer is B.

SC91561.01

284. The Rorschach test is gaining new respect as a diagnostic tool because it takes only one hour to expose behavior and thought processes that may be unlikely to emerge in other procedures or weeks of ordinary interviewing.

- A. that may be unlikely to emerge in other procedures or weeks of ordinary interviewing
- B. whose emergence is unlikely in other procedures or weeks of ordinary interviews
- C. that might not emerge in other procedures or in weeks of ordinary interviews
- D. that may not emerge under other procedures or weeks of ordinary interviews
- E. likely not to emerge during weeks of ordinary interviewing or in other procedures

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

As worded, it is unclear whether *other* modifies both *procedures* and *weeks* or *procedures* only. To clarify that *other* does not modify both *procedures* and *weeks*, the correct phrasing here would be *in weeks*. Also, the construction *that may be unlikely to emerge* is needlessly wordy; *that might not emerge* is preferable.

- A. This choice is flawed for the reasons given above.
- B. This choice is also unclear as to what other is intended to modify. Also, whose is generally restricted to use with people (or, more rarely, animals) rather than with abstractions such as behavior and thought processes.
- C. **Correct.** This choice clearly expresses the intended idea.
- D. Although may and might are often interchangeable, this is not true of may not and might not. This is because may not can be interpreted to mean are not permitted to. This is of course not the intended meaning here; might not cannot be interpreted in this way, and so would be preferable.
- E. In this choice, the meaning is unclear. The word other can be interpreted as being contrasted to ordinary interviewing rather than to the Rorschach test; however, it is clear that the sentence intends for these other procedures to be contrasted with the Rorschach test. Furthermore, this version expresses unlikeliness more strongly than the other versions do: something that is likely not to happen is something that has a very low probability of occurring, while something that is unlikely to happen has a relatively higher chance of occurring.

The correct answer is C.

SC82561.01

285. The overall slackening of growth in productivity is influenced less by government regulation, although that is significant for specific industries like mining, than the coming to an end of a period of rapid growth in agricultural productivity.

- A. the coming to an end of
- B. the ending of
- C. by the coming to an end of
- D. by ending
- E. by the end of

Parallelism; Diction

As worded, the sentence is not parallel: *less by* must be made parallel by using *than by*. Thus, the sentence needs to read *is influenced less by . . . than by*. For this reason, the first two answer choices can be ruled out.

To choose among the remaining three options, consider which of *the coming to an end of*, *ending*, and *the end of* best conveys the most likely intended meaning: that *the overall slackening of growth in productivity* is largely influenced by the fact that *a period of rapid growth in agricultural productivity* is coming to an end.

- A. As noted above, this version is not parallel; it lacks the *less by . . . than by* construction.

- B. This version is also not parallel; it lacks the appropriate less by . . . than by construction.
- C. **Correct.** This version correctly uses the less by . . . than by construction. It clearly expresses the most likely intended meaning, discussed above.
- D. This version sounds as if it is saying that the period of rapid growth of agricultural productivity is intentionally being ended. This deviates from the intended meaning of the sentence.
- E. We can understand this choice to say that the slackening of growth in productivity is largely influenced by the final part of the period of rapid growth in agricultural productivity. This also deviates from the intended meaning.

The correct answer is C.

SC13561.01

286. It may someday be worthwhile to try to recover uranium from seawater, but at present this process is prohibitively expensive.

- A. It may someday be worthwhile to try to recover uranium from seawater
- B. Someday, it may be worthwhile to try and recover uranium from seawater
- C. Trying to recover uranium out of seawater may someday be worthwhile
- D. To try for the recovery of uranium out of seawater may someday be worthwhile
- E. Recovering uranium from seawater may be worthwhile to try to do someday

Verb form; Rhetorical construction

This sentence is well-formed. It appropriately uses the construction *to try to* rather than the common yet idiomatically inappropriate *to try and*. It also uses the idiomatically correct construction *recover . . . from*.

- A. **Correct.** This choice is correct for the reasons discussed above.
- B. This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect construction *to try and*.
- C. This choice suggests that what is prohibitively expensive is trying to recover uranium . . . rather than the process of recovering uranium itself.
- D. *To try for* is idiomatically incorrect, as is the recovery . . . out of.
- E. *To try to do*—as opposed to *to attempt*, for example—is awkward and unnecessarily wordy.

The correct answer is A.

SC23561.01

287. The spraying of pesticides can be carefully planned, but accidents, weather conditions that could not be foreseen, and pilot errors often cause much larger deposits of spray than they had anticipated.

