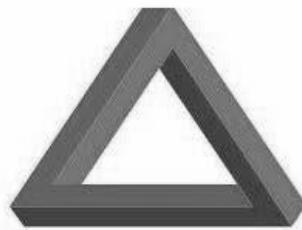


SAT Advanced



PROWESS TEST
PREP, LLC

Math Strategy

SAT Math General Strategy



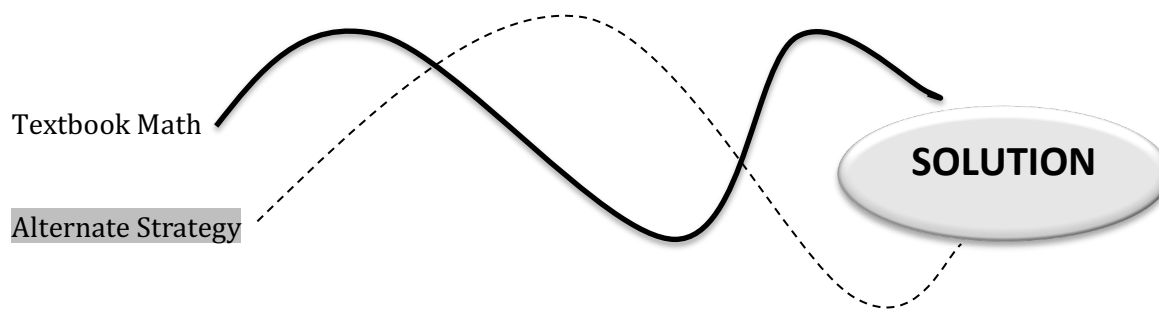
Know the 'two peak terrain' of difficulty as you move from multiple choice to **grid-in** questions.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Section 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Section 4	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38		

With terrain in mind, decide on a game plan that maximizes questions answered

- Go in order (but hop over the tough ones)
- Skip the "3rd quarter"
- Grid-ins first

Know the **alternate strategies** that are your 2nd path to some solutions



Your **alternate strategies** come in three main forms on the SAT:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SAT Math General Strategy



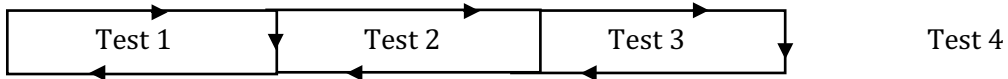
Study habit #1 - Build a *book catalogue* or *phone catalogue* of missed questions as you take tests.



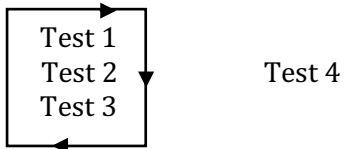
Study habit #2 - Red circle / Blue circle

- Red Circle for anything missed due to *difficult math*
- Blue Circle for anything missed due to *careless errors* (misreading, flip-flopping, etc)

Study habit #3 - Build *fluency* by ‘running laps’ through your catalogue before each new test.

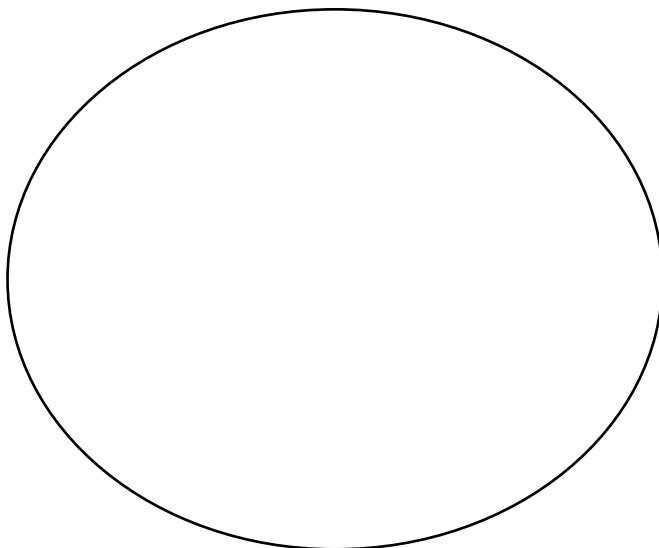


Study habit #4 - Build a concepts/formulas sheet and run a lap through it before each new test.



Have patience - *most* problems will repeat only after you have enough tests under your belt.

Pool of all SAT Questions



Strategy 1: Choose numbers

Choosing numbers means replacing an *abstract idea* with a *concrete number*



Abstract

- “The integer x ...”
- “An even number ...”
- “A negative integer n ...”
- “The cost of a television ...”
- “Jeff’s hourly wage ...”

Concrete

Choosing numbers is a possibility in any situation with an _____

Consider two important issues when you choose numbers:

- _____
- _____

Warm up examples:

- 1.** If x and y are integers, which of the following must be even?

- (A) $x + y$
 (B) $2x + y$
 (C) $2(x + y)$
 (D) $x^2 + y^2$

Choose an x :
 Choose a y :

- 2.** If $ab = 12$, what is the value of $\frac{24}{(2a)(2b)}$

- (A) $\frac{1}{2}$
 (B) $\frac{1}{4}$
 (C) 1
 (D) 4

Choose a: Choose b:

Then $\frac{24}{(2a)(2b)} =$

Strategy 1: Choose numbers (Advanced Algebra)

Choosing numbers is an excellent strategy in the high level algebra questions . . .

3. For $x > -3$, the expression $\frac{3x+4}{x+3}$ is equivalent to which of the following?

(A) $\frac{9-5}{2}$

(B) $3 + \frac{4}{x+3}$

(C) $3x + \frac{4}{3}$

(D) $3 - \frac{5}{x+3}$

4. If $x > 2$, which of the following is equivalent to $\frac{1}{x+1} + \frac{1}{x-2}$?

(A) $x^2 - x - 2$

(B) $2x - 1$

(C) $\frac{2x-1}{x^2-x-2}$

(D) $\frac{x^2-x-2}{2x-1}$

5. If $n - 4m = 6$, what is the value of $\frac{t^{4m+9}}{t^n}$?

(A) t^2

(B) t^3

(C) t^6

(D) t^{12}

$$x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 6$$

6. Which of the following is equivalent to the expression shown above?

(A) $(x + 3)(x^2 + 2)$

(B) $(x + 2)(x^2 + 3)$

(C) $2x(x + 3)$

(D) $2x^2(x + 3)$

Strategy 1: Choose numbers (Algebraic Word Problems)

When **choosing numbers** for word problems, you'll apply a three-step method.

7. Eric purchased a suit at a store that gave a 20% discount off the original price x . He then had to pay a 5% sales tax on the discounted price. If the total amount he paid at the register was p dollars, which of the following represents p in terms of the original price x .

- (A) $.25x$
 (B) $.75x$
 (C) $.84x$
 (D) $1.05x$

Choose an x : _____

Attain a target: _____

← Find a match.

9. Paula earned d dollars in a particular week. She spent $\frac{3}{4}$ of her earnings on living expenses. She then donated half of what remained to a neighborhood charity. Which of the following expressions represents the amount Paula donated to the neighborhood charity in terms of d ?

- (A) $.0625d$
 (B) $.125d$
 (C) $.25d$
 (D) $.375d$

8. If p is the ratio of x to 4, and q is the ratio of x to y , then what is the ratio of p to q in terms of y ?

- (A) $\frac{y}{4}$
 (B) $\frac{4}{y}$
 (C) y
 (D) $4y$

10. In a certain biology class, the mean score on a particular exam was 74. The median score on the same test was 64. Which of the following circumstances could account for the significant difference between the mean and median scores?

- (A) The majority of the test scores fell between 64 and 74.
 (B) The majority of the test scores fell above 64
 (C) A few of the test scores were much higher than the rest.
 (D) A few of the test scores were much lower than the rest.

Strategy 1: Choose numbers

(Functions)

Reveal qualities of a function by **choosing numbers** for the _____

$$V = -2000t + 18000$$

11. The value of a particular account is modeled by the function above. The value of the account in dollars V is expressed in terms of t , the number of years since the account was opened. Based on the model, what is the estimated decrease in the value of the account each year?

- (A) 2000
 (B) 4000
 (C) 16000
 (D) 18000

$t = 1$ leads to $V =$ _____

$t =$ _____ leads to $V =$ _____

12. Which of the following equations has a graph in the xy -plane for which y is always less than or equal to -1 ?

- (A) $y = (x - 1)^2$
 (B) $y = -1 - |x|$
 (C) $y = |x - 1|$
 (D) $y = x - x^2$

13. A fencing company charges \$60 per yard of fencing plus a \$300 flat fee for installation. Which of the following represents the cost c , in dollars to install f feet of fencing? (1 yard = 3 feet)

- (A) $c = 300 + 60\left(\frac{f}{3}\right)$
 (B) $c = 300 + 60(3f)$
 (C) $c = 300 + \frac{3f}{60}$
 (D) $c = 300 + \frac{60}{3f}$

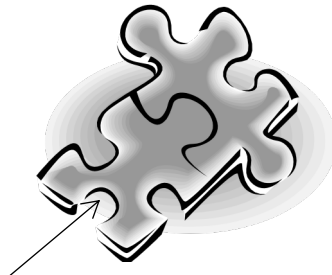
14. A particular type of radioactive material decays at a rate of 6% every 3 years. If there initially exists 400 grams of this radioactive material, which of the following functions (f) models the amount in grams of radioactive material remaining t years later?

- (A) $f(t) = 400(.06)^{\frac{t}{3}}$
 (B) $f(t) = 400(.06)^{3t}$
 (C) $f(t) = 400(.94)^{\frac{t}{3}}$
 (D) $f(t) = 400(.94)^{3t}$

Strategy 2: Work Backwards

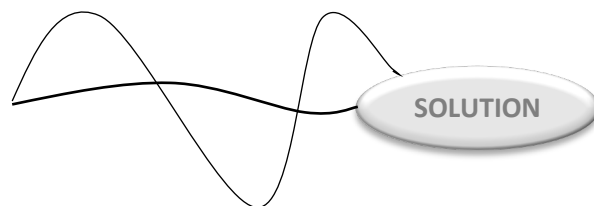
Working backwards simply means plugging in the answer choices to determine which one “fits”.

This strategy is a possibility when you see _____



Warm up examples - Decide which is the quicker path:

- Textbook math (just solving algebraically)
- An alternate strategy (**working backwards**)



15. If $4x + 1 = 9$, what is the value of x ?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 3
- (D) 4

16. If $\frac{x}{x-2} + \frac{x+1}{x-4} = -1$, what is the value of x ?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 3
- (D) 4

Numeric answer choices don't always lead to a 'Work Backwards' opportunity.

- In which question below is the test-writer **blocking** the option to **work backwards**? (#27 or #28)

$$\begin{aligned}x - 2y &= -9 \\ y^2 &= 2x^2 - 162\end{aligned}$$

17. Which of the following is a solution set to the system of equations above?

- (A) (-9, 9)
- (B) (0, -9)
- (C) (-9, 0)
- (D) (-9, -9)

$$\begin{aligned}5x - y &= 1 \\ x^2 &= (y - 6)^2 - 5\end{aligned}$$

18. Given the system of equations above, what is a possible value of $x + y$?

- (A) 1
- (B) 4
- (C) 11
- (D) 17

Strategy 2: Work Backwards

(Solving Equations)

Difficult to isolate the variable? **Working backwards** - just _____

19. For what value of x is $|\sqrt{x} - 7| - 2$ equal to 0?

- (A) 7
- (B) 25
- (C) 49
- (D) 81

20. In the equation $(px - 3)^4 = 85 - 2p$, where p is a constant **and $x = 3$ is one solution** to the equation, what is a possible value of p ?

