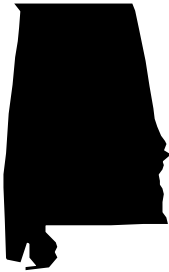


ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM PREPARATION AND PRACTICE WORKBOOK

Third
Edition



Aligned with the Alabama
Standards and Objectives

GLENCOE LANGUAGE ARTS GRADE 9

This helpful workbook provides

- Test-taking strategies for the AHSGE Tests in reading comprehension and language
- A practice test in reading comprehension
- A practice test in language

Acknowledgments

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Student Introduction

About the AHSGE, Third Edition

The Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE), Third Edition, consists of five subject-area tests. Among the five are separate tests for reading comprehension and language. All of the tests are based on the Alabama Standards and Objectives developed by the Alabama State Department of Education.

The Reading Comprehension Test The reading comprehension test requires students to read and to indicate their levels of comprehension of 12 to 14 passages, representing articles, poems, editorials, essays, manuals, catalogs, schedules, and similar materials. The passages vary in length from one to three pages. There are 84 multiple-choice items, each of which consists of 4 answer choices. Each correct answer is worth one point.

The Language Test The language test consists of 100 multiple-choice items, each of which offers 4 answer choices. The items require students to demonstrate their understanding of grammar, sentence structure, and overall organization in writing. Each correct answer is worth one point.

About This Book

This grade 9 workbook is designed to give you a preview of what to expect when you take the AHSGE next year.

Reading the test-taking strategies and completing the practice tests in this book will help you do better on the AHSGE reading comprehension and language tests in two ways. First, you will become familiar with the types of questions found on the tests. Second, you can learn and practice the skills and techniques of smart test taking.

Test-Taking Strategies This part of the book provides general tips on how to prepare for the tests. You will also learn how to answer multiple-choice items.

Practice Tests The reading comprehension and language practice tests enable you to put together and apply everything you learned in Test-Taking Strategies. The practice tests are modeled on the actual AHSGE reading comprehension and language tests. Taking the practice tests will make you aware of what to expect when you take the actual tests. Knowing what to expect can help you be relaxed, confident, and ready to perform well. This workbook contains shortened versions of the practice tests. The reading comprehension test has 7 passages followed by 40 questions. The language test has 50 questions.

Test-Taking Strategies

When you take the AHSGE practice tests in this workbook, allow about 45 minutes to complete each test (although you may request extra time if you need it). Try to pace yourself so that you have time to answer every question. Use the strategies listed below when you take the practice tests so that they are automatic when you take the actual AHSGE tests and other standardized tests.

Before the test

- Be positive about the test and confident that you will do your best.
- Get a good night's rest so that you will be alert and clear headed.
- Eat a nutritious meal so that you will have plenty of energy.

During the test

- Stay calm so that you can do your best.
- Listen carefully to instructions. Ask questions if you do not understand something.
- Read directions carefully and completely.
- Consider each item carefully to determine what it is really asking.
- Read all the answer choices carefully.
- Pace yourself and come back to the harder questions to think more about them.

After the test

- If you have time, check your answers before you turn in the test. Do not change an answer unless you are certain that it is incorrect.
- Make sure that you have answered every item and that you have marked your answer forms clearly with a dark pencil. Check for stray marks and erase them.
- Once you have turned in the test, don't worry about it. Focus on your other schoolwork and activities.

This workbook prepares you for two tests, the AHSGE reading comprehension test and the AHSGE language test.

The AHSGE Reading Comprehension Test

The AHSGE reading comprehension test in this workbook consists of 7 passages followed by multiple-choice items. You may think that the best approach is to read a selection slowly to absorb every detail and then to read and answer the items that follow it. However, this approach is a poor use of your time. You can use your time more effectively by first previewing the items that follow a selection and then reading the selection, focusing on the main ideas and getting a sense of what to look for.

Previewing the Items

Preview, or look over, the set of items that follows each selection. Pay attention to the number of items you must complete and the types of information you must provide.

Reading the Selection

Read to find the main idea of the selection, paying close attention to the title and the first and last sentences of paragraphs. You can highlight ideas that relate to the multiple-choice items.

Multiple-choice Items

Here are a few guidelines for answering multiple-choice items:

- Read the whole item carefully before you try to select an answer.
- First, think of an answer without considering the answer choices. Then look at the answer choices to see which one best matches your answer.
- If the item includes the word *not* or *except*, read it carefully to be sure you understand what it is asking.
- As you mark your answer, fill the circle completely and neatly. Erase any marks outside the answer circle you chose.
- Frequently check to be sure you are filling in the circles for the correct items. It is easy to skip a line, for example, and mark the answer for item 9 in the space for item 10.
- When you are not certain of the best answer, you can improve your odds of guessing right by using the process of elimination.

