

# STUDENT PERSONAL COPY for CONCEPT STUDY

## Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

### DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a "NO CHANGE" option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

#### A Nod to Nodding Off

With 30 percent of United States workers not getting enough sleep at night, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, US companies **1** lose a yearly sum of \$63.2 billion annually due to the drop in employee productivity resulting from sleep deprivation. Sleep-deprived workers generally have lower morale and are less able to retain information than their better-rested colleagues.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) see an annual loss of \$63.2 billion each year
- C) lose \$63.2 billion annually
- D) have a yearly loss of \$63.2 billion annually

REDUNDANCY / WORDINESS

[1] One of the **2** big reasons behind workers' lack of sleep is the work itself. [2] To combat the problem of sleep deprivation in a demanding work environment, some companies have begun allowing workers to take naps. [3] The hours the average American **3** spend working have increased dramatically since the 1970s, making it hard for many workers to get a good night's sleep. [4] Although employees who sleep on the job are often considered lazy and unproductive, napping in the workplace has been shown to improve workers' efficiency and quality of life. [5] As long as companies continue to demand long hours from **4** workers, and managers should champion napping as a means to keep employees happy, healthy, and functional. **5**

**2**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) main things leading up to
- C) huge things about
- D) primary causes of

FORMAL TONE & SPECIFIC DICTION

**3**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have spent
- C) spends
- D) are spent

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

**4**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) workers; managers
- C) workers, managers,
- D) workers, managers

COORDINATION / SUBORDINATION

**5**

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 1.
- D) after sentence 4.

LOGICAL SEQUENCE OR TRANSITION

Such a proposition may seem counterintuitive, but, in fact, allowing employees to nap could save companies hours of lost productivity. Studies reveal that napping improves memory and boosts wakefulness for the remainder of the day. **6** Napping can also have a positive effect on mood and overall job satisfaction, while constant drowsiness reduces reaction time and hampers one's ability to concentrate. Employee naps might also lead to reduced health care costs for companies, since regular napping leads to long-term health benefits, **7** and it improves workers' average weekly attendance.

**6**

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Even fifteen-minute power naps improve alertness, creativity, and concentration.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it demonstrates that the benefits of napping can be gained without sacrificing large amounts of work time.
- B) Yes, because it explains the methodology of the studies mentioned in the previous sentence.
- C) No, because a discussion of the type of nap workers take is not important to the writer's main point in the paragraph.
- D) No, because it contradicts the writer's discussion of napping in the previous sentences.

RELEVANT DETAIL

**7**

Which choice provides a supporting example that reinforces the main point of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) including a lower risk of cardiovascular problems such as heart attack and stroke.
- C) which are essential in an era of rising health care costs.
- D) in addition to making employees more efficient.

MAIN IDEA /SUPPORTING DETAIL

Napping at work has already won corporate advocates in the worlds of technology, finance, and news media, and some businesses are beginning to set aside special nap rooms. A few companies, such as Google, have even invested in high-tech nap pods that block out light, play soothing music, and **8** gently waking nappers.

Zephryn Lasker, CEO of the mobile-advertising firm Pontiflex, has observed that employees are happier and more productive since he created a nap room in the company's Brooklyn headquarters. Ryan Hodson of Kodiak Capital Group and Arianna Huffington of the Huffington Post Media Group have promoted napping **9** throughout their workers and have been effusive about the results. In light of the benefits not only to employees' efficiency **10** and again to their health and sense of well-being, these executives' enthusiasm is not surprising. **11** These executives are among the most successful leaders in their respective fields.

**8**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) gently wake
- C) gently to wake
- D) gentle waking of

PARALLELISM

**9**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) among
- C) between
- D) into

IDIOMATIC PREPOSITION

**10**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) but it benefits
- C) as also to
- D) but also to

IDIOMATIC TRANSITION

**11**

The writer wants a concluding sentence that restates the main argument of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Clearly, employers should consider reducing employees' hours when they are overworked.
- C) Companies should consider employee schedules carefully when implementing a napping policy.
- D) More businesses should follow their lead and embrace napping on the job.

MAIN IDEA AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

### Vanishing Honeybees: A Threat to Global Agriculture

Honeybees play an important role in the agriculture industry by pollinating crops. An October 2006 study found that as much as one-third of global agriculture depends on animal pollination, including honeybee **12** pollination—to increase crop output. The importance of bees **13** highlights the potentially disastrous affects of an emerging, unexplained crisis: entire colonies of honeybees are dying off without warning.