- . A. weather conditions that could not be foreseen, and pilot errors often cause much larger deposits of spray than they had
- B. weather conditions that cannot be foreseen, and pilot errors often cause much larger deposits of spray than
- C. unforeseeable weather conditions, and pilot errors are the cause of much larger deposits of spray than they had
- D. weather conditions that are not foreseeable, and pilot errors often cause much larger deposits of spray than
- E. unforeseeable weather conditions, and pilot errors often cause much larger deposits of spray than they had

Parallelism; Rhetorical construction

The only plural nouns that could potentially be the referent of *they* in this sentence are *weather conditions* and *pilot errors*. However, neither of these makes logical sense within the context of the sentence.

For the purposes of this sentence, it is clearer to use the impersonal *than anticipated* rather than *than they had anticipated*. This is because it is not important who is anticipating the conditions under which the pesticides are sprayed. In other words, the statement is universal; the point is that these are unknowable conditions, rather than that some particular group failed to anticipate correctly the size of spray deposits.

- A. As indicated above, there is no reasonable referent for the pronoun they.
- B. **Correct.** The idea is conveyed clearly and cleanly.
- C. They has no reasonable referent.
- D. Weather conditions that are not foreseeable is an awkward construction. Either unforeseeable weather conditions or weather conditions that cannot be foreseen would be preferable.
- E. They has no reasonable referent.

The correct answer is B.

SC33561.01

. 288. To read of Abigail Adams' lengthy separation from her family, her difficult travels, and her constant battles with illness is to feel intensely how harsh life was even for the so-called aristocracy of Revolutionary times.

- . A. To read of
- B. Reading about
- C. Having read about
- D. Once one reads of
- E. To have read of

Parallelism; Verb form

A common device used to associate two verbs is structured by using the following parallel form: [infinitive phrase] is [infinitive phrase]. A well-known example of this “To know her is to love her.” This sentence correctly follows this parallel form.

- A. **Correct.** This choice is well expressed, correctly following the device discussed above.
- B. This choice does not correctly follow the device discussed above.
- C. This choice does not correctly follow the device discussed above.
- D. This choice does not correctly follow the device discussed above.
- E. This choice uses an infinitive phrase, but it is not parallel. The simple infinitive to feel is mirrored by to have read, which is not parallel. This fails to convey properly the association between the two verbs.

The correct answer is A.

SC74561.01

289. In the traditional Japanese household, most clothing could be packed flatly, and so it was not necessary to have elaborate closet facilities.

- A. flatly, and so it was not necessary to have elaborate closet facilities
- B. flat, and so elaborate closet facilities were unnecessary
- C. flatly, and so there was no necessity for elaborate closet facilities
- D. flat, there being no necessity for elaborate closet facilities
- E. flatly, as no elaborate closet facilities were necessary

Diction; Rhetorical construction

Although the word *flat* is a standard adjectival form, it functions in this context as the more appropriate adverb, indicating the manner of packing clothing. That is, stated correctly, the clothing would be *packed flat*.

Note, however, that the adverb *flatly* is correctly used in different contexts, such as *he flatly denied it*.

- A. This choice incorrectly uses the adverb flatly. Furthermore, the phrase it was not necessary is unnecessarily wordy.
- B. **Correct.** This choice correctly uses the adverb flat and implies that the flat-packing of clothing led to the absence of closet facilities.
- C. This choice incorrectly uses the adverb flatly. Furthermore, there was no necessity for is unnecessarily wordy; it would be better stated were unnecessary, as in choice B.
- D. This choice incorrectly implies that clothing could be packed flat because closet facilities were unnecessary. Rather, the correct answer must imply that the flat-packing of clothing made closet facilities unnecessary.
- E. This choice incorrectly uses the adverb flatly. It also incorrectly implies that clothing could be packed flat because closet facilities were unnecessary.

The correct answer is B.

SC75561.01

290. Many states, in search of industries that are clean, fast-growing, and pay good wages to skilled workers, are trying to attract high-technology industries.

- A. clean, fast-growing, and pay
- B. clean, grow fast, and that pay
- C. clean and fast-growing and that pay
- D. clean and grow fast, paying
- E. clean, fast-growing, and paying

Parallelism; Verb form

The sentence lists three characteristics of the industries that many states most desire to attract. The answer choices each provide ways to conjoin these characteristics within the sentence.

Normally, a series of three nouns or adjectives would have a comma following each one, with *and* preceding the third. Note that this method requires adequate parallelism among the three items.