The Process of Elimination

The process of elimination is a method that you can use to rule out wrong answer choices. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Highlight key words in the item and the answer choices. Then look for related text in the selection. The highlighting you did while reading the selection may help you quickly find the passage you need.
2. Review the related text to find information that will help you respond to the item.
3. Eliminate any answer choices that you know are wrong.
4. Choose the best answer from the remaining answer choices.

PRACTICE After the following passage is a multiple-choice item that is similar in content and format to those found on the AHSGE reading comprehension test. Study the example and then follow the steps to learn how to use the process of elimination in determining the correct answer.

In 1770 Phillis Wheatley became the first African American, and the third woman in the British colonies in America, to publish a book of poems. She achieved international fame, and noted social and political figures often called upon her. Her literary gifts, intelligence, and piety were a striking example to her English and American audiences of the triumph of human capacities over the circumstances of birth. Only one line of her poetry hints at the injustice she likely felt: “Some view our sable race with scornful eye.” It would be almost a hundred years before another writer of color would drop the mask of convention and write openly about the African American experience.

The author suggests that Phillis Wheatley’s chief claim to fame is that

- A. she was the first woman to write openly about the African American experience.
- B. she was the first American woman to be visited by noted social and political figures.
- C. she was the first African American to publish a book of poems.
- D. she was the first African American woman to write about injustice.

Step 1 Read the item and the answer choices before you read the passage. From reading the item, you can determine that the passage will discuss some of the accomplishments that made Phillis Wheatley famous. From reading the answer choices, you can infer that she became famous because she was the first to do something.

Step 2 Identify the main idea in the passage by asking what Phillis Wheatley was the first to do and why she became famous. The first sentence of the passage states the main idea—she was the first African American and the third woman to publish a book of poems. The second sentence notes that this accomplishment led to her international fame.

Step 3 You can now determine the correct answer by using the **process of elimination**. Key words that you might have highlighted in the answer choices are *first*, *woman*, and *African American*. Answer choice A can be eliminated because the passage does not state that Wheatley was the *first woman* to write openly about the African American experience. Choice B can be eliminated because, although the passage states that “noted social and political figures” visited Wheatley, it does not state that she was the *first American woman* to be so honored. Choice D can be eliminated because the passage does not state that Wheatley was the *first African American woman* to write about injustice.

Step 4 You are left with choice C, which is the correct answer because it is the only choice that contains the main idea that Phillis Wheatley became famous by being the *first* African American to publish a book of poems.

The AHSGE Language Test

The AHSGE language test includes 100 multiple-choice items. These items focus on grammar, punctuation, word choice, sentence structure, and general organization in writing.

Again, the most efficient strategy for answering these multiple-choice items is the process of elimination. Let’s see how this process can help you answer the following sample items, which are similar in content and format to those you might see on the AHSGE language test.

PRACTICE Study each of the following sample items and the accompanying explanation.

1. Choose the sentence that is a run-on sentence.
 - A. We drove to the doctor’s office, my brother was sick.
 - B. We drove to the doctor’s office because my brother was sick.
 - C. My brother was sick, so we drove to the doctor’s office.
 - D. Because my brother was sick, we drove to the doctor’s office.

Step 1 Read the item carefully to determine what to do: namely, to identify which one of four sentences is a run-on sentence.

Step 2 Eliminate the answer choices that you know are wrong. Recall that a run-on sentence is two or more independent clauses, or complete sentences, punctuated incorrectly. Options B and D are complex sentences consisting of one independent and one subordinate clause. Option C is a compound sentence consisting of two independent clauses separated by a coordinating conjunction preceded by a comma. Options B, C, and D are not the correct choices.

Step 3 You are left with choice A, which is the correct answer because it is the only sentence containing two independent clauses that is punctuated incorrectly.

2. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- A. Six childrens boarded the school bus.
 - B. Patty sharpened her new pencil's.
 - C. The fish swam upstream.
 - D. John saw eight deers in the woods today.

Explanation: Option C is correct because *fish* is the correct plural form. Options A, B, and D contain incorrect plural forms. *Children*, *pencils*, and *deer* are the correct plural forms.

3. Choose the sentence that would be appropriate in a note to a friend but not in a formal essay.
- A. Brisk walking promotes good health.
 - B. For me, walking is the exercise that's best.
 - C. Walking puts less pressure on joints than running.
 - D. Devoted walkers frequently invest in good walking shoes.

Explanation: Options A, C, and D use formal English, a level of usage appropriate in a formal essay. Option B uses informal English (the first-person pronoun *me* and the contraction *that's*), which would be inappropriate in a formal essay.

