Writing Test

The passages below contain several enumerated sections, each of which may or may not contain an error of grammar, usage or style. For each multiple-choice question, the first choice reproduces the selection from the original passage. The other choices offer alternatives. Select the best choice from among the five choices offered for each enumerated selection.

Passage I - Twig Frame and Vase

(1)Looking for something to keep you busy for awhile? Here's (2)a simple way for making decorative frames and vases. (3)Firstly, (4)you'll need to get together with a few materials. (5)This is what your gonna need: (6)twigs you have to collect from the ground, cardboard for the frame, a mason jar for the vase, white glue, double sided tape, twine or raffia, scissors, a pencil, (7)a ruler, and one of your favorite pictures.

(8)Start with the picture frame; take your (9)picture, and place it on the cardboard. (10)The cardboard should be larger than your picture. (11)Than take your ruler and pencil and draw lines on the cardboard (12)about one-half to one and a half inch apart and (13)all the way around the circumference of the picture. (14)Cut out the cardboard along the pencil lines and save the center piece.

Now, (15)brake your twigs to fit along all four sides of the picture. (16)They doesn't have to be the same size. Use about three or four twigs per side, (17)making a bundle of twigs for each side of the picture frame.(18) Now, repeat that same process for the top and for the sides. (19)Once you've got the four sides ready, manufacture the frame.

Take your picture and glue it to the center of the cardboard. (20)Then, put a profusion of glue on one bundle of sticks and glue it along one side of the picture. Finish the frame by gluing the rest of the bundles around the picture.

That's it, you're finished! Now, if you want to hang it, all you have to do is make a string hanger or a cardboard easel.

Enumerated sections

1.

a. Looking for something to keep you busy for awhile?
b. Looking for something to keep you busy for a while?
c. Looking for something that'll keep you busy for awhile?
d. Looking for something that will keep you busy for awhile?
e. Looking for something keeping you busy for awhile?

2.

a. a simple way for making decorative frames
b. a simple method that one might employ to make decorative frames
c. a simple way that making decorative frames
d. a simple way of making decorative frames
e. a simple way that makes decorative frames

3.

a. Firstly,
b. In the first place,
c. Firstly
d. First,
e. First

4.

a. you’ll need to get together with a few materials.
b. you will need to get together with a few materials.
c. you shall need to get together a few materials.
d. you must to get together with a few materials.
e. you’ll need to get together a few materials.

5.

a. This is what your gonna need:
b. This is what your going to need:
c. This is what you’re gonna need:
d. This is what you’ll need:
e. This is what you’re gonna need;

6.

a. twigs you have to collect from the ground,
b. twigs you've collected from the ground,
c. twigs you've collected off of the ground,
d. twigs you collect off the ground,
e. twigs that you have to collect off the ground,

7.

a. a ruler, and one of your favorite pictures.
b. a ruler and one of your favorite pictures.
c. a ruler and, one of your favorite pictures.
d. a ruler, and one of you’re favorite pictures.
e. a ruler, and 1 of your favorite pictures.

8.

a. Start with the picture frame; take
b. Starting with the picture frame; take
c. Start with the picture frame. Take
d. Begin with the picture frame; take
e. Start with the frame; take

9.

a. picture, and place it
b. picture and place it
c. picture; and place it
d. picture, and put it
e. picture, and place them

10.

a. The cardboard should be larger than your picture.
b. The cardboard should be more big than your picture.
c. The cardboard should be more large than your picture.
d. The cardboard ought be larger than your picture.
e. The cardboard should be larger then your picture.