- (A) -4
- (B) -2
- (C) 2
- (D) 4

If they state a value for x , you always _____

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &< -1 \\ 3y &\leq x + 9 \end{aligned}$$

21. Which of the following ordered pairs (x,y) satisfies the system of inequalities above?

- (A) (-2, -2)
- (B) (0, 6)
- (C) (0, 3)
- (D) (4, 2)

Why start with A?
Just start with the _____

22. What are the solutions to the quadratic equation $4x^2 + 17x + 4 = 0$?

- (A) $x = \frac{1}{4}$ and $x = 4$
- (B) $x = -\frac{1}{4}$ and $x = 4$
- (C) $x = -\frac{1}{4}$ and $x = -4$
- (D) $x = \frac{1}{2}$ and $x = -4$

23. The expression $x^2 + \frac{5}{2}x + 1$ can be rewritten as $x(x + k) + \frac{1}{2}(x + k)$ where k is a positive constant. What is the value of k ?

- (A) $-\frac{1}{2}$
- (B) $\frac{1}{2}$
- (C) 1
- (D) 2

$$1 = ax^2 + b$$

24. In the equation above, a and b are constants. For which of the following values of a and b does the equation have exactly two real solutions?

- (A) $a = -1, b = -2$
- (B) $a = -2, b = 2$
- (C) $a = 1, b = 2$
- (D) $a = 2, b = 1$

Strategy 2: Work Backwards**(Word Problems)**

In a word problem, you'll try out one of the choices and run it through the scenario presented.

- If it's the wrong answer, _____
- If it's the right answer, _____

25. Adriana and Peter combined to work 206 total hours on an engineering project. If Adriana worked 42 fewer hours than Peter, how many hours did Adriana work?

- (A) 124
- (B) 96
- (C) 82
- (D) 61

← Try starting with 96:

26. The sum of three positive numbers is 132. One of the numbers, x , is 20% more than the sum of the other two the sum of the other two. What is the value of x ?

- (A) 30
- (B) 60
- (C) 72
- (D) 84

27. The cost of a pair of shoes was \$162.00 after 8% sales tax was added. What was the cost of the shoes before tax was added?

- (A) \$145.80
- (B) \$149.04
- (C) \$150.00
- (D) \$154.00

28. In her basketball season, Gianna has scored **an average of 18 points per game for the first 4 games of the season**. What is the fewest amount of points she can score in her 5th game in order for her average number of points per game to become least 20?

- (A) 22
- (B) 25
- (C) 26
- (D) 28

Can you *choose numbers* for this piece?

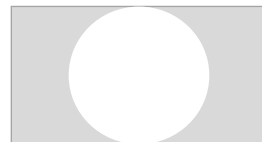
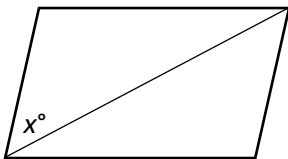
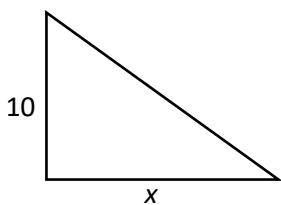
Strategy 3: Eyeballing

Eyeballing means visually estimating a geometric quantity such as a length, area or angle.

You have an eyeballing opportunity anytime you see _____



Warm up: **Eyeball** the value of x in the three cases below:



Let the circle have area 27.3in^2
and the shaded region have area $x\text{in}^2$

If the test-writer wants to block your chance to **eyeball**, you'll see a circumstance like the one below:

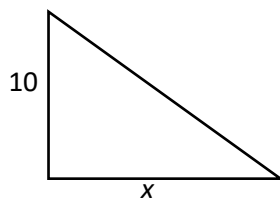
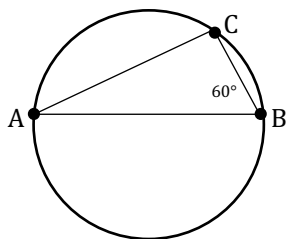


Figure not drawn to scale

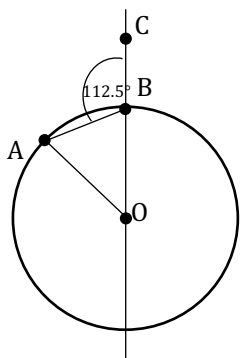
Strategy 3: Eyeballing

If you are eyeballing the length of a line segment, you can _____



29. In the figure above, points A, B and C lie on the circle and make up a triangle such that side AB is the diameter of the circle. If the area of triangle ABC is $6\sqrt{3}$, what is the **area** of the circle?

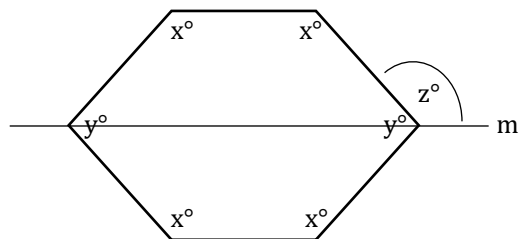
- (A) 10π
- (B) 12π
- (C) 24π
- (D) 48π



30. Point O is the center of the circle above and points A and B lie on the circle. Point B also lies on the line OC. If the circumference of the circle above is 200 inches, and $\angle CBA$ is 112.5° , what is the length of arc AB in inches? (Grid in your answer)

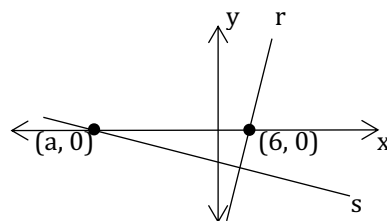
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Tip: You can even eyeball a grid-in. Many geometry answers work out to easy round figures.



31. In the hexagon above, line m bisects both angles labeled y. If $x = 2y - 70$, what is the value of z?

- (A) 100°
- (B) 130°
- (C) 140°
- (D) 160°



32. In the figure above, line r is perpendicular to line s. If line r has equation $y = 3x - 18$, and line s has equation $y = mx - 8$. What is the value of a?

- (A) -6
- (B) -12
- (C) -20
- (D) -24

Reading 1: The Architecture of the Answers

SAT Reading General Strategy



Find your *optimal pace* and *optimal order* of passages

Read actively – note the main idea of each paragraph

Know the architecture of right and wrong *answers*

The Right Answer

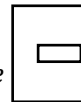
- **Tends to avoid key words**
- **Tends toward soft wording**
- **Tends to generalize**

The Wrong Answer (Types)

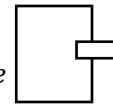
- **Not in Passage** - never discussed
- **Opposite** – opposite the info or tone
- **Wrong Part** – from the wrong spot
- **Extreme** – too strong/too absolute
- **Twisted Fact** – incorrect merge of facts

Know the architecture of the *questions*

- **Content** questions involve what was directly stated *in the passage*



- **Logic** questions involve thought processes *outside the passage*



Evidence Pairs

- Circle evidence pairs prior to starting a set
- Consider doing the 2nd one *first*

The Paired Passage

- Read Passage 1 → Answer passage 1 questions
- Read Passage 2 → Answer the rest

Architecture of the Answers

The test maker's wrong answer types:

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

Architecture of the Answers

The right answer tends to ...

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

Knowing the architecture, **TWO** paths to the answer exist.

Traditional route: Seek out the right answer.

Elimination Route: Knock out the wrong ones.

The question in lines 4-5 is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Direct observation is the only reliable method of conducting sleep research
- (B) People will yawn most frequently in the moments before they fall asleep.
- (C) There is a direct correlation between yawning and sleepiness.**
- (D) Yawning is a behavior over which individuals exert little conscious control.

The question in lines 4-5 is based on which of the following assumptions?

- ~~(A)~~ Direct observation is the only reliable method of conducting sleep research
- ~~(B)~~ People will yawn most frequently in the moments before they fall asleep.
- (C) There is a direct correlation between yawning and sleepiness.**
- ~~(D)~~ Yawning is a behavior over which individuals exert little conscious control.

Critical Reading Passages

Architecture of the Wrong Answers

NOT IN PASSAGE ○

- This is _____ wrong answer type.
- The test writer knows you may confuse what's _____ with what's actually discussed.

OPPOSITE

- Speed readers beware: a relationship is **reversed** by flipping, adding, or omitting _____

EXERCISE: Read the passage. Then slash answer choice ideas that are 'NOT IN PASSAGE' or 'OPPOSITE'.

High diving is a sport, the oldest form of which can be dated back to 1770, when Kahekili II, king of Maui, forced warriors to dive into water from high cliffs to prove that they were courageous and loyal to the king. The practice later developed into a type of performance under King Kamehameha, in which divers attempted to outdo one another in terms of style and amount of splash upon entering water.

The more modern form of high diving was, at first, exclusively practiced by gymnasts who found it to be an exciting endeavor with a low probability of injury. Before too long, it evolved into an official sport when it debuted as a series of Olympic events in the early 1900s. Today, high diving competitions occur all throughout the world, some involving dives by professionals from heights of 100 feet or more.

In order to focus on elimination of answer choices, we are learning from short passages pertaining to questions with *five* instead of the normal *four* choices.

- The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - contrast the popularity of one set of sports to that of another set of sports.
 - explain several methods by which athletes train for a Hawaiian competition.
 - outline the development of a particular sport and the careers of the greatest athletes within that sport
 - defend one theory about the origins of Olympic sports.
 - trace the history of a particular sport from its earliest roots to the current day.
- Based on the information in the passage, the author would most likely agree with which of the following?
 - Olympic high diving gold medalists primarily come from Hawaii.
 - It is not well-understood where and when high diving first developed.
 - High diving began as a practice that displayed one's valor and devotion.
 - Formal high diving competitions began prior to the 1900s.
 - High diving is one of many sports that gymnasts turn to for alternative training.

Critical Reading Passages

Architecture of the Wrong Answers

WRONG PART

- These cite info that's **consistent** with the passage but _____ with the question

EXTREME

- An 'Extreme' takes the right idea and makes it _____
- Too strong can mean **too absolute**: "*all, none, everyone, no one, always, never, must, cannot, only*"
- Too strong can mean **too emotional**: "*The author attacks, condemns, criticizes, mocks*"

EXERCISE: Read the passage. Then slash answer choice ideas that match any of the wrong answer types.

5 Burj Khalifa is a mega-tall skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It is the tallest artificial structure in the world, standing at 2,722 ft. To help stabilize an otherwise disquietingly high creation, a buttressed core structural system is used to support the height of the building. A total of 57 elevators and 8 escalators are installed, with elevators having capacity of 12 to 14 people per cabin. Construction of Burj Khalifa began in 2004, with the exterior completed in 2009.

10 The building opened in 2010 as a part of the new development called Downtown Dubai. It is designed to be the centerpiece of large-scale, mixed-use development. The decision to construct the building is reportedly based on the government's decision to diversify from an oil-based economy, and for Dubai to gain international recognition.