4. Choose the sentence in which the semicolon (;) is used correctly.
- A. Although that cat seems friendly; you should stay away from him.
 - B. I made plans to see Janice next Saturday, but; I had to cancel them.
 - C. We spent three days packing our suitcases; however, we forgot toothpaste.
 - D. Since yesterday, I have cooked; bread, quiche, and chicken.

Explanation: In Option C, the semicolon is used correctly. It follows an independent clause and precedes the conjunctive adverb *however*. In Option A, a comma, not a semicolon, should follow an introductory subordinate clause. In Option B, no mark of punctuation should follow the coordinating conjunction *but*. Similarly, in Option D no mark of punctuation should separate the verb and its direct object.

5. Read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that BEST fits the blank in the paragraph.

_____. They carry pocket calendars and write down what they need to do each day. When they have finished a task, they cross it off their "To Do" list and go on to another task. These people also know how to do more than one thing at once. They talk on the phone while doing the dishes, or they brainstorm their essays for school while they exercise. In short, they know how to make good use of their time.

- A. People who are successful are generally well organized.
- B. Busy people do not have time to relax.
- C. My parents spend Saturday mornings repairing things around the house.
- D. My friends think I should be more like them.

Explanation: Only Option A provides a topic sentence that states the main idea supported by the succeeding sentences in this paragraph.

Answer Form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Practice Test

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 21. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 22. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 23. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 24. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 25. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 6. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 26. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 7. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 27. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 28. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 29. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 30. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 11. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 31. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 12. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 32. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 13. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 33. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 14. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 34. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 15. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 35. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 16. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 36. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 17. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 37. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 18. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 38. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 19. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 39. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 20. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 40. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

Answer Form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Language Practice Test

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 26. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 27. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 28. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 29. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 30. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 6. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 31. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 7. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 32. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 33. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 34. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 35. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 11. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 36. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 12. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 37. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 13. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 38. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 14. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 39. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 15. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 40. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 16. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 41. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 17. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 42. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 18. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 43. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 19. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 44. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 20. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 45. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 21. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 46. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 22. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 47. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 23. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 48. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 24. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 49. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 25. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 50. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

Reading Comprehension Practice Test

Read the following short story and answer Numbers 1 through 8. You may look back at the story as often as you like.

The Open Window

by Saki

“My aunt will be down presently, Mr. Nuttel,” said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen; “in the meantime you must try and put up with me.”

Framton Nuttel endeavored to say the correct something which should duly flatter the niece of the moment without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come. Privately he doubted more than ever whether these formal visits on a succession of total strangers would do much towards helping the nerve cure which he was supposed to be undergoing.

“I know how it will be,” his sister had said when he was preparing to migrate to this rural retreat; “you will bury yourself down there and not speak to a living soul, and your nerves will be worse than ever from moping. I shall just give you letters of introduction to all the people I know there. Some of them, as far as I can remember, were quite nice.”

Framton wondered whether Mrs. Sappleton, the lady to whom he was presenting one of the letters of introduction, came into the nice division.

“Do you know many of the people round here?” asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion.

“Hardly a soul,” said Framton. “My sister was staying here, at the rectory, you know, some four years ago, and she gave me letters of introduction to some of the people here.”

He made the last statement in a tone of distinct regret.

“Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?” pursued the self-possessed young lady.

“Only her name and address,” admitted the caller. He was wondering whether Mrs. Sappleton was in the married or widowed state. An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine habitation.

“Her great tragedy happened just three years ago,” said the child; “that would be since your sister's time.”

“Her tragedy?” asked Framton; somehow in this restful country spot tragedies seemed out of place.

“You may wonder why we keep that window wide open on an October afternoon,” said the niece, indicating a large French window that opened on to a lawn.

“It is quite warm for the time of the year,” said Framton; “but has that window got anything to do with the tragedy?”

“Out through that window, three years ago to a day, her husband and her two young brothers went off for their day's shooting. They never came back. In crossing the moor to their favorite snipe-shooting ground they were all three engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog. It had been that dreadful wet summer, you know, arid places that were safe in other years gave way suddenly without warning. Their bodies were never recovered. That was the dreadful part of it.” Here the child's voice lost its self-possessed note and became falteringly human. “Poor aunt always thinks that they will come back some day, they and the little brown spaniel that was lost with them, and walk in at that window just as they used to do. That is why the window is kept open every evening till it is quite dusk. Poor dear aunt, she has often told me how they went out, her husband with his

white waterproof coat over his arm, and Ronnie, her youngest brother, singing, ‘Bertie, why do you bound?’ as he always did to tease her, because she said it got on her nerves. Do you know, sometimes on still, quiet evenings like this, I almost get a creepy feeling that they will all walk in through that window—”

She broke off with a little shudder. It was a relief to Framton when the aunt bustled into the room with a whirl of apologies for being late in making her appearance.