As written, the third of these characteristics is conveyed by a verb form, either *pay* or *paying*. However, the first of the three items is the adjective *clean*, which is of course not parallel with the verb *pay*.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons stated above.
- B. The adjective *clean* is not parallel with *pay*.
- C. **Correct.** Both *clean* and *fast-growing* are adjectives and are therefore parallel; they can correctly be conjoined by *and*. This choice creates a sentence with the relative clause *that pay . . . workers*. Notice that the sentence has another relative clause *that are clean and fast-growing*. This relative clause parallels the other one. Using *and* to conjoin these two clauses, each modifying *industries*, is logical and correct.
- D. The adjective *clean* is not parallel with the verb *grow*.
- E. The adjective *clean* is not parallel with the verb form *paying*.

The correct answer is C.

SC95561.01

291. Much of the hope for continued improvement of the economy lies in the projection of increasing consumer spending this year.

- A. projection of increasing consumer spending
- B. projection of consumers increasing spending for
- C. projected consumer spending increase

- D. consumer spending that is projected to increase
- E. increase in consumer spending that is projected for

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

Consumer spending helps fuel the economy; when consumer spending increases, the economy tends to improve. The given sentence suggests that there is hope for continued improvement in the economy resulting from a projected increase in consumer spending this year.

Which one of the five answer options best conveys this idea?

- A. This choice focuses on projection rather than increase. Furthermore, the role of increasing is ambiguous: it can either be read as an adjective modifying spending or as a noun with spending as its object.
- B. In this choice, the preposition of incorrectly governs the phrase consumers increasing spending.
- C. This choice correctly focuses on the increase in consumer spending as a whole. However, it strings together too many adjectives; to make the sentence clearer and more readable, it would be preferable to state increase first as in choice E.
- D. This choice incorrectly focuses on what may be simply one portion of consumer spending: that which is expected to increase.
- E. **Correct.** With this choice, it is clear that the underlined portion of the sentence focuses on increase. Use of the preposition for also clarifies that the projected increase is attributed to this year.

The correct answer is E.

SC46561.01

292. Rejecting its argument that the Masters Dog Training Club's primary aim was to teach people to train dogs, the court ruled the club ineligible for tax exemption as an educational group.

- A. Rejecting its argument that the Masters Dog Training Club's primary aim was to teach people to train dogs, the court ruled the club ineligible for tax exemption as an educational group.
- B. In rejecting the Masters Dog Training Club's argument that their primary aim was to teach people to train dogs, the court ruled the club ineligible to be exempted of taxes as an educational group.
- C. Rejecting the argument that the primary aim of the Masters Dog Training Club was to teach people to train dogs, the court ruled that the club was ineligible for exemption from taxes as an educational group.
- D. The club was not to be exempted of taxes as an educational group, ruled the court by rejecting its argument that the primary aim of the Masters Dog Training Club was teaching people to train dogs.
- E. The court ruled the Masters Dog Training Club not eligible to be exempted

from taxes as an educational group, rejecting the argument that the primary aim was to teach people to train dogs.

Rhetorical construction; Diction

As written, the possessive adjective *its* fails to make clear whether it is to the court or to the club that the argument mentioned is being attributed.

Note that choices B and D are immediately disqualified by their use of the incorrect preposition *of* immediately following *exempted*. The correct usages are: *exemption from*, *exempt from*, and *exempted from*.

This choice is incorrect for the reasons mentioned above.

This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect form *exempted of*.

Correct. This choice uses the idiomatically correct form *exemption from* and conveys the meaning of the sentence in a clear, concise way.

This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect form *exempted of*.

This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect form *ruled the . . . club* rather than the idiomatically correct *ruled that . . .* Furthermore, the phrase *not eligible to be exempted* is wordy and would be more clearly stated *ineligible for exemption* as in choice C.

The correct answer is C.

SC56561.01

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293. Sartre, an inadvertent guru, had an opinion on everything, painfully considered, elaborately reasoned, often changed.

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- A. often changed
- B. and it was usually changed
- C. that was often changed
- D. changing often
- E. one he often changed

Parallelism; Diction; Logical predication

The sentence is intended to predicate frequent change of Sartre's opinions. We need to find the answer choice that most effectively does so.

Note that this modifier in option A, consisting of the adverbial modifier *often* and the verbal adjective *changed*, is most closely parallel to the two preceding predicates.