15

- Lines 3-6 ("To help . . . of the building") serve to
 - discuss the reasons for the construction of a major skyscraper.
 - criticize a particular design aspect of Burj Khalifa.
 - provide detail on the location and height of Dubai's most famous structure.
 - explain a fundamental characteristic of a significant building in Dubai.
 - show how a buttressed core system is the only means to support a mega-tall skyscraper
- Based on the information in the passage, the author would most likely agree with which of the following?
 - Only an oil-based economy would have the means to create a structure like Burj Khalifa.
 - Burj Khalifa is the most influential factor in the diversification of Dubai's economy.
 - A possible reason for the construction of Burj Khalifa was worldwide acknowledgment.
 - Large-scale mixed-use development was not feasible in Dubai prior to the construction of Burj Khalifa.
 - The architects who designed Burj Khalifa gained global recognition.

Critical Reading Passages

Architecture of the Wrong Answers

TWISTED FACTS

- TWISTED FACTS take two facts from the passage and _____

EXERCISE: Read the passage. Then slash answer choice ideas that match any of the wrong answer types.

5 The house at 213 Myrtle Street wore an enchantment that could obscure it when it so desired. This was a handy skill, particularly to avoid the irritation and distress brought on by the likes of salesmen who roved the streets or teenagers who skulked about after dark, eggs in hand.

10 Now there was a realtor at the gate. The smell of dozens of strange, foreign houses clung to her clothes. The house ached in its abandonment. Mrs. Leech was gone. A stranger had to lock the door behind Mrs. Leech when she last left the house, still asleep as she was rolled along on a strange wheeled bed.

15 They shared a comfortable existence together, woman and house. Mrs. Leech had been a mere slip of a girl when her family moved into 213 Myrtle, the place still ripe with fresh paint and cut lumber. Her parents left, then her husband but Mrs. Leech stayed. Her bones creaked along with the settling of the pipes at night. The house did not want a new owner.

5. Which choice best describes what happened in the passage?
- (A) A house that seems to possess emotion becomes enchanted as a result of the departure of its owner.
- (B) A realtor is attempting to sell a magical house that is saddened by the sudden departure of the large family that lived there.
- (C) A house with unusual powers and perception is left feeling lonely after the long history of its owner comes to a melancholy end.
- (D) A house located at 213 Myrtle Street recalls its former owner who left due to the actions of a local realtor.
- (E) An enchanted house was once occupied by a character named Mrs. Leech who finds sadness in having to move away to another home.
6. In line 5, the author discusses the “salesman” and “teenagers” to indicate
- (A) a major reason why Mrs. Leech decided not to live at 213 Myrtle any longer
- (B) examples of people who are trying to avoid 213 Myrtle
- (C) two types of people who could never see 213 Myrtle unless they could lift the enchantment.
- (D) situations when the house might obscure itself in order to create a more comfortable existence
- (E) how certain undesirable people would not notice 213 Myrtle unless Mrs. Leech allowed them to

Final Takeaway – As you study the answer choices, always be on the lookout for that ONE WRONG WORD.

Critical Reading Passages**Architecture of the correct answer**

The correct answer often avoids passage key words in two main ways:

1. _____

2. _____

5 No one owns Antarctica. The nations of the world agreed—some of them reluctantly—that all countries would share the continent for the purposes of scientific research. Antarctica is governed by the Antarctic Treaty, written in 1959 and adopted in 1961, which has been signed by 27 countries. Another 17 countries have agreed to abide by the treaty in order to participate in research being done in Antarctica.

10 In Antarctica, relations among the researchers and their countries are both simpler and more complicated than in the rest of the world. Relations are simpler because each country has only a few scientists on this isolated continent and also because
15 treaty clauses assure that the research there is nonmilitary. On the other hand, when difficulties do arise, there is no clear process for dealing with them. Decisions that can be critical to the preservation of Antarctica’s unique environment and its scientific
20 opportunities depend on a political system designed to have nobody in command.

25 Last year, more than 10,000 tourists visited Antarctica, bringing soiled boots, climbing gear and trash to many locations. Clear decision making has become a more urgent challenge as more tourists are attracted to Antarctica. Tour operators are working with treaty members to devise regulations, and there are plans to assess the environmental impacts of
30 tours. But regulations and assessment plans may prove difficult to settle on and enforce in a place where jurisdiction is unclear.

7. The first paragraph (lines 1 – 9) serves to

- (A) overview a particular understanding among a number of political entities
- (B) argue for the efficacy of an agreement that will affect a particular nation
- (C) list several reasons for an important event in world history
- (D) describe the participation in a specific area of scientific research by 27 countries
- (E) provide insight into a conflict that evolved between several nations and a continent

8. Based on the information in paragraph one, it can reasonably be inferred that

- (A) participation in scientific research outside the borders of Antarctica requires an international treaty
- (B) no more than 27 countries would be allowed to participate in scientific research on Antarctica
- (C) not all nations who participated in the Antarctic treaty did so with full enthusiasm
- (D) the specific regulations written in the Antarctic Treaty prevented military action
- (E) at least one country who abided by the Antarctic Treaty did so in complete protest

9. The statement in lines 18 – 21 (Decisions that ... nobody in command) serves to

- (A) support a political mechanism for granting some one nation full control over Antarctica
- (B) challenge the viability of tourism on Antarctica
- (C) discuss how the preservation of Antarctica’s ecology will be maintained
- (D) elaborate on a concern relating to conflict resolution
- (E) show how each scientific opportunity in Antarctica is both simple and complicated

10. In lines 12 – 17 (Relations are simpler dealing with them.), the author states

- (A) two reasons to support a regulation stated in the previous paragraph
- (B) the most urgent matter relating to a research opportunity
- (C) two conflicting methods to secure a political opportunity
- (D) an explanation of an idea stated earlier in the paragraph
- (E) two aspects of a connection between multiple governments

Critical Reading Passages**Architecture of the correct answer**

The correct answer tends toward vocabulary that is _____

- 5 No one owns Antarctica. The nations of the world agreed—some of them reluctantly—that all countries would share the continent for the purposes of scientific research. Antarctica is governed by the Antarctic Treaty, written in 1959 and adopted in 1961, which has been signed by 27 countries. Another 17 countries have agreed to abide by the treaty in order to participate in research being done in Antarctica.
- 10 In Antarctica, relations among the researchers and their countries are both simpler and more complicated than in the rest of the world. Relations are simpler because each country has only a few scientists on this isolated continent and also because
- 15 treaty clauses assure that the research there is nonmilitary. On the other hand, when difficulties do arise, there is no clear process for dealing with them. Decisions that can be critical to the preservation of Antarctica’s unique environment and its scientific
- 20 opportunities depend on a political system designed to have nobody in command.
- Last year, more than 10,000 tourists visited Antarctica, bringing soiled boots, climbing gear and trash to many locations. Clear decision making has become a more urgent challenge as more tourists are attracted to Antarctica. Tour operators are working with treaty members to devise regulations, and there are plans to assess the environmental impacts of
- 25 tours. But regulations and assessment plans may prove difficult to settle on and enforce in a place where jurisdiction is unclear.
- 30
11. The author indicates that tourism in Antarctica
- (A) must be prevented until further guidelines are created
- (B) brings about a financial opportunity for members of the Antarctic Treaty
- (C) may have influences on Antarctica that are not yet fully evaluated
- (D) provides an opportunity for tour operators to assess environmental changes
- (E) brought more visitors last year than in any previous year
12. What function does the third paragraph serve in the passage as a whole?
- (A) It presents evidence for a previously established principle.
- (B) It explains a pressing issue, the resolution of which is affected by the agreement in the first paragraph.
- (C) It contradicts a series of decisions brought up in the previous paragraph.
- (D) It details a disastrous consequence to a political agreement discussed in paragraph one.
- (E) It elaborates on the purpose of a treaty defined earlier in the passage.
13. Over the course of the passage, the main focus shifts from
- (A) a contract between nations to an argument against operating tours
- (B) a theory about an island continent and a pressing issue concerning the environment of that continent.
- (C) the enactment of a law restricting military action and a way to retract that law
- (D) the details of a treaty to the dangers that treaty poses.
- (E) the nature of an agreement to certain challenging issues that relate to this agreement.
14. According to the author, one consequence of the agreement that no one country would own Antarctica is
- (A) an inability to resolve any conflicts.
- (B) a struggle to create and carry out laws.
- (C) a disagreement that will require a military solution.
- (D) an increase in the number of regulations affecting tourism.
- (E) difficulty in assessing the environmental impacts of scientific research

Reading 2: Evidence and Vocab Questions

Evidence Questions

The Strategy

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

In the passage, the author most strongly suggests that **planets close to stars** have **atmospheres** which

- EX ~~(A)~~ must contain high levels of carbon dioxide.
 (B) can emit high levels of radiation that are detected on Earth.
 (C) contain gaseous metals that exit the atmosphere as liquid during storms.
 (D) are problematic to study due to interference from solar radiation.

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 1-3 "**The soil on Earth** can..."
 (B) Lines 11-14 "**Neptune** has a **core** that..."
 (C) Lines 15-18 "**Mercury** has an **atmosphere**..."
 (D) Lines 26-28 "**Planets near stars** can..."

Excerpt Wrong Answers Are

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Vocab Questions

The Strategy

★(1) _____

★(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Critical Reading Passages

Evidence Questions

Scientists have been aware that many animals are capable of numerical estimates. For example, hundreds of species know if they are being invaded by a few predators or many. We've also seen that primates show a rudimentary ability to compare values—understanding that a single symbol holds less value than a cluster of those *same* symbols. However, researchers from Harvard Medical School surmised that rhesus monkeys can grasp the idea of adding two *different* symbols together. Recently, they devised an experiment to prove that hypothesis.

- 10 Prepping the experiment required teaching rhesus monkeys to memorize values associated with the digits 0-9. The key phase in this process was a set of trials in which the monkeys were rewarded with treats when correctly choosing the higher of two given digits. The number of gifted treats corresponded to the value of the higher digit. Scientists maintain that some values greater than 9 could theoretically be conveyed with letters but that problems could arise using images such as '10' that reuse digits which already have established meaning.
- ← (A)
- ← (B)

- 20 Commencing the the test of addition skills, scientists led trials offering rhesus monkeys two columns, one with a single digit and another with a pair of digits. The task was to identify the greater of the two values: that of the single digit or that of the digit pair *sum*. The researchers reported that approximately 90% of the time, the monkeys were able to select the column of higher value and thus receive a reward. Such results might be reproduced in tests with other primate species, a prospect that scientists are eager to investigate.
- ← (D)

Some experts have doubts regarding whether rhesus monkeys were truly performing addition or simply memorizing the value of all possible digit pairings. In the future, similar experiments will present constantly changing sets of characters, both numeric and non-numeric, thus impeding any effort to simply memorize the value of paired characters.

15. According to the passage, the results of the experiment involving rhesus monkeys have shown which of the following?

- (A) With the right method, most animals can memorize the value of any given number.
- (B) Some primates other than humans may grasp the concept of totaling two unlike values.
- (C) 90% of the time, a rhesus monkey will obey directions if offered a reward.
- (D) Performing non-invasive tests on the brain is an ethical manner of scientific study on monkeys.

16. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 10-11 (“Prepping the . . . digits 0-9.”)
- (B) Lines 15-18 (“Scientists maintain . . . meaning.”)
- (C) Lines 21-25 (“The task . . . a reward.”)
- (D) Lines 25-27 (“Such results . . . investigate.”)

Critical Reading Passages

Evidence Questions

- Scientists have been aware that many animals are capable of numerical estimates. For example, hundreds of species know if they are being invaded by a few predators or many. We've also seen that primates show a rudimentary ability to compare values—understanding that a single symbol holds less value than a cluster of those *same* symbols. However, researchers from Harvard Medical School surmised that rhesus monkeys can grasp the idea of adding two *different* symbols together. Recently, they devised an experiment to prove that hypothesis.
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- 10 Prepping the experiment required teaching rhesus monkeys to memorize values associated with the digits 0-9. The key phase in this process was a set of trials in which the monkeys were rewarded with treats when correctly choosing the higher of two given digits. The number of gifted treats corresponded to the value of the higher digit. Scientists maintain that some values greater than 9 could theoretically be conveyed with letters but that problems could arise using images such as '10' that reuse digits which already have established meaning.
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- 25
- Some experts have doubts regarding whether rhesus monkeys were truly performing addition or simply memorizing the value of all possible digit pairings. In the future, similar experiments will present constantly changing sets of characters, both numeric and non-numeric, thus impeding any effort to simply memorize the value of paired characters.
- 30
17. The passage implies that the use of rewards in an experiment
- (A) is a common method of prompting animals to complete a given task
 (B) is necessary in order to achieve meaningful results.
 (C) will be crucial when testing whether species other than rhesus monkeys possess the ability to add.
 (D) can not only function as a motivator but also as a learning tool.
18. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 10-11 ("Prepping . . . digits 0-9.")
 (B) Lines 11-15 ("The key . . . the higher digit.")
 (C) Lines 15-18 ("Scientists maintain . . . meaning.")
 (D) Lines 28-30 ("Some experts . . . digit pairings.")
19. Based on the information in the passage, the author would most likely agree that the use of symbols other than numerical digits may be necessary to
- (A) communicate ideas relating to words and phrases rather than numbers
 (B) encourage memorization over addition as a means of determining the value of digit pairs.
 (C) remedy problems inherent in conveying the values of single-digit numbers.
 (D) address skepticism regarding the conclusions drawn from trial data.
20. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 10-14 ("Prepping the . . . digits 0-9.")
 (B) Lines 15-18 ("Scientists maintain . . . meaning.")
 (C) Lines 25-27 ("Such results . . . investigate.")
 (D) Lines 28-33 ("Some experts . . . characters.")

Critical Reading Passages

Evidence Questions

- Scientists have been aware that many animals are capable of numerical estimates. For example, hundreds of species know if they are being invaded by a few predators or many. We've also seen that primates show a rudimentary ability to compare values—understanding that a single symbol holds less value than a cluster of those *same* symbols. However, researchers from Harvard Medical School surmised that rhesus monkeys can grasp the idea of adding two *different* symbols together. Recently, they devised an experiment to prove that hypothesis.
- Prepping the experiment required teaching rhesus monkeys to memorize values associated with the digits 0-9. The key phase in this process was a set of trials in which the monkeys were rewarded with treats when correctly choosing the higher of two given digits. The number of gifted treats corresponded to the value of the higher digit. Scientists maintain that some values greater than 9 could theoretically be conveyed with letters but that problems could arise using images such as '10' that reuse digits which already have established meaning.
- Commencing the the test of addition skills, scientists led trials offering rhesus monkeys two columns, one with a single digit and another with a pair of digits. The task was to identify the greater of the two values: that of the single digit or that of the digit pair *sum*. The researchers reported that approximately 90% of the time, the monkeys were able to select the column of higher value and thus receive a reward. Such results might be reproduced in tests with other primate species, a prospect that scientists are eager to investigate.
- Some experts have doubts regarding whether rhesus monkeys were truly performing addition or simply memorizing the value of all possible digit pairings. In the future, similar experiments will present constantly changing sets of characters, both numeric and non-numeric, thus impeding any effort to simply memorize the value of paired characters.
21. In the passage, the author claims that a basic capacity to comprehend quantities
- (A) is a quality humans have discovered in a wide scope of other animals.
 (B) will inevitably set in motion the ability to perform mathematical operations.
 (C) is more essential to escaping a large group of predators than to escaping a small group.
 (D) has yet to be detected in animals other than humans and rhesus monkeys.
22. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 1-3 (“Scientists . . . or many.”)
 (B) Lines 15-18 (“Scientists maintain . . . meaning.”)
 (C) Lines 19-21 (“Commencing . . . pair of digits.”)
 (D) Lines 23-25 (The researchers . . . a reward.”)
23. In the passage, the author most strongly suggests that teaching the concept of numerical value to rhesus monkeys
- (A) must be limited to digits with a value less than ten.
 (B) proves that the same goal can be accomplished with other primates.
 (C) should involve a reward-based system that involves a fixed number of offerings.
 (D) is a more reliable process when one avoids recycling previously recognized symbols.
24. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 1-3 (“Scientists . . . or many.”)
 (B) Lines 11-14 (“The key . . . given digits.”)
 (C) Lines 15-18 (“Scientists maintain . . . meaning.”)
 (D) Lines 25-27 (“Such results . . . investigate.”)

Critical Reading Passages

Vocab Questions

- Scientists have been aware that many animals are capable of numerical estimates. For example, hundreds of species know if they are being invaded by a few predators or many. We've also seen that primates show a rudimentary ability to compare values—understanding that a single symbol holds less value than a cluster of those *same* symbols. However, researchers from Harvard Medical School surmised that rhesus monkeys can grasp the idea of adding two *different* symbols together. Recently, they devised an experiment to prove that hypothesis.
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- 20
- 25
- Some experts have doubts regarding whether rhesus monkeys were truly performing addition or simply memorizing the value of all possible digit pairings. In the future, similar experiments will present constantly changing sets of characters, both numeric and non-numeric, thus impeding any effort to simply memorize the value of paired characters.
- 30
25. As used in line 4, "rudimentary" most nearly means
- (A) satisfactory
(B) simple
(C) unimportant
(D) plain
(E) transitory
26. As used in line 7, "surmised" most nearly means
- (A) confirmed
(B) decreed
(C) investigated
(D) advised
(E) speculated
27. As used in line 15, "maintain" most nearly means
- (A) upkeep
(B) postulate
(C) verify
(D) accept
(E) dispute

Critical Reading Passages

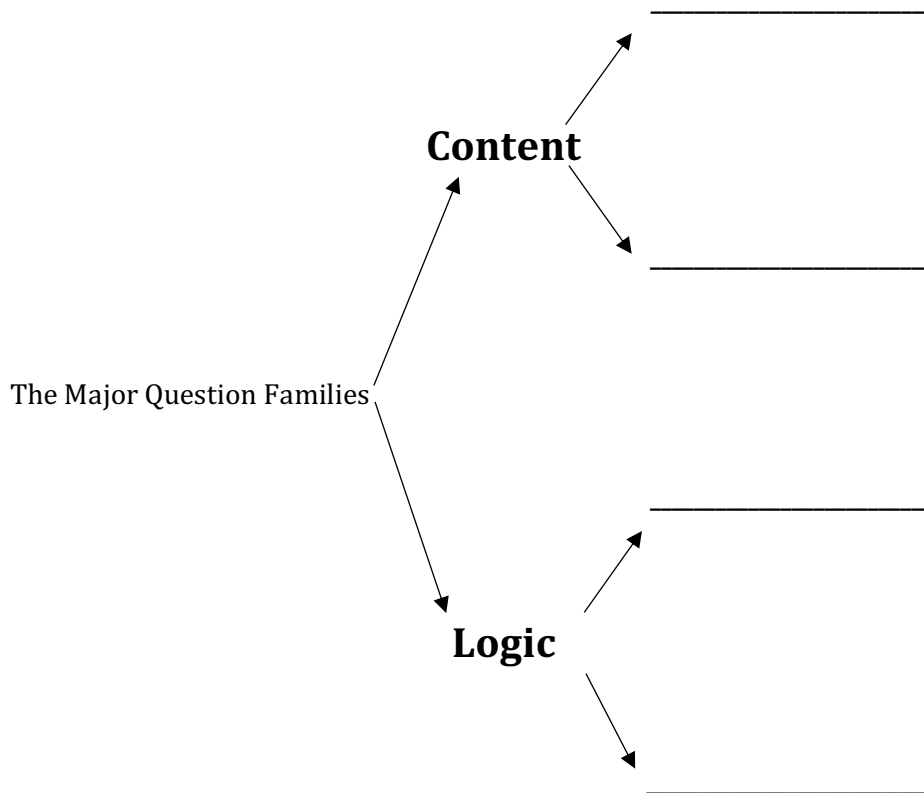
Vocab Questions

- Scientists have been aware that many animals are capable of numerical estimates. For example, hundreds of species know if they are being invaded by a few predators or many. We've also seen that primates show a rudimentary ability to compare values—understanding that a single symbol holds less value than a cluster of those *same* symbols. However, researchers from Harvard Medical School surmised that rhesus monkeys can grasp the idea of adding two *different* symbols together. Recently, they devised an experiment to prove that hypothesis.
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- 30 Some experts have doubts regarding whether rhesus monkeys were truly performing addition or simply memorizing the value of all possible digit pairings. In the future, similar experiments will present constantly changing sets of characters, both numeric and non-numeric, thus impeding any effort to simply memorize the value of paired characters.
28. As used in line 26, "prospect" most nearly means
- (A) option
(B) possibility
(C) opinion
(D) inevitability
(E) proclamation
29. As used in line 29, "truly" most nearly means
- (A) scrupulously
(B) faithfully
(C) noticeably
(D) genuinely
(E) perfectly
30. As used in line 32, "impeding" most nearly means
- (A) hindering
(B) eradicating
(C) facilitating
(D) blockading
(E) confusing

Reading 3 & 4: Deeper into Content and Logic Questions

Architecture of the Questions (Complex)

About **32** of 52 reading questions fall into families “Content” or “Logic”. These can be further broken down:



The remaining ____ questions are ...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Critical Reading Passages

Content Questions

- Content Questions (_____): Wrong answers often _____

5 The Lord of the Rings is an epic fantasy novel written by English author J. R. R. Tolkien. His initial motivation was to create a sequel to his 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit*, but the project developed into something much more complex. Written in several stages from 1937 to 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

10 The title of the novel refers to the story's main antagonist, the Dark Lord Sauron, who had in an earlier age created the One Ring to rule the other Rings of Power as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of Middle-earth. From quiet beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-earth, following the course of the War of the Ring through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin.