11.

a. Than take your ruler and pencil and draw lines
b. Than you take your ruler and pencil and draw lines
c. Then take your ruler and pencil and draw lines
d. Then you take your ruler and pencil and draw lines
e. Then taking your ruler and pencil and draw lines

12.

a. about one-half to one and a half inch apart
b. about one-half to one-and-a-half inch apart
c. about one half or one and a half inch apart
d. about one half to one and a half inch apart
e. about one half to one and a half inches apart

13.

a. all the way around the circumference of the picture
b. all the way around the picture
c. all the way around the picture’s circumference
d. all the way round the circumference of the picture
e. fully around the circumference of the picture

14.

a. Cut out the cardboard along the pencil lines and save the center piece.
b. Cut the cardboard along the pencil lines and save the centerpiece.
c. Cut out the cardboard on the pencil lines and save the center piece.
d. Cut out the cardboard along the pencil lines and save the centerpiece.
e. Cut the cardboard out along the pencil lines and save the center piece.

15.

a. brake your twigs to fit along all four sides
b. brake your twigs to fit on all four sides
c. brake your twigs so they fit along all four sides
d. brake your twigs so that they fit along all four sides
e. break your twigs to fit along all four sides

16.

a. They doesn’t have to be the same size.
b. They didn’t have to be the same size.
c. They don’t have to be the same size.
d. They wouldn’t have to be the same size.
e. They can not be the same size.

17.

a. making a bundle of twigs
b. making bundles of twigs
c. making each bundle of twigs
d. making one bundle of twigs
e. making one bundle of twigs

18.

a. Now, repeat that same process for the top and for the sides.
b. Now, repeat the process for the top and for the sides.
c. Now, repeat that process for the top and for the sides.
d. Now, repeat same process for the top and for the sides.
e. (Eliminate the sentence)

19.

a. Once you've got the four sides ready, manufacture the frame.
b. Once you've got the four sides ready manufacture the frame.
c. Once you've got the four sides ready, assemble the frame.
d. Once you've got the four sides ready, construct the frame.
e. Once you've got the four sides ready, develop the frame.

20.

a. Then, put a profusion of glue on one bundle of sticks
b. Then, put gobs of glue on one bundle of sticks
c. Then, put much glue on one bundle of sticks
d. Then, put plenty of glue on one bundle of sticks
e. Then, put many glue on one bundle of sticks

Passage II - Blue blocker

(21)Teachers have long been known that teenage students do not really wake up (22)until well passed the time they physically arrive at school. (23)There's a well-known reason for this: researchers have found that (24)the teenage students blood contains (25)large amounts of the sleep hormone, melatonin. Scientists at a major university (26)are making a way of advancing the melatonin cycle (27)to help with this problem.

(28)Melatonin production follows a daily cycle: it rises at night (29)and disappears at the daylight hours. (30)It is well-known that exposing the eyes to light during the evening (31)delays melatonin's flowings start until (32)after the person went into the darkness of the bedroom. (33)Because of the students liking to stay up late (34)working on there computers or watching television, their melatonin cycle is delayed. (35)So when that happens in the morning, (36)the cycle don't end until well after they are in school.

(37)However, as it happens, it turns out that not all light causes suppression of melatonin. (38)Only blue light. This means (39)that if you wear glasses that block blue light is the same as being in darkness as far as melatonin production is concerned. (40)Putting on blue blocking glasses at 9:00 P.M. will move the daily cycle forward in time so that the melatonin flow is over before the student gets to school.

Enumerated sections

21.

a. Teachers have long been known
b. Teachers have long been knowing
c. Teachers have long been knowlegeable
d. Teachers have long knew
e. Teachers have long known

22.

a. until well passed the time
b. until well past the time
c. until well pass the time
d. until well passing the time
e. until well paste the time

23.

a. There's a well-known reason
b. There's a well known reason
c. There's a wellknown reason
d. There's a good known reason
e. There's a well-knowed reason

24.

a. the students blood contains
b. the students blood contain's
c. the student blood contains
d. the students blood containing
e. the students' blood contains

25.

a. large amounts of the sleep hormone, melatonin
b. large amounts of the sleep hormone melatonin
c. large amount of the sleep hormone, melatonin
d. large quantities of the sleep hormone melatonin
e. a whole bunch of the sleep hormone, melatonin

26.