“I hope Vera has been amusing you?” she said.

“She has been very interesting,” said Framton.

“I hope you don't mind the open window,” said Mrs. Sappleton briskly; “my husband and brothers will be home directly from shooting, and they always come in this way. They've been out for snipe in the marshes today, so they'll make a fine mess over my poor carpets. So like you men-folk, isn't it?”

She rattled on cheerfully about the shooting and the scarcity of birds, and the prospects for duck in the winter. To Framton it was all purely horrible. He made a desperate but only partially successful effort to turn the talk on to a less ghastly topic; he was conscious that his hostess was giving him only a fragment of her attention, and her eyes were constantly straying past him to the open window and the lawn beyond. It was certainly an unfortunate coincidence that he should have paid his visit on this tragic anniversary.

“The doctors agree in ordering me complete rest, and absence of mental excitement, and avoidance of anything in the nature of violent physical exercise,” announced Framton, who labored under the tolerably wide-spread delusion that total strangers and chance acquaintances are hungry for the least detail of one's ailments and infirmities, their cause and cure. “On the matter of diet they are not so much in agreement,” he continued.

“No?” said Mrs. Sappleton, in a voice which only replaced a yawn at the last moment. Then she suddenly brightened into alert attention—but not to what Framton was saying.

“Here they are at last!” she cried. “Just in time for tea, and don't they look as if they were muddy up to the eyes!”

Framton shivered slightly and turned towards the niece with a look intended to convey sympathetic comprehension. The child was staring out through the open window with dazed horror in her eyes. In a chill shock of nameless fear Framton swung round in his seat and looked in the same direction.

In the deepening twilight three figures were walking across the lawn towards the window; they all carried guns under their arms, and one of them was additionally burdened with a white coat hung over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. Noiselessly they neared the house, and then a hoarse young voice chanted out of the dusk: “I said, Bertie, why do you bound?”

Framton grabbed wildly at his stick and hat; the hall door, the gravel drive, and the front gate were dimly noted stages in his headlong retreat. A cyclist coming along the road had to run into the hedge to avoid imminent collision.

“Here we are, my dear,” said the bearer of the white mackintosh, coming in through the window; “fairly muddy, but most of it's dry. Who was that who bolted out as we came up?”

“A most extraordinary man, a Mr. Nuttel,” said Mrs. Sappleton; “could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word of good-bye or apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen a ghost.”

“I expect it was the spaniel,” said the niece calmly; “he told me he had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of pariah dogs, and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creatures snarling and grinning and foaming just above him. Enough to make any one lose their nerve.”

Romance at short notice was her specialty.

1. Why does Framton Nuttel visit Mrs. Sappleton?
- A. His sister has sent him.
 - B. He wants to meet Vera.
 - C. He is an old friend of the family.
 - D. His doctors told him to make new friends.

2. Read the following sentence from the story.

"Do you know many of the people round here?" asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion.

What does the word *communion* mean as it is used in this story?

- A. communication
 - B. judgment
 - C. sacrament
 - D. togetherness
3. What causes Nuttel to leave suddenly?
- A. He thinks he has seen ghosts.
 - B. He is afraid of the brown spaniel.
 - C. He believes Vera has tricked him.
 - D. He realizes he is late for an appointment.

4. Which set of statements BEST summarizes the story?
- A. Framton Nuttel visits Mrs. Sappleton's niece, Vera. Vera tries to explain Mrs. Sappleton's strange behavior, but Nuttel is not sure he believes her. When Mrs. Sappleton starts to see people who are not really there, Framton leaves. Once he has left, Vera explains what has happened.
 - B. Framton Nuttel visits Mrs. Sappleton. She is late, so her niece Vera entertains Nuttel by telling him a story. He thinks the story is true, and flees from the room when Mrs. Sappleton's husband, brother, and dog come in through the window. After he is gone, Vera provides an explanation for why he has left.
 - C. Framton Nuttel visits Mrs. Sappleton with his sister, Vera. Vera explains why Mrs. Sappleton is late. Nuttel is not feeling well, and he leaves when several other people walk in through the window. After he has gone, Vera apologizes to Mrs. Sappleton and tries to explain Nuttel's strange behavior.
 - D. Framton Nuttel visits Vera, an old friend of the family. Vera tells him about her aunt, Mrs. Sappleton, and why she thinks her husband, brother, and dog are not coming back from their hunting trip. When the two men and the dog walk in through the window, Nuttel is disturbed by Mrs. Sappleton's strange behavior and leaves. Once he has left, Vera explains his condition to the rest of the family.