20 Although generally known to readers as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be *The Silmarillion*, but this idea was dismissed by his publisher. For economic reasons, *The Lord of the Rings* was published in three volumes over the course of a year from 29 July 1954 to 20 October 1955. The three volumes were titled *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Structurally, the entire story is divided internally into six segments, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. Some editions combine the entire work into a single volume. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

31. The main purpose of the passage is to

- (A) provide an overview of the plot and characters of *The Lord of the Rings*.
- (B) discuss the origins of a story and how public reaction to that work would shape future novels by the same author.
- (C) overview several aspects of a 20th century work of literature.
- (D) compare two competing strategies for the release of a popular 20th century novel
- (E) explain how a number of unlikely events led to the success of a popular fantasy novel.

32. The main purpose of the second paragraph is to

- (A) explain the evolution of a novel from its humble beginnings to its three volume release.
- (B) provide evidence for how *The Lord of the Rings* attained its sales success.
- (C) present information about the setting, premise, and certain characters of a novel.
- (D) reveal how J.R.R. Tolkien's arrived upon the title of a novel.
- (E) give a brief account of the publication and release of a well-known novel.

33. Which choice best summarizes the passage?

- (A) *The Hobbit* and the sequels it spawns become the best selling novels of the 20th century.
- (B) A series of fantasy novels becomes highly acclaimed as a commentary on 20th century English society.
- (C) A fantasy novel tells the separate tales of four characters who travel through Middle-earth.
- (D) A multi-perspective work of fiction begins to materialize in 1937 and evolves into a highly praised series of publications.
- (E) A 1937 novel *The Hobbit*, initially a stand-alone book, becomes the first story in world-famous fantasy trilogy.

34. Over the course of the passage, the focus shifts from

- (A) the origins of a piece of writing to the structure of its release.
- (B) the reasons why a novel was created to doubts about the validity of those reasons.
- (C) the economic motivations of a course of action to the consequences of that decision.
- (D) background on the most popular fantasy novel of the 20th century to decisions about its publication.
- (E) the roots of a Tolkien fantasy novel to public perception of that novel's setbacks.

Critical Reading Passages

Content Questions

- **Content Questions** (_____): The correct answer _____

5 The Lord of the Rings is an epic fantasy novel written by English author J. R. R. Tolkien. His initial motivation was to create a sequel to his 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit*, but the project developed into something much more complex. Written in several stages from 1937 to 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

10 The title of the novel refers to the story's main antagonist, the Dark Lord Sauron, who had in an earlier age created the One Ring to rule the other Rings of Power as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of Middle-earth. From quiet beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-
15 earth, following the course of the War of the Ring through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin.

20 Although generally known to readers as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be *The Silmarillion*, but this idea was dismissed by his publisher. For economic reasons, *The Lord of the Rings* was published in three volumes over the course of a year from July 29, 1954 to
25 October 20, 1955. The three volumes were titled *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Structurally, the entire story is divided internally into six segments, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. Some editions combine the entire work into a
30 single volume. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

35. According to the passage, Tolkien was originally inspired to write *The Lord of the Rings* by

- (A) a life-time of reading fantasy novels by other famous authors.
- (B) a desire to continue a storyline conceived of in a previous book.
- (C) the need to put to rest unanswered questions in another Tolkien novel, *The Hobbit*.
- (D) the ambition to finish a series of fantasy novels written between 1937 and 1949
- (E) public outcry for a sequel to a previously established fantasy story.

36. In lines 12 – 17 (“*From quiet . . . Merry and Pippin*”), the author states

- (A) the reasons behind why a novel is told from one particular point of view.
- (B) the motivation of the main antagonist in *The Lord of the Rings*.
- (C) the location in England where Tolkien’s novel takes place.
- (D) a brief overview of the setting and narrative-style of a novel.
- (E) the climax of a novel and the forces that spurred that event.

37. According to the passage, Tolkien first envisioned *The Lord of the Rings* to be

- (A) one work broken into two volumes.
- (B) released in three installments over a two-year period.
- (C) one of the works in a two-book set.
- (D) a prequel to *The Silmarillion*.
- (E) published no earlier than October 20, 1955.

38. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 2-5 (“His initial . . . more complex.”)
- (B) Lines 8-12 (“The title . . . of Middle-earth.”)
- (C) Lines 18-21 (“Although . . . his publisher.”)
- (D) Lines 21-24 (“For economic . . . 1955.”)
- (E) Lines 29-30 (“Some editions . . . volume.”)

* Evidence Pair Strategy:

2nd one 1st can be preferable!

Critical Reading Passages

Logic Questions

- **Logic Questions** (_____): The correct answer _____

5 The Lord of the Rings is an epic fantasy novel written by English author J. R. R. Tolkien. His initial motivation was to create a sequel to his 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit*, but the project developed into something much more complex. Written in several stages from 1937 to 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

10 The title of the novel refers to the story's main antagonist, the Dark Lord Sauron, who had in an earlier age created the One Ring to rule the other Rings of Power as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of Middle-earth. From quiet beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-
15 earth, following the course of the War of the Ring through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin.

20 Although generally known to readers as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be *The Silmarillion*, but this idea was dismissed by his publisher. For economic reasons, *The Lord of the Rings* was published in three volumes over the course of a year from 29 July 1954 to 20 October 1955. The three volumes were titled *The*
25 *Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Structurally, the entire story is divided internally into six segments, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. Some editions combine the entire work into a
30 single volume. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

39. In the first paragraph, the author suggests that the initial concept of *The Lord of the Rings*
- (A) centered on a plot to save Middle-earth from being conquered by a powerful enemy.
 - (B) was typical of other fantasy novels written in the mid 20th century.
 - (C) centered on the same characters, settings and events described in *The Hobbit*.
 - (D) was significantly simpler than the product that eventually ensued.
 - (E) did not have a connection to any of Tolkien's previous novels.

40. In lines 12 – 17 (“*From quiet . . . Merry and Pippin*”), the author indicates that

- (A) the events in the novel are told from the point of view of at most four characters.
- (B) the plot of *The Lord of the Rings* centers on an effort by several parties to conquer Middle Earth.
- (C) the English countryside inspired each of the settings contained in *The Lord of the Rings*.
- (D) some characters in the book originate in lands inspired by factual location.
- (E) the War of the Ring was inspired by a factual war that occurred in England.

41. Based on the information in the passage, the author would most likely agree that decisions regarding the publishing of *The Lord of the Rings* series

- (A) centered on the urgent need to complete the work by a particular date.
- (B) eventually landed on a release of the story in six installments.
- (C) established the ability of the narrator to tell the story from several points of view.
- (D) were typical of most fantasy series written by English authors of Tolkien's era.
- (E) were at least partly based on financial considerations.

42. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 1-2 (“*The Lord . . . J.R.R. Tolkien*”)
- (B) Lines 5-7 (“*Written in . . . copies sold*”)
- (C) Lines 12-17 (“*From quiet . . . and Pippin*”)
- (D) Lines 21-24 (“*For economic . . . October 1955*”)
- (E) Lines 26-28 (“*Structurally . . . the end*”)

Critical Reading Passages

Logic Questions

- **Logic Questions** (_____): The correct answer _____

5 The Lord of the Rings is an epic fantasy novel written by English author J. R. R. Tolkien. His initial motivation was to create a sequel to his 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit*, but the project developed into something more complex. Written in several stages from 1937 to 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

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15 earth, following the course of the War of the Ring through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin.

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25 three volumes were titled *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Structurally, the entire story is divided internally into six segments, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. Some
30 editions combine the entire work into a single volume. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

43. The author includes the information in lines 2-5 (“His initial . . . more complex”) in order to
- (A) define a particular genre of novels popular in a past era.
 - (B) compare the original purpose of a novel with public perception of that original purpose.
 - (C) help provide a broad context for the general evolution of a Tolkien novel.
 - (D) propose a theory about how a piece of writing attained worldwide recognition.
 - (E) contradict a previously established set of facts about fantasy novels.
44. Within the context of the third paragraph, the author states the information in lines 21 – 24 (“For economic . . . October 1955”) in order to
- (A) argue that Tolkien’s inability to make sound financial decisions affected his book releases.
 - (B) help explain decisions about the organizational framework of a story.
 - (C) help illuminate why nonfiction works are generally best suited to three-volume releases.
 - (D) explain how publishers arrived at the titles for the three volumes of a fantasy series.
 - (E) show how a work of literature established its appeal to critics and the public audience.
45. The sentence in lines 29 – 30 (“Some editions . . . single volume”) serves to
- (A) provide additional insight into the characters and plot of a novel.
 - (B) prove unnecessary the plan to release a fantasy story as a trilogy.
 - (C) explain how publishers were able to condense a three-part work into one single volume.
 - (D) contribute additional details about the publication of a fantasy novel.
 - (E) explain the reasons behind why a book was reprinted in several languages.

Content and Logic Side by Side

Whether you are on the *content* or *logic* side of the coin determines the type of answer you must seek.

Jack is a multi-talented individual. He is fluent in several languages. He is the star pitcher of his baseball team. Jack has also mastered several forms of martial arts.

1. In lines 2 - 3 ("He is . . . team.") the author **states**
 - (A) an example relating to sports
2. The sentence in lines 2 - 3 ("He is . . . team.") **serves to**
 - (A) provide support for a previous claim relating to Jack's abilities

EXERCISE: Identify the question type below as either *content* or *logic*

- *The primary purpose of the passage is to*
- *Which of the following is stated in the 2nd paragraph?*
- *The information in lines 45-53 serves to*
- *The author discusses the "historical issue" (line 50) in order to*
- *Based on the author's "thoughts of the outsiders" (line 20), the author most likely agrees that*
- *Which of the following states what happened in the passage?*
- *The author of passage 1 would most likely regard lines 81-83 ("With . . . them") as evidence of*
- *It can be inferred that the author considers "misunderstood creations" to have been*
- *Both authors would most likely agree that*
- *The question in lines 4-5 is based on which of the following assumptions.*

Writing 1

Grammar/Usage Questions

(Standard English Conventions)

Grammar Terminology Reference Page

- **Subject:** The subject of a sentence is the main focus to which the action, description, or discussion is directed.
Alexis wrote the book.
- **Object:** The object of a sentence is the recipient of that action, description, etc.
Alexis wrote the **book**.
- **Noun:** a person place thing or idea.
Sharon, Paris, car, happiness
- **Pronoun:** a smaller word that takes the place of the noun.
Clunky: **Sheila** found the book distasteful because **Sheila** thought it was too long for **Sheila's** liking.
Better: Sheila found the book distasteful because **she** thought it was too long for **her** liking.
- **Antecedent:** The noun that is replaced by the pronoun is called the antecedent of the pronoun.
Jeffrey needs to fix his **car** because it is not running well.
- **Verb:** describes the action of the subject or a state of being.
Example: run, swim, think, write, eat, love, is, were
- **Modifiers** – words or phrases that describe the subject
Adjectives: describe nouns
the **quick** runner, my **thoughtful** brother, the **easy** test
Adverbs: describe verbs, adjectives or other adverbs
quickly running; my **extremely** thoughtful brother; completing the test **extremely easily**
- **Prepositions:** the great connectors of words
to, across, around, of, for, past, about, from, through, over, into, toward
They competed **against** each other. They competed **with** each other. They competed **for** the prize.
- **Conjunctions and Disjunctions:** connect phrases and clauses
FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.
New York City is beautiful **but** too EXPENSIVE to stay long.
New York City is beautiful **and** easy to get around.
- **Clause:** a group of words that form part of the sentence. There are independent clauses and dependent clauses. An independent clause is a whole sentence or part of a sentence that contains a subject, a verb, and completes a particular thought. A dependent clause is a part of the sentence that leans on the independent clause in order to make the sentence complete. Independent clauses can stand on their own two feet; dependent clauses lean on the independent clause in the sentence.
- **Phrase:** a group of words that use prepositions and do not contain themselves subjects and verbs in the group. We often think of phrases as sections of the sentence to help modify or extend the subject or to help form the connection between the verb and the object. Remember: the object of the sentence is the part that is taking the action.