a. are making a way of advancing the melatonin cycle
b. are developing a way of advancing the melatonin cycle
c. are forming a way of advancing the melatonin cycle
d. are brewing a way of advancing the melatonin cycle
e. are causing a way of advancing the melatonin cycle

27.

a. to help with this problem
b. to help this problem
c. to help solve this problem
d. to help complete this problem
e. to help undo this problem

28.

a. Melatonin production follows a daily cycle: it
b. Melatonin production follows a daily cycle; it
c. Melatonin production follows a daily cycle: It
d. Melatonin production follows a daily cycle; It
e. Melatonin production follows a daily cycle it

29.

a. and disappears at the daylight hours
b. and disappears while the daylight hours
c. and disappears when the daylight hours
d. and disappears during the daylight hours
e. and disappears with daylight hours

30.

a. It is well-known that exposing the eyes to light
b. It is well-known exposing the eyes to light
c. It is well that exposing the eyes to light
d. It is well-known that exposing the eyes to light
e. It is well known than exposing the eyes to light

31.

a. delays melatonin’s flowings start
b. delays melatonin’s flowing’s start
c. delays the start of the flow of melatonin
d. delays the start of melatonin’s flowing
e. delays melatonins flowing

32.

a. after the person went into the darkness
b. after the person has gone into the darkness
c. after the person gone into the darkness
d. after the person goes into the darkness
e. after the person go into the darkness

33.

a. Because of the students liking to stay up
b. Because of the student’s liking to stay up
c. Because the students liked to stay up
d. Because of the students stay up
e. Because the students like to stay up

34.

a. working on there computers
b. working on they’re computers
c. working on their computers
d. working on the computers
e. working on those computers

35.

a. So when that happens in the morning
b. So when that happens then in the morning
c. So, when that happens, in the morning
d. So then, in the morning
e. As a result, in the morning

36.

a. the cycle don’t end until
b. the cycle doesn’t end until
c. the cycle didn’t end until
d. the cycle hasn’t ended until
e. the cycle wouldn’t end until

37.

a. However, as it happens, it turns out that not all light causes suppression of melatonin
b. However, it turns out that not all light causes suppression of melatonin
c. As it happens, it turns out that not all light causes suppression of melatonin
d. But, as it happens, it turns out that not all light causes suppression of melatonin
e. However, not all light causes suppression of melatonin

38.

a. Only blue light.
b. Only blue light can.
c. Only blue light could do that.
d. Only blue light does so.
e. Only blue light does.

39.

a. that if you wear glasses that block blue light is the same
b. that if you wear glasses that block blue light its the same
c. that if you wore glasses that block blue light is the same
d. that if you wearing glasses that block blue light is the same
e. that wearing glasses that block blue light is the same

40.

a. Putting on blue blocking glasses at 9:00 P.M.
b. Put on blue blocking glasses at 9:00 P.M.
c. Putting on blue-blocking glasses at 9:00 P.M.
d. Putting blue blocking glasses on at 9:00 P.M.
e. Putting on blue blocker glasses at 9:00 P.M.

Passage III - Piper Fly-In

One of the year's highlight events is (41)coming up next month. Get ready for (42)the annual Piper Cub Fly-In which is a favorite (43)of young and old, too. (44)This annual event is the sort of 'homecoming' for Piper aircraft and (45)aviation enthusiasts, and is held at the William T. Piper Memorial Airport (46)in Lock Haven and it is right next to the old Piper factory and museum. (47)This years featured airplanes will be the J-5, PA-25 Pawnee and PA-36 Brave.

(48)You get ready for five of the most (49)fun-filled, educational and relaxing and social days of the year as the fly-in kicks off on June 17. (50)The annual fly-in has been expanded to five days this year, to accommodate (51)the many visitors who arrives (52)prior to the normal Wednesday first day. (53)Another addition to the fly-in this year will be seaplane landing services. (54)In addition to the educational forums, the daily corn boil, the nightly entertainment, the fantastic food vendors, the exhibit hall and the picnic, (55)there will be the aviators (56)favorites--a spot landing contest on Thursday and (another addition!) a bomb drop contest on Friday.