**14** They know it as colony collapse disorder (CCD), this phenomenon will have a detrimental impact on global agriculture if its causes and solutions are not determined. Since the emergence of CCD around 2006, bee mortality rates have **15** exceeded 25 percent of the population each winter. There was one sign of hope: during the 2010–2012 winter seasons, bee mortality rates decreased slightly, and beekeepers speculated that the colonies would recover. Yet in the winter of 2012–2013, the **16** portion of the bee population lost fell nearly 10 percent in the United States, with a loss of 31 percent of the colonies that pollinate crops.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) pollination: this is
- C) pollination,
- D) pollination;

PUNCTUATION CONSISTENCY

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) highlights the potentially disastrous effects
- C) highlight the potentially disastrous effects
- D) highlight the potentially disastrous affects

DICTION

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Known as colony
- C) It is known as colony
- D) Colony

VAGUE PRONOUN AND COMMA-SLICE RUN-ON

15

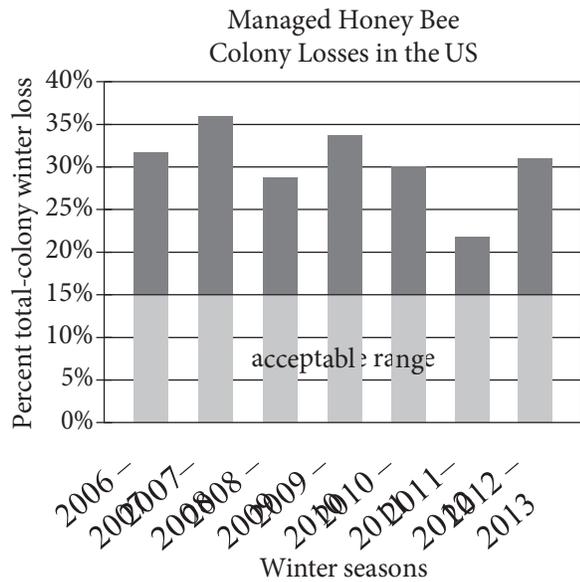
- Which choice offers the most accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) been above the acceptable range.
  - C) not changed noticeably from year to year.
  - D) greatly increased every year.

GRAPHIC INTERPRETATION RELATED TO TEXT

16

- Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) portion of bees lost was double what it had been the previous year, rising to
  - C) number of losses, which had fallen within the acceptable range the previous year, rose to
  - D) portion of total colonies lost rose almost 10 percentage points, with a loss of

GRAPHIC INTERPRETATION RELATED TO TEXT



Adapted from Dennis van Engelsdorp et al., "Preliminary Results: Honey Bee Colony Losses in the United States, Winter 2012-2013." ©2013 by the Bee Informed Partnership.

**17** Studies have offered several possible reasons that bees are vanishing. One reason that is often cited is the use of pesticides called neonicotinoids, which are absorbed by plants and linger much longer than do topical pesticides. **18** Chemicals such as herbicides and fungicides may also play a role, contaminating the pollen that bees typically feed on and inhibiting healthy insect maturation.

**17**

Which choice most smoothly and effectively introduces the writer's discussion of studies of CCD in this paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Bees are vanishing, and according to studies there are several possible reasons for this trend.
- C) Several possible reasons, offered by studies, may explain why bees are vanishing.
- D) DELETE the underlined sentence.

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

**18**

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Prolonged exposure to neonicotinoids has been shown to increase bees' vulnerability to disease and parasitic mites.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides support for the claim made in the previous sentence.
- B) Yes, because it introduces a new idea that will become important later in the passage.
- C) No, because it would be better placed elsewhere in the passage.
- D) No, because it contradicts the main idea of the passage.

**SUPPORTING SENTENCE RELEVANCE**

Given the role that honeybees play in agriculture, the impact of this loss of hives on fruit, vegetable, seed, and nut crops **19** is not to be scoffed at. A reduction in bee numbers leads to less pollination, which in turn leads to smaller harvests and higher food prices. Some farmers have resorted to renting hives from beekeepers to pollinate their **20** crops; when there is a shortage of bees this being an expensive proposition. Other farmers have increased **21** they're dependence on costly hand-pollination by human workers. Furthermore, there may be sociological repercussions. Agroecologist Alexandra-Maria Klein has suggested that rising produce prices could lead to an increase in obesity as people turn to cheaper, less wholesome fare.

Though the precise causes of CCD are yet unclear, some commonsense measures may be taken. A decrease in the use of certain pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, as well as greater attention to the nutrition, habitat, and genetic diversity of managed hives, could begin a shift in a favorable direction. **22**

**19**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is a pretty big deal.
- C) can't be put on the back burner.
- D) cannot be ignored.