5. Which word BEST describes Nuttel's character?

- A. critical
- B. determined
- C. humorous
- D. nervous

6. What happens *after* Mrs. Sappleton's niece tells Nuttel about the tragedy, but *before* the three men enter the room?

- A. Nuttel tells the niece about his sister.
- B. Nuttel receives letters of introduction.
- C. Mrs. Sappleton asks her niece why Nuttel has left so suddenly.
- D. Mrs. Sappleton tells Nuttel that her husband and brothers are hunting.

7. The narrator says, "An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine habitation." What does the phrase *undefinable something* mean?

- A. something there, but not specific
- B. something absent, but not noticed
- C. something there, but unmentionable
- D. something absent, but unthinkable

8. What can the reader conclude about Mrs. Sappleton's niece?

- A. She is afraid of dogs.
- B. She likes to make up stories.
- C. She is worried about her aunt.
- D. She hopes Mr. Nuttel will visit again.

Read the following article and answer Numbers 9 through 13. You may look back at the article as often as you like.

Genes and You

Have you ever been told that you look just like one of your parents? Have you ever wondered how your physical appearance was determined? Have you ever worried that you may become ill because of some mysterious predisposition that is out of your control? The answers to these questions and many more can be found in genetics. Genetics is the study of genes and heredity.

Genes: The Building Blocks of Chromosomes

What are genes? Genes are made up of deoxyribonucleic acid, the DNA molecule. Every gene is like a tiny messenger carrying a code that determines a trait. Each human being has somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000 genes working to create the whole person. DNA is wrapped and folded into complex units called chromosomes. Normal human cells have twenty-three pairs of chromosomes. The twenty-third pair, which is made up of the X and Y chromosomes, is responsible for determining an individual's gender.

Almost every cell in your body has twenty-three pairs of chromosomes. The exceptions are the cells responsible for reproduction, or gametes. The gametes, the male sperm and the female egg, each contain twenty-three unpaired chromosomes. When an egg and a sperm cell unite, a unique combination of twenty-three pairs of chromosomes is formed. That combination becomes the genetic code for a new human being.

How Did You Become You?

Most genes have partners. For example, you received a gene from your father that held information to determine your eye color. You also received a gene from your mother for eye color. This pair of genes worked together to determine the color of your eyes.

Genetic Mutations

Most of the time, genes produce healthy bodies. However, when there are mistakes in our genetic codes, we can become sick. Scientists have found that some mutated genes, or changed genes, may be responsible for health problems. For example, sickle-cell anemia is a blood disorder caused by a mutation of the gene that controls red blood cell production.

Working with Your Genes

Scientists have long debated the influences of nature (genes) and nurture (an individual's life experiences) on human beings and their health, behavior, and quality of life. It is becoming apparent through the study of genetics that both nature and nurture play a part in determining human traits. Some traits, such as eye color, are solely inherited through the genes and will not change due to outside forces. Other traits, however, are clearly affected by an individual's experiences. Simply inheriting a gene for strong teeth, for example, will not create a perfect smile. Proper oral hygiene and good diet also play important roles. Similarly, genetic predisposition to heart disease does not mean that a person will definitely develop an unhealthy heart. Nutrition and exercise can have a great effect on whether that genetic predisposition will cause a person trouble.

Scientists continue to study genes and the patterns of heredity that genes determine. Many diseases have been linked to genetics. By understanding our genetic makeup, scientists are becoming increasingly capable of promoting our future health.

9. The information in the passage is generally organized by

- A. question and answer.
- B. analysis of an argument.
- C. explanation.
- D. chronological order.

10. Chromosomes are made up of

- A. deoxyribonucleic acid
- B. twenty-three pairs of cells
- C. gametes
- D. genes

- 11.** What is the main idea of this passage?
- A. Genes determine one's eye color.
 - B. Environment contributes to the development of human personality.
 - C. Genes contain a wealth of information.
 - D. Many diseases are caused by genetic mutations.

- 12.** The information in this passage suggests that
- A. genes play an insignificant role in determining human behavior.
 - B. the study of genetics will someday lead to a cure for cancer.
 - C. scientists have resolved the nature vs. nurture debate.
 - D. genes play an important role in determining human characteristics.

- 13.** Which of the following sources would you consult if you wanted to find out more about genetically transmitted diseases?
- A. a biology textbook
 - B. a general encyclopedia
 - C. a medical encyclopedia
 - D. a scientific journal

Read the following article and answer Numbers 14 through 19. You may look back at the article as often as you like.