A. **Correct.** This choice is correct for the reasons stated above.

B. In this choice the pronoun *it* could refer either to *opinion* or to *everything*, and the force of *usually* is unclear. Furthermore, this choice is not parallel in structure to the preceding modifiers *painfully considered* and *elaborately reasoned*.

C. In this choice, the relative pronoun *that* normally has the closest preceding noun, pronoun, or noun phrase as its referent. However, in this

context, everything is clearly not the intended referent. Furthermore, this choice is not parallel in structure to the preceding modifiers painfully considered and elaborately reasoned.

- D. This choice is not parallel in structure to the preceding modifiers painfully considered and elaborately reasoned. This option also unnecessarily inverts the adjective and adverb, creating a different order from the order in the previous two modifiers.
- E. This choice is not parallel in structure to the preceding modifiers painfully considered and elaborately reasoned.

The correct answer is A.

SC96561.01

294. One analyst of the liquor industry estimated that this year a few liquor stores have experienced declining sales of up to fifty percent but predicted that the industry as a whole will maintain a volume of sales fairly close to last year.

- A. declining sales of up to fifty percent but predicted that the industry as a whole will maintain a volume of sales fairly close to last year
- B. declines in sales of up to fifty percent but predicted that the industry as a whole would have maintained a volume of sales fairly close to last year
- C. up to fifty percent in declining sales but predicted that the industry as a whole would maintain a volume of sales fairly close to last year's
- D. sales declines of up to fifty percent but predicted that the industry as a whole would maintain a volume of sales fairly close to last year's
- E. declines up to fifty percent of sales but predicted that the industry as a whole will have maintained a volume of sales fairly close to last year's

Verb form; Rhetorical construction

The sentence reports one analyst's views about the liquor industry's sales performance this year: there will be large declines in sales in a few liquor stores, and this year's sales volume will be close to last year's sales volume.

- A. This choice is incorrect because it refers to sales themselves rather than to declines in sales. Furthermore, it compares a volume of sales with a year.
- B. This choice incorrectly uses would have maintained after the simple past predicted.
- C. The phraseology have experienced up to fifty percent is incorrect, since a percent cannot be experienced. The phraseology up to fifty percent in declining sales fails to indicate clearly that sales declined by fiftypercent from the previous year.
- D. **Correct.** This choice correctly refers to declines, uses the correct would maintain, and correctly compares this year's sales volume with last year's sales volume.
- E. This choice incorrectly uses will have maintained after the simple

past predicted.

The correct answer is D.

SC08561.01

295. Television programs developed in conjunction with the marketing of toys, which was once prohibited by federal regulations, are thriving in the free market conditions permitted by the current Federal Communications Commission.

- A. Television programs developed in conjunction with the marketing of toys, which was once prohibited by federal regulations, are
- B. Television programs developed in conjunction with the marketing of toys, a practice that federal regulations once prohibited, is
- C. Developing television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys, as once prohibited by federal regulations, is
- D. Federal regulations once prohibited developing television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys, but they are
- E. Federal regulations once prohibited developing television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys, but such programs are

Logical Predication; Agreement

The sentence is meant to indicate that federal programs once prohibited the development of television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys, but such programs are now thriving in the free market conditions permitted by the Federal Communications Commission.

As worded, however, *which was once prohibited . . .* modifies *the marketing of toys*. This is clear for two reasons: first, the phrase immediately follows *the marketing of toys*; second, the verb *was* is singular and the noun *Television programs* is plural and must therefore be associated with the singular noun *marketing of toys*.

This indicates that the marketing of toys was once prohibited by federal regulations, but surely that is not what the sentence is supposed to mean.

Rather,

the sentence should assert that the development of television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys was prohibited.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reason discussed above.
- B. The singular verb *is* is incorrect. It is the Television programs that are thriving, so the plural verb *are* is needed.
- C. This option has at least two problems. First, surely the sentence is intended to indicate that the television programs themselves are thriving rather than that the process of developing such programs is. Second, it is unclear what the awkwardly worded *as once prohibited by federal regulations* is intended to modify. It could mean either that the

development of television programs in conjunction with the marketing of toys was prohibited or that the marketing of toys itself was prohibited.

D. The intended referent of the pronoun they is unclear: it could be either Federal regulations or Television programs.

E. **Correct.** This choice best conveys the intended meaning.

The correct answer is E.

SC98561.01

296. Statisticians studying the health effects of uranium mining on Navajo communities have found others besides miners and millworkers to be affected; birth defects, children's cancer, and altered birth ratios of males and females are much higher in mining than in non-mining communities.