FORMALITY AND WORDINESS

**20**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) crops, this is an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
- C) crops, an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.
- D) crops; an expensive proposition when there is a shortage of bees.

AWKWARDNESS AND COMMA SPLICE RUN-ON

**21**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) there
- C) their
- D) its

DICTION

**22**

The writer wants a conclusion that addresses the future of efforts to combat CCD. Which choice results in the passage having the most appropriate concluding sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Still, bee colonies have experienced such devastating losses that the consequences of the issue have been felt worldwide.
- C) Although CCD is a relatively new phenomenon, scientists have been studying other aspects of honeybees for over a century.
- D) Genetic variation in bee colonies generally improves bees' productivity, disease resistance, and ability to regulate body temperature.

CONCLUDING SENTENCES

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

### Lunar Farming

Late last autumn, Giuseppe Ferrua **23** stood, on the hillside he farms overlooking Italy's Serchio River valley,

a landscape of low mountains dotted **24** with vineyards. Ferrua grows grapes and olives, and he does so according to the phases of the Moon. He didn't always farm this way. When he began, he exercised modern, one-size-fits-all farming methods but says he soon became convinced that "plants are completely prone to elements in the cosmos, the rhythms of day and night."

Following the lunar calendar, this type of farming is driven by the belief that the Moon influences levels of moisture in the soil, just as the Moon's gravitational pull affects great bodies of water. Lunar farmers believe,

**25** for example, that from the new Moon to quarter Moon phases, when the Moon is waxing, a soil's moisture content increases, whereas drier periods occur during the waning phase. **26** Although moisture influences seed germination, a lunar guide on when to plant and weed can be advantageous to a grower.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) stood;
- C) stood—
- D) stood

COMMA USE

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) inside
- C) for
- D) on

IDIOMATIC WORD CHOICE

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) however,
- C) by contrast,
- D) thereafter,

TRANSITION LOGIC

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Given that
- C) So
- D) DELETE the underlined portion and begin the sentence with a capital letter.

TRANSITION LOGIC

27 Nature has been around forever. First-century Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder stated in his *Natural History* that the Moon “replenishes the Earth; when she approaches it, she fills all bodies, while, when she recedes, she empties them.” Chinese and Egyptian people performed agricultural tasks according to the lunar calendar for millennia, and, to this day, the vaunted *Old Farmer’s Almanac* includes regional lunar calendars and advice on 28 when to conduct farm chores. The

29 almanacs editor, Janice Stillman, says, “That information is of value to our readers who practice these traditional methods—and claim great success.”

27

Which choice most effectively sets up the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) People all over the world farm by the Moon.
- C) Farming by the Moon is not new.
- D) Talk of the Moon’s influence is far-reaching.

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE

28

Which choice provides the most specific information on the type of advice a lunar calendar offers?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) actions relevant to farming.
- C) points in time at which to undertake certain tasks.
- D) optimal times to plant, weed, prune, and harvest.

SPECIFICITY OF WORD CHOICES AND DETAILS

29

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) almanacs’s
- C) almanac’s
- D) almanacs’

APOSTROPHE

Lunar farming has its **30** skeptics, who are not sure of the method's efficacy. Recalling advice he received on the best lunar time to plant potatoes, an English farmer says his first reaction was "Hoopla." Current mainstream agriculture does not factor the Moon into **31** their practices, so the concept might seem quaint or irrational. Additionally, lunar farming is based in astrology as opposed to astronomy, and no extensive scientific studies have yet been conducted that measure the Moon's overall influence on farming, **32** so supporters continue to wait for their practices to be verified scientifically.

Stillman says, "We are of the mind that you accept or believe by choice." Indeed, despite his doubts, the skeptical English farmer wound up planting his potatoes according to the lunar cycle and claims they were "the best I have tasted." Agricultural professor Jennifer Coffman has a similar response to Ferrua's bounty in Italy. **33** "Smell this rosemary," she says. "Smell how amazingly fragrant that is." At this stage, one could say that the evidence must be experienced to be believed.

30

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) skeptics, who have yet to be convinced.
- C) skeptics—those who doubt the method.
- D) skeptics.

REDUNDANCY

31

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) those
- C) it's
- D) its

PRONOUN ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

32

The writer wants to conclude the paragraph effectively while also reinforcing the point that skepticism toward lunar farming still exists. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and therefore no sound scientific data on the subject exist to date.
- C) yet many continue to practice lunar farming.
- D) leading many to conclude that the practice is based in folklore, not fact.