The Wolves of Yellowstone

The Capture

On January 5, 1995, Charlie Hinton, the lead biologist with the Fish & Wildlife Service's Wolf Recovery Project, placed 15 pounds of road-killed deer meat in the dense brush of the unbroken forest of Alberta, Canada. The meat was placed in several narrow passages so that a wolf would have only one way to get at the bait. In each passage, a snare of quarter-inch steel aircraft cable was set at the height of the wolf's head. Nothing could bear a human scent, or the wolf would smell a trap. Hinton used leather gloves for everything he touched.

A string of these setups is called a trapline. Hinton and his companion, an expert trapper, checked every trap in the line at least once a day. The process is called "running" the line. Hinton carried a jab stick, a broom handle with a tranquilizer-filled syringe. The jab stick is used to sedate a wolf that is being captured. After sedating the wolf, Hinton quickly wrapped the unconscious animal in a blanket to keep it warm. A nylon blindfold was placed over the wolf's eyes, and Hinton and his partner carried the wolf out of the forest on a stretcher. All the wolves that they captured were assessed at a nearby veterinary clinic to determine their ages and health.

During a two-week period, Hinton and the other trappers captured nine wolves by hand. Another five were captured using low-flying helicopters and dart guns.

Captivity

Amid great controversy and excitement, the wolves were transported to the park. The wolf team released fourteen gray wolves into three separate holding pens in an isolated valley in the park. The biologists wanted the wolves to adjust to their new surroundings before releasing them unrestricted into Yellowstone. The biologists also worried that if the wolves were released too soon, they might return to Canada.

A ten-foot-tall chain-link fence was all that separated the wolves from freedom, but they were cautious and unsure. The biologists hoped that the wolves would form three separate packs, but no one knew for certain what would happen. The wolves were grouped unnaturally, and they could either form a bond or fight each other to the death.

The wolves were left in the enclosures for three months. To keep the wolves as independent as possible, human intervention and contact were kept to a minimum. Except for receiving food and water, the wolves were left on their own. They were remarkably peaceful and did not attempt to escape. In fact, the wolves were lethargic. Several of them were not eating, and the decision was made to release them earlier than planned.

The Release

Each wolf was collared with a radio transmitter, and on March 21, 1995, the biologists opened the pen gates. The wolves were free to go, but nothing happened. The wolves were either too afraid to leave their safe haven, or they had become accustomed to being fed by humans. Over the next several days, a few wolves ventured outside the pens, but they all returned.

To lure the wolves out, Hinton placed some elk meat well beyond the enclosures. After several weeks, the wolves finally began to explore the park. By summer, they had adjusted quite well. One of the females even gave birth to pups, and visitors to the park thrilled to the sight of wolves frolicking in the valley.

Since 1995, the number of wolves in the park has grown to more than 100. Although several groups, including local ranchers, have opposed wolf reintroduction, the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone has been a remarkable success story. The project highlights what can be done when people are sensitive to the health and survival needs of wild animals.

- 14.** What is the main idea of this article?
- A. Wolves were successfully reintroduced into Yellowstone Park through a careful plan.
 - B. Over the course of two weeks, Charlie Hinton and others captured nine wolves by hand.
 - C. Many local ranchers and officials opposed the reintroduction of the wolves into the park.
 - D. Wolves are so comfortable at Yellowstone that they are now reproducing.

- 15.** Read the following sentences from the article.

They were remarkably peaceful and did not attempt to escape. In fact, the wolves were lethargic.

What does the word *lethargic* mean in this context?

- A. complacent
- B. contented
- C. inactive
- D. energetic

- 16.** What caused the wolves to venture outside their pens into the park?

- A. fear
- B. hunger
- C. curiosity
- D. boredom

- 17.** Which of the following statements from the article is an OPINION?

- A. “After sedating the wolf, Hinton quickly wrapped the unconscious animal in a blanket to keep it warm.”
- B. “The wolf team released fourteen gray wolves into three separate holding pens in an isolated valley in the park.”
- C. “Although several groups, including local ranchers, have opposed wolf reintroduction, the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone has been a remarkable success story.”
- D. “To keep the wolves as independent as possible, human intervention and contact were kept to a minimum.”

- 18.** Which quotation from the article BEST supports the author’s argument that the Wolf Recovery Project has been a success?
- A. “A ten-foot-tall chain-link fence was all that separated the wolves from freedom, but they were cautious and unsure.”
 - B. “Over the next several days, a few wolves ventured outside the pens, but they all returned.”
 - C. “One of the females even gave birth to pups, and visitors to the park thrilled to the sight of wolves frolicking in the valley.”
 - D. “Since 1995, the number of wolves in the park has grown to more than 100.”