SAT Writing General Strategy



Find your *optimal pace*:

- Equal time to each passage means _____ minutes per passage.
- Shoot for _____ minutes per passage if you want to bank time in case of a tough passage.

Know the major question families and types:

- Standard English Conventions (Usage)
 - Punctuation
 - Verb tense
 - Verb-Subject Agreement
 - Noun-pronoun Agreement
 - Ambiguous Pronouns
 - Transitions
 - Run-ons
 - Fragments
 - Conciseness
 - Redundancy
 - Idioms
 - Modification
 - Parallelism
 - Homophones.
 - Vocabulary
- } Minor study areas
- Expression of Ideas (Content)
 - Adding Statements
 - Deleting Statements
 - Logical Placement
 - Data Analysis

SAT Writing General Strategy



THREE test-taking strategies can boost your accuracy and efficiency in Section 2.

STRATEGY ONE: Identify the issues by _____

- Chicago is a large, bustling city, but it's residents still maintain a calm and pleasant attitude.
 - (A) No Change
 - (B) large bustling city, but it's
 - (C) large, bustling city but its
 - (D) large, bustling city, but its
- ← Three issues are in play. Don't start with the first; start with the easiest!

STRATEGY TWO: Cut to _____

- A valuable member of upper management, Thomas Jackson, who started with the company in 2005 along with several other key players, were able to lead the team to their sales goals.

Now cut to the core – the excess is meant to distract

A valuable member of upper management, Thomas Jackson, ~~who started with the company in 2005 along with several other key players,~~ were able to lead the team to their sales goals.

STRATEGY THREE: Eliminate _____

- Although Jackson was not the first member of his class to become published, his accomplishment turned out to be the most significant.
 - (A) No Change
 - (B) published; his accomplishment
 - (C) published. His accomplishment
 - (D) published his accomplishment
- ← If (B) were right, then (C) would have to be right too. Since we can't have 2 right answers, they must both be wrong.

Punctuation

Mixed Problem Set

The five punctuation pieces

- Commas – for lists, for ‘side notes’, and for switching ideas
- Dashes – for side notes
- Colons – further explanation in the form of a list or in the form of an independent clause
- Semicolons – separates two independent clauses
- Apostrophes – for possession and for contractions

1. There are very few employees who can handle such a task: only a handful of mechanics and engineers within the entire corporation have the necessary skills.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) task: only a handful of mechanics, and engineers within
 - (C) task, only a handful of mechanics and engineers within
 - (D) task; only a handful of mechanics and engineers, within
2. He realized his mistake when Tom Galway – the one in charge of handling all customers’ complaints and inquiries, finished his statement.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) Galway, the one in charge of handling all customers’ complaints, and inquiries, finished
 - (C) Galway, the one in charge of handling all customer complaints and inquiries, finished
 - (D) Galway – the one in charge of handling all customer’s complaints and inquiries – finished
3. Though Brownsville factory workers’ have a reasonable salary range (\$41,000 to \$68,000 in 2019), many, especially the accounting staff, have demanded raises.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) workers have a reasonable salary range (\$41,000 to \$68,000 in 2019) many, especially
 - (C) workers’ have a reasonable salary range (\$41,000 to \$68,000 in 2019), many especially
 - (D) workers have a reasonable salary range (\$41,000 to \$68,000 in 2019), many, especially
4. The baseball equipment that was left in the shed: the gloves, plates and catchers’ equipment, will need to come out before the game.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) shed: the gloves, plates, and catcher’s equipment will
 - (C) shed, the gloves, plates and catchers’ equipment, will
 - (D) shed – the gloves, plates, and catchers’ equipment – will
5. Without the extremely necessary support of the 4th graders’ parents: there will be no fundraising events, during the coming term.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) graders’ parents: there will be no fundraising events during the coming term.
 - (C) graders’ parents, there will be no fundraising events during the coming term.
 - (D) graders’ parents, there will be no fundraising events, during the coming term.
6. The dig led by archaeologist Tom Thorns and paleontologist Erica Forrest is likely to reveal one remarkable finding: the final tail bone.
 - (A) No change
 - (B) archaeologist, Tom Thorns and paleontologist, Erica Forrest is likely to reveal one remarkable finding, the
 - (C) archaeologist Tom Thorns and paleontologist Erica Forrest, is likely to reveal one remarkable finding: the
 - (D) archaeologist, Tom Thorns and paleontologist, Erica Forrest is likely to reveal one remarkable finding: the

Punctuation

Mixed Problem Set

7. A recent study regarding the social habits of lions, suggests that females spend their lives in their mother's prides.
- (A) No change
 - (B) study, regarding the social habits of lions, suggests that females spend their lives in their mothers' prides.
 - (C) study regarding the social habits of lions suggests that females spend their lives in their mothers' prides.
 - (D) study, regarding the social habits of lions, suggests that females spend their lives in their mother's prides.
8. Finally, Jefferson – the operation's leader – decided to call it all off; he realized the plan would not work.
- (A) No change
 - (B) Jefferson, the operation's leader – decided to call it all off; he
 - (C) Jefferson, the operation's leader, decided to call it all off, he
 - (D) Jefferson (the operation's leader) decided to call it all off, but he

Verb and Pronoun Agreement

Mixed Problem Set

- Agreement involves **subject-verb agreement** and **subject-pronoun agreement**
- In agreement cases, a singular subject is often made to look plural: *"The foundation of all sports..."*
- You'll also encounter plural subjects that look singular: *"The fundamentals of business..."*

9. To complete the paper, editors will – once again – scrutinize it's last three chapters to be sure all facts are fully in order.
 (A) No change
 (B) its
 (C) there
 (D) their
10. Director Jane White is aware that the issue of how supplies slipped past the guards require more investigation.
 (A) No change
 (B) guards requires
 (C) guards, require
 (D) guards, requires
11. During the second decade of its development, the corporation adopted a new model, but that change would ultimately cause a rift.
 (A) No change
 (B) its development, the corporation adopted a new model; but that
 (C) their development, the corporation adopted a new model but that
 (D) their development the corporation adopted a new model, but that
12. The fundamentals of business development, whether involving a corporation or a single owner, relies upon one key factor: high level decision making based on realistic forecasts.
 (A) No change
 (B) owner, rely upon one key factor; high level decision making based on realistic forecasts.
 (C) owner, rely upon one key factor: high level decision making based on realistic forecasts.
 (D) owner relies upon one key factor; high level decision making based on realistic forecasts.
13. A spate of news reports in the Washington tribune was the catalyst for the great panic: people ran from the buildings in fear.
 (A) No change
 (B) reports, in the Washington tribune, were the catalyst for the great panic: people
 (C) reports, in the Washington tribune, were the catalyst for the great panic: people
 (D) reports in the Washington tribune was the catalyst for the great panic, people
14. Yesterday was a long day filled with backbreaking work. Nothing in the long chain of events went perfectly, but by five o'clock, the job was done: the last truckload of boxes, furniture, and appliances was finally unloaded in the living room.
 (A) No change
 (B) were
 (C) is
 (D) has been
15. The most common types of employee training made available to workers' involves: team building, computer literacy, and software development.
 (A) No change
 (B) worker's involves: team
 (C) workers involve: team
 (D) workers involve team
16. Prior to entering the facility, a worker must present his or her identification card to staff at the front lobby; building security is a top priority.
 (A) No change
 (B) one's
 (C) there
 (D) their

Verbs and Pronouns

Mixed Problem Set

- Verbs and pronouns must **agree** with their subjects
- **Verb tense** depends on surrounding context and usually involves a *simpler* choice
- A pronoun with no clear subject is **ambiguous** → *Sue and Kim met, and then **she** finished the report.*

17. When the matter lost public support, the bill to provide funding for the prospective building projects were doomed to fail.
 (A) No change
 (B) was
 (C) is
 (D) has been
18. Anticipation gripped the viewing crowd; the right fielder and the second baseman narrowly avoided a collision. After the dangerous play, they could breathe a sigh of relief.
 (A) No change
 (B) they would
 (C) he could
 (D) the onlooking fans could
19. We are thrilled at what we now see: the right side of the petri dish containing the highest concentration of bacterial cells holds the answer we seek.
 (A) No change
 (B) hold
 (C) held
 (D) have been holding
20. The partners at the firm, most of which are aware of the merger, will present their case today.
 (A) No change
 (B) of who
 (C) of whom
 (D) of them
21. The scientists watched as the snow leopards defended their territory from the pair of polar bears. It was after nearly an hour that they retreated towards a welcome sight: the rising moon.
 (A) No change
 (B) a retreat was made
 (C) the polar bears retreated
 (D) the polar bears withdrew by retreating
22. Much like their previous models, the newest 3D printer by Gemini Incorporated proves to be one of most reliable on the market.
 (A) No change
 (B) its
 (C) it's
 (D) there
23. The latest in workers' demands are paid vacation time and improved health insurance, however the company is hardly in a financial position to afford them.
 (A) No change
 (B) to afford such benefits
 (C) of affording it
 (D) to afford it
24. Because these particular works of art are utterly priceless to the museum, the committee needs to take great care in deciding whom was most qualified to transport them.
 (A) No change
 (B) who is most qualified to transport the pieces.
 (C) whom is most qualified to transport the pieces.
 (D) whom was most qualified to transport the pieces.

Transitions

- Always ignore any transition the test-maker gives you – make your mind a blank slate.
- Identify idea 1 and idea 2
- Decide for yourself what the transition should be.