- A. children's cancer, and altered birth ratios of males and females are much higher
- B. cancer among children, and altered male and female ratios at birth are much higher
- C. cancer among children, and altered birth ratios of males and females occur much more frequently
- D. altered birth ratios of males and females, and children's cancer are much higher
- E. altered male and female ratios at birth, and cancer among children occur much more

Diction; Logical predication

Statisticians have been studying the frequencies of various health outcomes in uranium mining areas in Navajo communities. They have found that certain kinds of bad outcomes occur much more frequently in mining communities than in non-mining communities.

We need to pick the answer choice that best expresses this finding. The use of the predicate *higher* is appropriate when applied to rates of illness. However, it is not appropriate when applied to medical conditions (except as an informal shorthand), e.g., a claim that *birth defects . . . are much higher*. That is, it is unclear what a *higher birth defect* might specify.

The meaning of *altered male and female ratios* is unclear, as opposed to *altered birth ratios of males and females*.

- A. In this choice, the statement altered birth ratios . . . are much higher is unclear.
- B. In this choice, the statement altered . . . ratios at birth are much higher is unclear.
- C. **Correct.** The idea of the sentence is expressed clearly and the phrase occur much more frequently clearly specifies altered birth ratios.
- D. In this choice, it is unclear what is higher: it could be birth ratios of males

and females, children's cancer, or both.

- E. In this choice, the modifier at birth implies, nonsensically, that the ratios were altered at the time of birth. Furthermore, male and female ratios implies that the ratios themselves are of male or female gender.

The correct answer is C.

SC19561.01

297. The effect of the earthquake that caused most of Port Royal to sink into the Caribbean was like the eruption that buried ancient Pompeii: in each case a slice of civilization was instantly frozen in time.

- A. The effect of the earthquake that caused most of Port Royal to sink into the Caribbean was
- B. As the result of an earthquake, most of Port Royal sank into the Caribbean; the effect was
- C. In its effects, the sinking of most of Port Royal into the Caribbean was the result of an earthquake
- D. The earthquake that caused most of Port Royal to sink into the Caribbean was, in its effects,
- E. Most of Port Royal sank into the Caribbean because of an earthquake, the effect of which was

Logical predication; Parallelism

The sentence is meant to indicate that an earthquake caused most of Port Royal to sink into the Caribbean. However, the sentence as stated has two major flaws:

First, as the sentence is worded, the phrase *that caused most of Port Royal to sink into the Caribbean* modifies *The effect of the earthquake*. This implies that *the effect* is what caused *most of Port Royal to sink*, whereas it was the earthquake itself that caused most of Port Royal to sink.

Second, the comparison is faulty: *the effect* is compared to *the eruption*. Presumably, the earthquake itself is what is meant to be compared to the eruption.

- A. This choice suffers from the two major flaws discussed above.
- B. This choice attaches the modifier as the result of an earthquake to most of Port Royal. This implies, confusingly, that most of Port Royal was the result of an earthquake. Furthermore, the sentence improperly compares the effect to the eruption, whereas the earthquake itself is what should be compared to the eruption.
- C. This choice places the modifying phrase in its effects immediately before the sinking, suggesting that we are discussing the effects of the sinking rather than the effects of the earthquake.
- D. **Correct.** This choice properly compares the earthquake to the eruption

that buried Pompeii.

- E. This choice improperly compares an effect of the earthquake to the eruption that buried Pompeii.

The correct answer is D.

SC58461.01

298. Since the 1930s aircraft manufacturers have tried to build airplanes with frictionless wings, shaped so smoothly and perfectly that the air passing over them would not become turbulent.

- A. wings, shaped so smoothly and perfectly
B. wings, wings so smooth and so perfectly shaped
C. wings that are shaped so smooth and perfect
D. wings, shaped in such a smooth and perfect manner
E. wings, wings having been shaped smoothly and perfectly so

Diction; Logical predication

The sentence as written is not stated clearly. For example, it is unclear what is *shaped so smoothly and perfectly*; it could be either the *airplanes* or the *wings*. Upon considering the likely intended meaning, along with a review of the other answer choices, it seems most likely that the phrase is intended to modify *frictionless wings*.

Next, we need to consider whether it makes more sense to say that the wings are *smooth* or *shaped smoothly*. This issue can be determined only by considering the most plausible intended meaning rather than by considering just the grammar of the sentence. The idea of being *smoothly shaped* would seem already to be part of the idea of being *shaped perfectly*, and therefore it is redundant. On the other hand, having a surface that is very *smooth* would be crucial in a quest to make an airplane wing frictionless; for this reason, it makes sense to point out that the *wings* themselves are *smooth*.