(57)We'll also have a DC-3 "Gooney Bird" will be on hand (58)throughout the week to offer rides and tours in the historic aircraft. Live entertainment has been lined up for all five nights of the fly-in, (59)and Joe's Cub Restaurant is open for your enjoyment. (60)Come early if you're planning on camping, as campground spaces fill quickly. If you plan on flying in, have a look at the Air Ops procedures which are presented in the newsletter.

Enumerated sections

41.

a. coming up next month
b. imminent next month
c. impending next month
d. forthcoming next month
e. prospective next month

42.

a. the annual Piper Cub Fly-In which is a favorite
b. the annual Piper Cub Fly-In, which is a favorite
c. the annual Piper Cub Fly-In is a favorite
d. the annual Piper Cub Fly-In now is a favorite
e. the annual Piper Cub Fly-In still is a favorite

43.

a. of young and old, too
b. of young, and old, too
c. of young and old, alike
d. of young and old alike
e. of young and old, also

44.

a. This annual event is the sort of
b. This annual event is the kind of
c. This annual event is a sort of
d. This annual event is one sort of
e. This annual event is any sort of

45.

a. aviation enthusiasts, and is held
b. aviation enthusiasts and is held
c. aviation enthusiasts; and is held
d. aviation enthusiasts: and is held
e. aviation enthusiasts - and is held

46.

a. in Lock Haven and it is right next to
b. in Lock Haven. It is right next to
c. in Lock Haven and it's right next to
d. in Lock Haven and its right next to
e. in Lock Haven, right next to

47.

a. This years featured airplanes will be
b. This years featured airplanes are
c. This years featured airplane's will be
d. This year's featured airplanes will be
e. This years' featured airplanes will be

48.

a. You get ready for
b. You got ready for
c. You ready for
d. You get prepared for
e. Get ready for

49.

a. fun-filled, educational and relaxing and social days
b. fun-filled, educational and relaxing, and social days
c. fun-filled, educational, relaxing and social days
d. fun-filled, educational, relaxing, social days
e. fun filled, educational and relaxing and social days

50.

a. The annual fly-in has been expanded to five days
b. The annual fly-in has been aggrandized to five days
c. The annual fly-in has been dilated to five days
d. The annual fly-in has been grown to five days
e. The annual fly-in has been protracted to five days

51.

a. the many visitors who arrives
b. the many visitors who gets there
c. the many visitors who comes
d. the many visitors who arrive
e. the many visitors that arrives

52.

a. prior to the normal Wednesday first day
b. prior to the normal first day Wednesday
c. prior to the normal first Wednesday day
d. prior to the normal first day on Wednesday
e. prior to the normal first Wednesday

53.

a. Another addition to the fly-in this year
b. Another addition this year
c. Another addition to the fly-in
d. Another addition to the fly-in, this year
e. Another addition to it this year

54.

a. In addition to the educational forums
b. Additional to the educational forums
c. Extraneous to the educational forums
d. Superfluous to the educational forums
e. Ancillary to the educational forums

55.

a. there will be the aviators
b. there will be the aviator’s
c. there will be the aviators’
d. their will be the aviators
e. there will be the aviator

56.

a. favorites--a spot landing contest
b. favorites: a spot landing contest
c. favorites; a spot landing contest
d. favorites, a spot landing contest
e. favorites a spot landing contest

57.

a. We’ll also have a DC-3 “Gooney Bird” will be on hand
b. Also have a DC-3 “Gooney Bird” will be on hand
c. Also, we’ll have a DC-3 “Gooney Bird” will be on hand
d. We’ll also have on hand a DC-3 “Gooney Bird” will be
e. We’ll also have a DC-3 “Gooney Bird” on hand

58.

a. throughout the week to offer rides and tours in the historic aircraft.
b. throughout the week, to offer rides and tours in the historic aircraft.
c. throughout the week. Rides and tours will be offered in the historic aircraft.
d. throughout the week offering rides and tours in the historic aircraft.
e. throughout the week which offers rides and tours in the historic aircraft.