- 19.** If a paragraph with the subheading “**The Future Challenge**” were added to the end of this article, which of the following subjects would it most likely cover?
- A. plans to launch more animal recovery projects
 - B. suggestions for further improvements to Yellowstone National Park
 - C. strategies to compensate local ranchers for their loss of livestock
 - D. schemes to counter criticism of the Wolf Recovery Project

Read the following passage and answer Numbers 20 through 23. You may look back at the passage as often as you like.

Nuisance Ordinance

Section 5.06

It is found and declared that:

1. The making and creation of excessive, unnecessary loud noise within the limits of the City of Germantown has existed for some time and the extent and volume of said noise is on the rise, and
2. The making, creating, or maintenance of excessive, unnecessary, unnatural, or unusually loud noise, which is prolonged and unnatural in its time, place, and use, is a detriment to public health, safety, welfare, and prosperity of the residents of Germantown.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made any unnecessary or disturbing noise which affects, disturbs, or endangers the comfort of the residents.

The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noise in accordance with this ordinance and will be considered a violation of this ordinance:

1. The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle on a public street except when used as a danger warning.
2. The playing, operating, or permitting the use of any radio, CD player, musical instruments, or other electronic or mechanical device that produces sound that disturbs the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants. The use of any such device between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. in a manner stated above is prohibited.
3. The keeping of any bird or other animal that produces frequent or continual sounds to disturb the tranquility of other residents between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. is prohibited.

Any person committing a violation listed above shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Each 24-hour period during which said violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

- 20.** Which of the following practices should you discontinue to avoid being fined under this ordinance?
- A. playing your stereo loudly at 12 noon on a Saturday
 - B. talking loudly on your cell phone in a restaurant
 - C. honking your horn at motorists who move into your lane of traffic
 - D. playing your drums loudly after 11 p. m. on a Friday night

- 21.** What caused the city of Germantown to institute such an ordinance?
- A. There were too many cars on the streets.
 - B. Too many pet owners did not control their pets.
 - C. The noise level was detrimental to the health of the residents.
 - D. Too many people were playing loud music.

- 22.** If you violate the ordinance for three days, what is the maximum fine you will have to pay?
- A. \$1,000
 - B. \$2,000
 - C. \$3,000
 - D. more than \$3,000

- 23.** What conclusion can you draw from this passage?
- A. Most of the citizens of Germantown are elderly.
 - B. Noise pollution is a serious problem in some areas.
 - C. People in small towns generally dislike technology.
 - D. Most of the citizens of Germantown go to bed early.

Read the following poem and answer Numbers 24 through 29. You may look back at the poem as often as you like.

In Blackwater Woods

by Mary Oliver

Look, the tree
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars

of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,

the long tapers
of cattails¹
are bursting and floating away over
the blue shoulders

of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its
name is, is

nameless now.
Every year
everything
I have ever learned

1. wetland plants having sausage-shaped seed heads at the top of tall stems

in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side

is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world

you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it

against your bone knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

24. Which word BEST describes the tone of the poem?

- A. joyful
- B. hopeless
- C. angry
- D. contemplative

25. When the speaker says, “Look, the trees / are turning / their own bodies / into pillars / of light,” she is

- A. comparing the pillars to bodies.
- B. attributing a human characteristic to the trees.
- C. drawing the reader’s attention to the pillars.
- D. contrasting light with darkness.

26. The season depicted in the poem is most likely

- A. spring.
- B. summer.
- C. autumn.
- D. winter.

27. Which image in the poem is most closely related to the idea of separation?

- A. long tapers
- B. blue shoulders
- C. black river
- D. bones

28. The first word of the poem is most likely intended to

- A. grab the reader’s attention.
- B. indicate that the poem will be about nature.
- C. convey the speaker’s sadness.
- D. lead readers to think about their own lives.

29. What is the theme of the poem?

- A. No one knows the meaning of salvation.
- B. People must love intensely and yet be willing to give up what they love.
- C. Trees, cattails, and ponds are examples of the glory of nature.
- D. Although natural objects have no names, people can love them as individuals.

Read the following poem and answer Numbers 30 through 34. You may look back at the poem as often as you like.

A Blessing

by James Wright

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies
Darken with kindness.

5 They have come gladly out of the willows
To welcome my friend and me.
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness

10 That we have come.
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.
There is no loneliness like theirs.
At home once more,
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.

15 I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,
For she has walked over to me
And nuzzled my left hand.
She is black and white,
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,

20 And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.
Suddenly I realize
That if I stepped out of my body I would break
Into blossom.