25. When the matter lost public support, the bill to provide funding for the prospective building projects was doomed to fail. However, the new stadium and concert hall remained only plans on the drawing board, endeavors that would never come to fruition.
- (A) No change
(B) Nevertheless
(C) Therefore
(D) Similarly
26. The latest in GE workers' demands are paid vacation time and improved health insurance, but the company is hardly in a financial position to afford such benefits. Similarly, Microsoft announced that it may cease certain compensations such as overtime pay.
- (A) No change
(B) Naturally
(C) As a result
(D) In other words
27. Thailand has three official seasons: the hot dry season, the rainy season, and the cool season. Typically, the hot season runs from March to the end of May. This is followed by months of heavy rain. This year, for example, record breaking temperatures and drought persisted until early July.
- (A) No change
(B) in fact
(C) meanwhile
(D) however
28. The board of directors and middle management each share some of the blame for the recent debacle. The board has been complacent rather than proactive for years; middle management has never paid attention to the grievances of company employees. It is, moreover, the responsibility of both the board and middle management to repair the damage that has been done.
- (A) No change
(B) additionally
(C) accordingly
(D) however
29. The six-year-old twins – Bo and Delun – caused a lot of chaos at the gathering today with their rambunctious behavior. The racket could be heard even way down the street. Nonetheless, the blame goes to their mother and father because parents are accountable for the actions of their children.
- (A) No change
(B) For example
(C) Similarly
(D) Furthermore
30. Those affected by food allergies often have discomfort related to the stomach: cramps, nausea, or vomiting. Other types of allergies may cause irritation of the nose and eyes. Still, those with pollen and dust allergies deal with itchy eyes and congestion.
- (A) No change
(B) Besides this
(C) Additionally
(D) For example

Run-ons and Fragments

Mixed Problem Set

- In a **run-on**, there exists 2 independent clauses → *Jane found the ring, it had landed in the bushes.*
- In a **fragment**, there exists no independent clauses → *Although Jane found the ring.*

31. The mortgage broker, who noticed that the contract could not be completed, until their last three pages were signed.
- (A) No change
 (B) broker, noticing that the contract could not be completed until their last three pages were signed.
 (C) broker noticed that the contract could not be completed, until its last three pages were signed.
 (D) broker noticed that the contract could not be completed until its last three pages were signed.
32. In Mexico City, the availability of proper medical treatment was at an all-time low, a study showed that only 35% of hospitals had adequate staffing and equipment.
- (A) No change
 (B) low; as a
 (C) low: a
 (D) low, which a
33. That the army – though close to home – would encounter resistance before reaching the base was inevitable, the enemy was well entrenched in the surrounding mountains.
- (A) No change
 (B) inevitable, for the
 (C) inevitable; as the
 (D) inevitable the
34. The great citadel on the hill, built centuries ago during a time when several tribes battled for control of the surrounding countryside.
- (A) No change
 (B) hill, having been built centuries ago during
 (C) hill was built centuries ago during
 (D) hill was built centuries ago; during
35. A spate of sudden news reports on the local stations was the catalyst for the great panic: people ran from the buildings in fear.
- (A) No change
 (B) reports, on the local stations were the catalyst for the great panic: people who ran
 (C) reports, on the local stations, was the catalyst for the great panic: people running
 (D) reports on the local stations was the catalyst for the great panic, people ran
36. A decade after the treaties were signed by all three sides, a conflict once again starting in northern Italy.
- (A) No change
 (B) conflict which, once again, started in northern Italy.
 (C) conflict, once again, started in northern Italy.
 (D) conflict starting in northern Italy.
37. Despite the fact that most of the citizens survived the crash, considering that it was one of the worst events in the managers' memories.
- (A) No change
 (B) crash, it was considered
 (C) crash, they were considered
 (D) crash: it was considered
38. The mixture requires some sort of catalyst in order to undergo the needed change; in other words, we are looking for the right spark.
- (A) No change
 (B) change, in other words, we are looking for the right spark.
 (C) change; in other words, while we are looking for the right spark.
 (D) change, and while we are looking for the right spark.

Conciseness and Redundancy

Mixed Problem Set

- It's more concise to say "**More specifically**" than it is to say "**To be more specific on the matter**"
- Redundancy is a way of failing to be concise: "Jason was **thankful for and appreciated** the gesture."

39. Among other figures, Marissa found data pertaining to secondary schools, community colleges, and private universities.
 (A) No change
 (B) and also
 (C) and to
 (D) and pertaining to
40. On a consistent basis, Emmett – despite the advice of his friends and relatives – will regularly stay out late time and again.
 (A) No change
 (B) regularly stay out late
 (C) stay out late regularly
 (D) stay out late
41. Scientists have long believed that there exists a close evolutionary relationship between birds and dinosaurs.
 (A) No change
 (B) long believe
 (C) have – for a long time - believed
 (D) have at length believed
42. Movie-reviewers gripe about the film's utterly predictable plot line. According to such critics, the writers adopted a fairy tale formula that has been utilized many times in the past and thus the events in the narrative are predictable and expected.
 (A) No change
 (B) and thus the events in the narrative are predictable.
 (C) and thus it can be predicted.
 (D) DELETE the underlined portion
43. The company deserves the good press; Gray Enterprises has maximized and fully increased energy output without polluting the nearby rivers.
 (A) No change
 (B) maximized
 (C) maximized the creation of
 (D) maximized creating
44. After a duration of three years had passed, there was no one left at the office who truly had expertise in the field.
 (A) No change
 (B) Three years later,
 (C) By three years,
 (D) After a period of three years,
45. Having been immersed in moving water for such a long time, the jagged points of the rock have eroded to smooth surfaces. In extreme cases, the rocks have worn away to sand due to length of time they are submerged under water.
 (A) No change
 (B) the rocks have worn away to sand because of time submerged.
 (C) the rocks have worn away to sand over time.
 (D) the rocks have worn away to sand.
46. Free to all guests, state parks in our area can offer hiking trails of various difficulty levels at no cost to the visitor.
 (A) No change
 (B) to the visitor
 (C) to visitors
 (D) DELETE the underlined portion

Modifiers

High Difficulty

Number of Questions/Test: 2

A **modifier** is basically a descriptive phrase that wants to be next to the subject it describes

- *Considered the best candidate in the running, Josephine would almost certainly win the election.*
- Modifier Subject

RULE: A modifier must come *next to* the subject it modifies.

- **INCORRECT:** Beeping and swerving, the accident was narrowly avoided by **Max**.

Modifier Subject

- **CORRECT:** Beeping and swerving, **Max** was able to narrowly avoid the traffic accident.

Modifier Subject

53. Traveling through Yosemite, the scenery of waterfalls and granite peaks, which we photographed, was beautiful.

- (A) No change
- (B) the waterfalls and granite peaks were the beautiful scenery we photographed.
- (C) we photographed the beautiful scenery of waterfalls and granite peaks.
- (D) what we photographed was the beautiful scenery of waterfalls and granite peaks.

54. Dressed in a crisp, clean uniform, it reflected the efficient manner of the tour guide as she distributed maps for a walking tour of central Canberra.

- (A) No change
- (B) Dressed in a crisp, clean uniform, the efficient manner of the tour guide was reflected
- (C) Dressed in a crisp, clean uniform that reflected the efficient manner of the tour guide
- (D) The crisp, clean uniform of the tour guide reflected her efficient manner

55. Though now one of the most famous abstract artists, critics once ridiculed Jackson Pollock for his technique of splattering paint on canvases.

- (A) No change
- (B) critics once were ridiculing Jackson Pollock
- (C) Jackson Pollock once ridiculed by critics
- (D) Jackson Pollock was once ridiculed by critics

56. If asked to name a musical group with broad and lasting appeal, the Beatles would be the choice for many, no matter what kinds of music are actually preferred.

- (A) No change
- (B) the Beatles will be chosen by many people, no matter what kinds of music they actually prefer.
- (C) the choice for many people, whatever kinds of music they actually prefer, would be the Beatles.
- (D) many people, no matter what kinds of music they actually prefer, would choose the Beatles.

57. Lacking good instruction, my mistakes in creating a graph to illustrate historical trends were numerous.

- (A) No change
- (B) I made numerous mistakes in creating a graph to illustrate historical trends.
- (C) there were numerous mistakes in the graph I created to illustrate historical trends.
- (D) I created a graph to illustrate historical trends with numerous mistakes.

Parallelism

Number of Questions/Test: 0-1

RULE: Parallelism involves keeping items in a list or comparison in the same (or at least similar) form.

- *Maintaining a car properly involves **rotating** the tires, **switching** out filters, and **oil changes**.*
changing the oil.
- *The **thorns** of a black locust tree are not as sharp as ~~rose bushes~~.*
those of a rose bush.

58. If left unattended for long, flooding in your home can rot wood flooring, spawn mold within sheetrock, not to mention personal property destruction.
- (A) No change
 (B) causing damage to personal property.
 (C) destroy personal property.
 (D) the destruction of personal property.

60. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is extremely difficult to learn. The fundamental techniques involved in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu are more complex than those of most other martial arts.
- (A) No change
 (B) that in most other martial arts.
 (C) most other martial arts.
 (D) most martial arts techniques.

59. Turning our attention to male adults, the weight of two white rhinoceroses combined will likely be less than one Indian rhinoceros.
- (A) No change
 (B) less than those of
 (C) less than that of
 (D) less then

61. Often logging over eighty hours in the office, a first-year financial broker works considerably longer than the hours of a typical veteran in the field.
- (A) No change
 (B) than those of a typical veteran in the field.
 (C) compared with a typical veteran in the field.
 (D) than does a typical veteran in the field.

Idioms

Number of Questions/Test: 1-2

A **prepositional idiom** is a phrase that requires a specific preposition (to, for, in, with, by, etc.)

- Susan has an incredible **ability to learn** language (Idiomatically correct)
- Susan has an incredible **ability for learning** language (Idiomatically incorrect)

RULE: There is no rule! Unfortunately, you just have to know the right preposition for the circumstance, but here are some commonly ones tested:

- Amanda is capable _____ learning language.
- Brett is forbidden _____ go out.
- Carly refused offers _____ assistance.
- Daniel is immune _____ the awful disease.
- Erika is preoccupied _____ this show.

62. Aside from monitoring bank employees, cameras can be used in the catching of footage of possible intruders after hours.
- (A) No change
 - (B) in catching
 - (C) as catching
 - (D) to catch

63. A gutter system is extremely important for any house because it serves as a means for channeling water away from the foundation.
- (A) No change
 - (B) serves as a means to channel
 - (C) serves to be a means for channeling
 - (D) serves in being a means to channel

64. SETI Institute, a non-for-profit organization in search of extraterrestrial life, was founded in 1984.
- (A) No change
 - (B) in search for
 - (C) for searching of
 - (D) in search to find

65. The band of criminals, recently apprehended in Georgia, is cooperating with police in hopes of reducing the impending prison sentence.
- (A) No change
 - (B) in hopes to reduce
 - (C) in hoping to reduce
 - (D) in hopes at reducing

Idioms

Number of Questions/Test: 1-2

In the following list of common idioms, you might star & memorize any that don't come naturally.

About

Worry about
Complain about
Wonder about
Curious about
Think about
Bring about
To be particular about

Against

Protect against
Defend against

At

Succeed at
Adept at

By

Confused by
Followed by
Predate by
Puzzled by
Perplexed by
Impressed by
Amazed by
Awed by
Surprised by
Stunned by
Shocked by
Outraged by
Encouraged by
Accompanied by

For

Named for
Recognized for
Known for
Famous for
Celebrated for
Have a tolerance for
Strive for
Compensate for
Responsible for
Watch for
Look out for
Wait for
Last for
Endure for
Prized for
Necessary for
Criticize for
Blame for
Advocate for

From

Protect from
Defend from
Far from
Different from
Refrain from
Apparent from
Prevent x from doing y
Opposite from

Into

Enter into
Have insight into

In

Interested in
Succeed in
Have confidence in
Engage in
Take pride in
In x as in y

On

Based on
Draw on
Insist on
Focus on
Rely on
Reflect on
Dwell on

Over

Have power over
Have control over
Mull over

Of

Have an appreciation of
Suspicious of
A mastery of
A command of
Capable of
Incapable of
In recognition of
Devoid of
A proponent of
A source of
An offer of
An understanding of
A knowledge of
Approve of
Disapprove of
In awe of
Take advantage of
Composed of
Comprised of
Consist of
Convinced of
Characteristic of
Typical of
In the hopes of
A variety of
A plethora of
An abundance of
To be a native of
On the verge of
Combination of x and y

To

Recommend to
Listen to
Try to – not try and
Prefer something to something else
Devoted to
In contrast to
In opposition to
A threat to
Central to
Unique to
Similar to
Parallel to
As an alternative to
Inured to
Be native to
Put questions to
In addition to
As opposed to

Toward

Biased toward
A tendency toward

With

Familiar with
Unfamiliar with
Identify with
Correlate with
Sympathize with
Consistent with
Inconsistent with
Preoccupied with
Cope with/Coping with

Homophones

Number of Questions/Test: 1

Homophones are words that sound the same but carry different meanings such as **fair** and **fare**.