59.

a. and Joe’s Cub Restaurant is open for your enjoyment
b. and Joe’s Cub Restaurant will be open for your enjoyment
c. and, Joe’s Cub Restaurant is open for your enjoyment
d. and Joe’s Cub Restaurant is open for you’re enjoyment
e. and Joe’s Cub Restaurant is opened for your enjoyment

60.

a. Come early if you’re planning on camping
b. Come early if your planning on camping
c. Come early if you planning on camping
d. Come early if you planned on camping
e. Come early if plan on camping

Writing Test Answers in Narrative Format

Passage I

1. The correct answer is B. “Awhile”, an adverb, is never preceded by a preposition such as *for*, but the two-word form “a while” may be preceded by a preposition.
2. The correct answer is D. Although choice B is correct, it is overly formal and not in tune with the overall casual tone of the passage.
3. The correct answer is D. Used here as an adverb, “first” is set off by a comma. While “firstly” is formally correct, it is awkward phrasing.
4. The correct answer is E. Choice C is also correct, but is overly formal for the one of this passage.
5. The correct answer is D. In choice B, the possessive “your” is used in place of the correct contraction “you’re”, but “gonna” is slang usage.
6. The correct answer is B, which is the most succinctly phrased. The original displays a particularly awkward use of the verb phrase “have to”, which is totally necessary.
7. The correct answer is A. Use of the comma here (series comma) maintains consistency in the presentation of a series of items.
8. The correct answer is C. The thoughts expressed are independent and should be presented in two separate sentences.
9. The correct answer is B. The second part of the sentence is a dependent clause with no subject. It should not be separated by a comma.
10. The correct answer is A. The word “then” in choice E means “at that time” and is not the relative conjunction sought here. The comparatives in the other choices are all incorrect or awkwardly phrased.
11. The correct answer is C. Choice D breaks with the imperative tense used throughout the passage. Choices A and B are incorrect as explained for Question 10.
12. The correct answer is E. A portion of the subject, “one and a half”, is plural and calls for the plural verb.
13. The correct answer is B. “Circumference” has the same meaning as “all the way around”, making the original phrasing redundant.
14. The correct answer is A. In choices B and D, “centerpiece” used as one word has the meaning of an ornamental object used in a central position, not the remaining piece. Choice A is also phrased more precisely than choices C or E.
15. The correct choice is E. The spelling “brake” refers to the act of slowing or stopping and is incorrect here.
16. The correct answer is C, in which the third-person, present tense contraction of the verb agrees with the plural subject.
17. The correct answer is B. Since a bundle is to be made for each side of the frame, the plural must be used when describing the operation for all four sides.
18. The correct answer is E. The preceding sentence clearly indicated that twigs were to be bundled for all four sides, so that this sentence is completely unnecessary.
19. The correct answer is C. “Assemble” has the meaning of putting something together from parts that have been prepared. The other choices have a more industrial connotation and are not as appropriate in the context of this passage.
20. The correct answer is D. “Profusion”, in the original, is similar in meaning but far more formal than the tone of the remainder of the passage.