- A. This choice is incorrect for the reasons stated above.
B. **Correct.** Given the repetition of the word wings, it is clear that what follows modifies wings and not airplanes. Describing the wings as smooth and perfectly shaped clearly conveys what is most likely intended.
C. In this version, note that shaped is modified. For this reason, proper grammar requires that the adverbs smoothly and perfectly are needed rather than the adjectives smooth and perfect. However, as discussed previously, the intended meaning of the sentence would be better conveyed if we used the adjective smooth to modify wings rather than the adverb smoothly to modify shaped.
D. It is initially unclear what is being described as having been shaped in such a smooth and perfect manner; it could be either the airplane or its

wings. Even if that were clarified, however, the sentence would be flawed: the sentence is intended to describe the wings themselves, not the manner in which the wings were shaped. That is, this wording could be interpreted as referring to the nature of the wings themselves or to the process through which they were made. This ambiguity makes the meaning of the sentence unclear.

- E. This version is very awkwardly worded, mainly because of having been. Furthermore, this version describes the act of shaping the wings. Because the sentence is instead meant to describe the wings themselves, this choice is incorrect.

The correct answer is B.

SC29561.01

299. A study of children of divorced parents found that ten years after the parents' divorce, children who had been under six years of age at the time of the settlement were not preoccupied, nor even very curious, about the reasons that led to their parents' divorces.

- A. not preoccupied, nor even very curious, about the reasons that led to their parents' divorces
B. not preoccupied with, or even very curious about, the reasons for their parents' divorce
C. neither preoccupied, nor even very curious, with the reasons that led to their parents divorce
D. neither preoccupied with the reasons that led to their parents' divorces or even very curious about them
E. neither preoccupied with the reasons that their parents divorced nor even very curious about it

Diction; Parallelism

The correct idioms are *preoccupied with* and *curious about*. In the sentence as it is written, because of the placement of the commas immediately after *preoccupied* and *curious*, the preposition *about* is associated not only with *curious*, which is idiomatically correct, but also with *preoccupied*, which is not correct.

Furthermore, *not . . . nor* is idiomatically incorrect. The correct forms are *neither . . . nor* and *not . . . or*.

- A. As discussed above, this choice is flawed in its use of both *preoccupied about* and *not . . . nor*.
B. **Correct.** This choice is correct. Both *preoccupied with* and *not . . . or* are idiomatically correct.
C. This choice uses the incorrect construction *curious with*, rather than the correct *curious about*. On the other hand, it uses *neither . . .*

nor and preoccupied with are correct.

- D. This choice uses the incorrect idiomatic form neither . . . or.
- E. This choice incorrectly uses the singular pronoun it to refer to the plural reasons. On the other hand, its use of preoccupied with, curious about, and neither . . . nor are all correct.

The correct answer is B.

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300. When Medicare was enacted in 1965, it was aimed at the prevention of a catastrophic illness from financially destroying elderly patients.

- A. at the prevention of a catastrophic illness from financially destroying elderly patients
- B. at being a preventive against catastrophic illness financially destroying elderly patients
- C. at preventing a catastrophic illness from financially destroying the elderly patient
- D. to prevent a catastrophic illness financially destroying an elderly patient
- E. to prevent elderly patients being financially destroyed by a catastrophic illness

Verb Form; Diction

Two issues can be identified here: first, we must determine what form follows the phrase *it was aimed*, used to describe a goal or intended purpose; second, we must determine what preposition (if any) connects *prevent* or its cognates with the thing that is actually prevented.

- A. This choice uses the idiomatically correct *was aimed at*. However, the word *prevention* incorrectly takes both the preposition *of* and the preposition *from*; this makes the sentence awkward and ambiguous. Furthermore, using the noun *prevention* makes the sentence wordier than choices using some form of the verb *to prevent*.
- B. This choice uses the idiomatically correct *was aimed at*. However, using the noun *a preventative* makes the sentence wordier than cases using some form of the verb *to prevent*.
- C. **Correct.** The phrase *at preventing* is correct in context: it describes Medicare's intended purpose. Furthermore, the preposition *from* correctly indicates a consequence that has been prevented.
- D. This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect *was aimed to*. Furthermore, it fails to use the idiomatically correct *prevent from*.
- E. This choice uses the idiomatically incorrect *was aimed to*. Furthermore, it fails to use the idiomatically correct *prevent from*.

The correct answer is C.