CONCLUDING SENTENCES

33

Which choice gives an additional supporting example that emphasizes the importance of the senses in judging the success of the lunar farming method?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) She has taken photographs of the grapevines and landscape.
- C) She takes careful notes about Ferrua's farming methods, asking Ferrua to clarify how he prepares the soil.
- D) She dips bread into Ferrua's olive oil as he explains a soil preparation he does in the fall.

SUPPORTING EXAMPLE

Questions 34 -44 are based on the following passage.

### Recipes for History: The Szathmary Cookbook Collection

In 1990, chef Louis Szathmary, a voracious collector of cookbooks, donated approximately 20,000 culinary artifacts to the University of Iowa library. The gift included more than 100 manuscript recipe books **34** —collections of recipes handwritten by the people who used them. The manuscripts, some of which date back to the seventeenth century, are an invaluable resource for food historians as well as the general public.

**35** Because of the astonishing size and range of Szathmary's **36** donation to the University of Iowa, making this cornucopia of information available to readers was a challenge. Working in conjunction with the library, the University of Iowa Press published volumes as varied as *The P.E.O. Cookbook*, written in rural Iowa in 1908, and *Ladie Borlase's Receiptes Booke*, written in the English countryside from 1665 to 1822. Librarians were happy to show the Szathmary collection to people who were able to visit the library, **37** so the manuscripts, too delicate to be checked out to library patrons, remained largely unexplored.

34

The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion (ending the sentence with a period). Should the writer make this deletion?

- A) Yes, because the underlined portion detracts from the paragraph's focus on the Szathmary collection.
- B) Yes, because the information in the underlined portion is provided in the previous sentence.
- C) No, because the underlined portion defines a term that is important to the passage.
- D) No, because the underlined portion gives an example of a particular culinary artifact.

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORTING DETAIL

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Regardless of
- C) In contrast to
- D) In addition to

TRANSITION LOGIC

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) donation of so many culinary artifacts,
- C) massive donation of cookbooks,
- D) donation,

REDUNDANCY AND WORDINESS

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for
- C) and
- D) but

COORDINATION

This all started to change in 2012, when the university expanded its DIY History Project (“DIY” stands for “do it yourself”) to include the manuscripts. The project enlists volunteers to transcribe the recipes:

working from **38** our home computers, the volunteers type up the scanned handwritten recipes. After a page is transcribed and proofread, it is digitized and becomes part of a searchable online archive. Volunteer transcribers need no particular expertise; **39** prosaic directives are provided on the DIY History website.

Transcribing is easy. The ingredients (one recipe requires something called “ringon root”) and measurements (a “ditto” of baking soda), **40** moreover, can be puzzling.

The goal is to digitize all the manuscripts in the Szathmary collection, making them available to anyone with **41** access of a computer and the Internet.

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) his or her
- C) their
- D) one’s

PRONOUN CONSISTENCY

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) simple directions
- C) bare-bones how-tos
- D) facile protocols

PURPLE VS. STRAIGHTFORWARD STYLE

40

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) therefore,
- C) however,
- D) in short,

TRANSITION LOGIC

41

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) access to
- C) excess of
- D) excess to

IDIOMATIC WORD CHOICE

[1] The library is working hard to publicize the project and encourage the public to try the recipes. [2] It has formed a club dedicated to cooking manuscript recipes. [3] Some recipes don't fare well in the twenty-first century (one club member called her 1800s gingerbread a "molasses-laden brick"), while others **42** had worked just fine. [4] In another instance of library outreach, a competition at the 2013 Iowa State Fair, contestants baked desserts in three categories— **43** almond cheesecake, summer mince pie, and Marlborough pie—using recipes from the Szathmary collection. **44**

The efforts of the library and the volunteers are clearly bearing fruit. By January 2014, more than 38,000 manuscript pages had been transcribed, thanks to the volunteers who answered DIY History's call to "help build the historical record by doing it yourself."

42

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) work
- C) worked
- D) could have worked

VERB TENSE CONSISTENCY

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) almond, cheesecake summer, mince,
- C) almond cheesecake summer, mince
- D) almond, cheesecake, summer, mince,

COMMA RULES--SERIES

44

The writer plans to add the following sentence to this paragraph.

The judges reported that the entries were delicious.

To make this paragraph most logical, the sentence should be placed

- A) after sentence 1.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.

SUPPORTING SENTENCE LOGIC