Passage II

21. The correct answer is E, using the present perfect of the verb “to know”.
22. The correct answer is B. In this usage, ”past” is a preposition with the meaning “later than”, not a form of the verb “to pass”, as represented in the other choices.
23. The correct answer is A. When a compound modifier appears before a term, the compound modifier is generally hyphenated to prevent any possible misunderstanding.
24. The correct answer is E. The form “student’s” is the possessive, whereas the original shows the plural form of the noun.
25. The correct answer is A. When is word is defined, as “melatonin” is here, by a preceding clause, it is generally set off by a comma.
26. The correct answer is B. “Develop” has the meaning of bringing something to a more advanced or effective state, as required for this sentence. The other words are either awkward or slightly different in meaning, such as “make”, which has the meaning of forming something out of raw materials.
27. The correct answer is C. This version is stronger and more precise than the original. The other choices change the meaning of the sentence.
28. The correct answer is A. The colon is preferred to the semicolon when it introduces a syntactical-deductive, that is, the logical consequence of a fact stated before. In this case, it is not followed by a capitalized letter.
29. The correct answer is D. The preposition “during” has the meaning “throughout the duration or existence of”, and is the most appropriate in this instance.
30. The correct answer is C. In this case, “well known” is not a compound modifier as in Question 23, but is an adverb-verb pair and is not hyphenated.
31. The correct answer is C. Choices B and D are awkwardly phrased. Choices A and E use the plural in place of the possessive.
32. The correct answer is B, which uses the present perfect of the verb “to go”.
33. The correct answer is E. When the clause beginning with “Because of” becomes the subject, as in the original, the phrase following it must be possessive, as in choice B. However, choice B is singular, and the plural is called for here since the sentence applies to all students. It is best to avoid the issue entirely as done in choice E.
34. The correct answer is C, using the possessive form of the pronoun “they”.
35. The correct answer is E. Choices C and D are grammatically correct, but do not maintain the formal style of the rest of the passage.
36. The correct answer is B, using the present tense as throughout the passage.
37. The correct answer is E. The gratuitous repetition of separating clauses in the other choices is redundant and makes the passage read poorly.
38. The correct answer is D. The original is not a sentence, as it lacks a verb. Choices B and E are informal usage, inappropriate for this passage.
39. The correct answer is E. In choice B, “its” is the possessive, not the required contraction “it’s”, meaning “it is”.
40. The correct answer is C. When a compound modifier appears before a term, the compound modifier is generally hyphenated to prevent any possible misunderstanding.

Passage III

41. The correct answer is A. The expression “coming up” is most in line with the informal tone of the passage, whereas the other choices are much more formal.
42. The correct answer is B. The clause following the comma is independent, the pronoun “which” functioning as its subject.
43. The correct answer is D, in which a well-known colloquial expression is used to accentuate the folksy tone of the passage.
44. The correct answer is C, using the indefinite article. Use of the definite article “the”, as in the original, is inappropriate before a vague expression such as “sort of” unless a comparison is being made.
45. The correct answer is B. The clause following the comma in the original is dependent as it lacks a subject, and therefore no comma is employed.
46. The correct answer is E, in which the location of the hangar is further described in an adjectival clause. The original is a run-on sentence. While choice B is formally correct, it gives a mere detail a sentence of its own, creating a break in the flow of the passage.
47. The correct answer is D, utilizing the possessive form.
48. The correct answer is E. Here the imperative is used as a call to action, in keeping with the publicity-oriented tone of the passage.
49. The correct answer is C, where the conjunction “and” is used only once, to introduce the final item in a list.
50. The correct answer is A. While all the choices use words that are similar in meaning, choices B, C, and E give the sense that the new format is too long, and choice D is awkwardly phrased.
51. The correct answer is D, in which the verb agrees with the plural subject.
52. The correct answer is D. The original is awkwardly phrased. Choice B requires a comma after “day”. Choice E would only be correct if there were more than one Wednesday in the event, but the passage indicates that it lasts only five days.
53. The correct answer is B. The word “fly-in” has been used in both of the preceding sentences, making it unnecessary to repeat it here, and the passage flows more smoothly without it.
54. The correct answer is A. Choices C, D, and E have similar meanings, but are much more formal than choice A. Choice B is awkwardly phrased.
55. The correct answer is C. This uses the possessive plural, in which the plural is formed first, followed by the apostrophe to indicate the possessive.
56. The correct answer is B. Here, a colon is used before a list introduced by the preceding clause.
57. The correct answer is E, avoiding the double verb of the original.
58. The correct answer is C. Characterization of the DC-3 as an historic aircraft leads to a ragged sentence structure in the original, best remedied by breaking the sentence in two.
59. The correct answer is B, maintaining the future verb tense that is employed throughout the passage.
60. The correct answer is A, using “you’re” as a contraction for “you are”, rather than the possessive “your”.