RULE: The most effective use of your study time is just to now the big four homonym pairs the SAT likes:

- Put your clothes over **there**. / This is **their** car.
 - Jack went to the car and changed **its** tires. / **It's** the best thing out there.
 - Amelia has more money **than** Edward. / Amelia finished cleaning and **then** visited Sue.
 - Has the storm **affected** the town in any way? / Did the storm leave any negative **effect**?
- (verb) (noun)

66. Because the company's employees will be responsible for an abundance of vital tasks, both at the office and at home, we must find the most efficient ways to make use of our time.

- (A) No change
- (B) their
- (C) there
- (D) his or her

67. It was impossible to know whether even the strongest of all gamma rays generated by the nuclear explosions in space affect our DNA in any significant way.

- (A) No change
- (B) affects
- (C) effect
- (D) effects

Vocabulary

Number of Questions/Test: 2-4

RULE: Memorizing vocabulary is a time-consuming project with often very low point-yield. There are an enormous number of words that *could* be tested and few vocabulary questions overall.

TIP: Only as a very low priority, here are two possible resources that reveal commonly used SAT words:

- <https://blog.collegevine.com/100-vocab-words-to-know-for-the-sat/> (100 words)
- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/sat-vocabulary-words> (262 words)

68. One of the most significant effects of this continued production was the release of methane, a very potent greenhouse gas.

- (A) No change
- (B) sturdy
- (C) durable
- (D) stout

69. In the Indiana court room, the defendant found himself persecuted on charges of breaking and entering as well as unarmed robbery.

- (A) No change
- (B) tyrannized
- (C) prosecuted
- (D) coerced

Writing 2

Content Questions

(Expression of Ideas)

Expression of Ideas Questions

“Expression of Ideas” questions have FOUR main types:

Type 1 – General Add/Delete

- “Should the author make the following addition? (Yes/No)?”

Type 2 – Specific Addition

- “Which choice provides *the most effective transition/the best introduction/a second example*”

Type 3 - Logical placement

- “To make the paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed . . .”

Type 4 – Reading Data

- “Which choice most accurately represents the information in the graph?”

The KEY ADVICE for all Expression of Ideas Questions:

- You must treat all of these questions like “**speed bumps**”. Getting these right means committing _____ the amount of time that you are used to spending on the quicker grammar questions.

Expression of Ideas**(Addition for a Specific Purpose)**

The key on these questions is to identify and satisfy the exact _____ for the addition. Many choices will add value. Only one will add the specific value in question.

The Lord of the Rings is an epic high-fantasy novel written by English author and scholar J. R. R. Tolkien. The story began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit*, but eventually developed into a much larger work.

5 Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold.

4 As one will come to find out, the book's main antagonist is the Dark Lord Sauron, who had in an earlier age created the One Ring to rule the other Rings of Power as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of Middle-earth. From quiet beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-earth, following the course of the War of the Ring. Tolkien's tale is told from the points of view of a wide diversity of characters. Frodo Baggins, a hobbit and the main protagonist, tells of his long journey to track down the One Ring. 5 Frodo also reveals his experiences before the War of the Ring, as well as his current relationships with other hobbits, elves, and humans.

6 For many, *The Lord of the Rings* will be a cherished novel to pass down to their children. Although generally known to readers as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be *The Silmarillion*, but this idea was dismissed by his publisher. For economic reasons, *The Lord of the Rings* was published in three volumes over the course of a year from July 29, 1954 to October 20, 1955. The three volumes were titled *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Structurally, the novel is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. Some editions combine the entire work into a single volume. *The Lord of the Rings* has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

4. Which choice provides the most effective transition from the previous paragraph to the ideas that follow?
- (A) NO CHANGE
 (B) Living in Mordor, an evil world that Tolkien describes in terrifying detail
 (C) Inspiring fear and helping spark this tremendous reader following
 (D) To outline the most important aspects of the plot

5. Which choice provides additional examples that are most relevant to the current topic of discussion?
- (A) NO CHANGE
 (B) *The Lord of the Rings* is a complex story that tells of grand quests, exotic landscapes, and the battle between good and evil.
 (C) The journey requires Frodo not only to overcome many deadly obstacles, but also to endure much loss.
 (D) Legolas – a warrior of elven descent – and Aragorn – a noble human fighter – also bare narratives of battle and hardship as the story unfolds.
6. Which choice provides the best introduction to the paragraph?
- (A) NO CHANGE
 (B) The organization and publication of Tolkien's novel makes for a complex story of its own.
 (C) Tolkien found the spark of inspiration for his story during his trying time in the mud-filled landscape of World War I France.
 (D) *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the most meticulously written fantasy novels of all time.

Extra thought task for #5 above:

Which choice becomes correct when we change the question to . . .

- “Which choice best concludes the paragraph with a restatement of the paragraph's main ideas?”
- Which choice provides additional details that expand upon the story's protagonist?
- Which choice expands upon the nature of the expedition that is discussed in the previous sentence?

Expression of Ideas

(Logical Placement)

First, read the paragraph _____ the key sentence in question.

Second, try to “chunk” the paragraph into topic sections.

Lastly, if you see a *transition word* in the key sentence, use that transition word as a guide.

[1] Although The Lord of the Rings is known as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be The Silmarillion. [2] For economic reasons then, The Lord of the Rings was published in three volumes over the course of a year from July 29, 1954 to October 20, 1955. [3] The three volumes were titled The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers and The Return of the King. [4] Structurally, the novel is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. [5] Some editions combine the entire work into a single volume. [6] However, this layout was rejected by publishers because it seemed not the right play to maximize sales. [7] The Lord of the Rings has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

7. To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 6 should be placed

(A) where it is now
 (B) after sentence 1
 (C) after sentence 2
 (D) after sentence 4

[1] Although The Lord of the Rings is known as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be The Silmarillion. [2] As the years passed, the original publication saw several re-creations. [3] However, this layout was rejected by publishers because it seemed not the right play to maximize sales. [4] For economic reasons then, The Lord of the Rings was published in three volumes over the course of a year from July 29, 1954 to October 20, 1955. [5] The three volumes were titled The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers and The Return of the King. [6] Structurally, the novel is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. [7] Some editions combine the entire work into a single volume. [8] The Lord of the Rings has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

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

(A) where it is now
 (B) before sentence 1
 (C) after sentence 6
 (D) after sentence 8

[1] Although The Lord of the Rings is known as a trilogy, the work was initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set, the other to be The Silmarillion. [2] However, this layout was rejected by publishers because it seemed not the right play to maximize sales. [3] For economic reasons then, The Lord of the Rings was published in three volumes over the course of a year from July 29, 1954 to October 20, 1955. [4] The three volumes were titled The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers and The Return of the King. [5] Many younger fans first heard these names in 2001 when the cinematic release of Tolkien’s trilogy began. [6] Structurally, the novel is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material included at the end. [7] As the years passed, the original publication saw several re-creations. [8] Some editions combine the entire work into a single volume. [9] The Lord of the Rings has since been reprinted numerous times and translated into 38 languages.

9. To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be

(A) placed where it is now
 (B) placed after sentence 1
 (C) placed after sentence 9
 (D) DELETED from the paragraph

Writing Concepts Summary (Major Usage issues)



Commas – separate ‘side notes’ from the ‘main track’ and are used to split ideas in transitions

- The new policy, **which was passed last week**, will apply to all levels of the department.
- The new baseball stadium was funded well, **but** the staff was ill-equipped to run it properly.

Colons – further explain a previous idea / The further explanation may be a list or an independent clause

- The job requires three main items: **your references, your resume, and your cover letter.**
- Neptune is very distant planet: **its orbit lies roughly 4.5 billion miles from the sun.**

Semicolons – separate two independent clauses

- The journey will be a difficult one; few people have the strength to complete it.

Apostrophes – are used for possession

- All of the **neighbors’** yards are very well manicured. (Apostrophe indicates **multiple neighbors**)
- Our next-door **neighbor’s** dog won’t stop barking! (Apostrophe indicates **one neighbor**)

Verb Tense – Know the surrounding context and stick to the simple tenses.

- Allison loved everything about the new house. She finally had her meeting with the sellers and ownership was transferred. The process ~~is~~ long but well worth it.
was

Agreement – Verbs and pronouns must agree with their subjects

- The crowd of teenagers, causing upheaval throughout the halls, ~~are~~ ^{is} now the biggest problem.
- Colorado, a prime destination for many climbers, is renowned for ~~their~~ ^{its} challenging peaks.

Ambiguous Pronouns – do not connect to *one* specific noun

- The congressmen discussed the new bill with the media. Afterwards, ~~they~~ ^{the congressmen} returned to the White House.

Transitions – Take the time to identify the ideas before and after the transition

- The candidate knew about foreign policy. ^{On the other hand} ~~As a result~~, he was not well-versed in economic matters.

Fragments – The sentence below is *incomplete* because it has no independent clause

- The bald eagle, one of the most impressive birds.

Run-ons – The sentence below is *overfull* because it has two independent clauses

- The church renovation will help the town immensely, it will be expensive.

Conciseness – communicating an idea clearly and efficiently

- The charity helps local communities as it is a group engaged in providing food for the homeless. **(Wordy)**
- The charity helps local communities, providing food for the homeless. **(Concise)**

Redundancy – the use of a word or term that only repeats a previous idea

- The company annually distributes more than one million fliers ~~each year~~.

Writing Concepts Summary



Usage – Minor Issues

Idioms – use of the proper preposition

- John has an ability ^{to learn} ~~for learning~~ language.

Modification – The modifier should sit next to the item it's modifying

- Although she's an excellent swimmer, ^{Amanda will not be recruited by the team.} ~~the team will not recruit Amanda.~~

Parallelism – Items in a comparison should have a logical correspondence

- The exams in intro-biology are not nearly as difficult as ^{those in the subsequent classes} ~~the subsequent classes.~~

Homophones – word pairs that are nearly identical but carry different meanings

- their / there
(Possession) / (location)
- its / it's
(Possession) / (it is)

Vocab – Steer clear of the informal

- The store refused to buy back these particular electronics because they are ^{obsolete} ~~no good anymore.~~

Expression of Ideas

General Add/Delete – Is the issue on the main track or is the issue an “offshoot” of loosely related info

Addition for a Specific Purpose – Identify and satisfy the *exact* reason for the insert.

Logical placement – Read the paragraph *without* the key sentence, “chunking” the paragraph as you go.

Reading Data – After making your selection, confirm that the other three choices are certainly wrong.