30. The line “Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota” is an example of what literary element?

- A. irony
- B. imagery
- C. mood
- D. setting

31. In the sentence, “They bow shyly as wet swans,” the poet uses what type of figurative language?

- A. He uses personification to show that horses and swans are always shy around people.
- B. He uses an analogy to show the anatomical similarities between horses and swans.
- C. He uses a simile to compare the graceful bending of the horse’s heads to the heads of swans.
- D. He uses hyperbole to emphasize the exaggerated bending of the horses’ heads.

32. What is the theme of the poem?

- A. Wild animals should not be confined by barbed wire.
- B. Humans can derive joy and comfort from being with wild animals.
- C. Living in the midst of nature is better than living in the city.
- D. Humans should not trespass on animal habitats.

33. The reader can infer that the author wanted to

- A. make a statement about animal rights.
- B. stress the differences between animals and humans.
- C. demonstrate that humans, animals, and nature are interconnected.
- D. show that wild animals can be tamed.

34. What do the lines, “Suddenly I realize / That if I stepped out of my body I would break / Into blossom” symbolize?

- A. The speaker feels united with the beauty of nature.
- B. The speaker appreciates the beauty of the spring landscape.
- C. The speaker admires the flowers in the pasture where the horses have been grazing.
- D. The speaker is moved by the love the two horses display toward each other.

Read the following passage and answer Numbers 35 through 40. You may look back at the passage as often as you like.

from The Mystery of Comets

by Fred L. Whipple

Man's universe virtually exploded near the beginning of the eighteenth century. That explosion is critical to our understanding of comets. Galileo's idea that bodies can move freely in open space and not slow down without some force to stop them, combined with Kepler's theory of their actual orbits about the Sun, made Copernicus's idea plausible: the Earth might really be a spinning ball, and it might really be plowing through space in an orbit around the Sun. Newton's universal law of gravity added a superb unifying factor, a simple formula that could combine all the observations of heavenly bodies into a "simple" picture of the Solar System, as we know it today. The telescope added the finishing touch; with the accuracy of measurement increasing from a tenth of the Moon's diameter to one thousandth, the theory could be checked to great accuracy and the distances to the Moon and Sun could be measured well enough to define the size of the system. The Earth, fortunately, is big enough to be a baseline for measuring distances to objects in the Solar System, although its diameter, as seen from the Sun, is only 17.6 seconds of arc, which is equal to 1/100th of the Moon's apparent diameter.

The distances turned out to be colossal, almost incredible. The Sun was 150,000,000 kilometers (93,000,000 miles) away! Jupiter was five times that distance from the Sun, and Saturn twice Jupiter's distance. Now there was space to spare for the comets to move about the Sun, any way and anywhere they pleased, with no crystalline spheres to bar their way. Note that an accurate scale of distances is not critical to the predictions of planetary positions, because relative distances are adequate for most problems. The unit of distance is the mean solar distance for Earth (150,000,000 kilometers), which is known as the astronomical unit (AU). Only in the recent Space Age have this unit and other planetary measures been known to an accuracy of nearly one part in a million, typical of the accuracy of planetary direction measures.

Galileo's discovery of Jupiter's moons made possible another exciting measure, the actual mass (or weight) of Jupiter itself, which is more than 300 times the Earth's mass and nearly a thousandth that of the Sun's. These numbers must have chilled the marrow of the eighteenth century conservatives, many of whom still believed that the Earth was the center of the Universe. When the great French astronomer (and Halley's friend) Cassini discovered the moons of Saturn during 1671–84, that planet was found to outweigh the Earth by nearly 100 times.

Now that the masses of these giant planets were known, it became possible to ascertain the effects of their attraction on the motions of each other, of the small terrestrial or earthy planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars) and of the comets. Halley's intuition had been right. The orbits and periods of comets are changed by the planets. Practically speaking, however, the theory and calculations are awesome. It is reported that three French astronomers—J. J. de La Lande, A. C. Clairaut, and Madame N. R. Lepaute—computed incessantly day and night for several months to predict accurately the return of Halley's comet in 1758. Indeed, because of this intensive effort, La Lande contracted an illness that affected him for the rest of his life. When Clairaut presented the results of these calculations, he noted that Jupiter and Saturn had seriously disturbed the motion of Halley's comet. The comet would be more than 500 days late because of Jupiter's attraction and another 100 days late because of Saturn's. Thus Halley's comet apparently would not come nearest to the Sun until the middle of April in 1759, instead of in 1758 (still with an uncertainty of about

a month). The prediction itself came a bit late, as Clairaut did not complete his calculations until November 1758. The search for the comet had already become an international sport, at least in Europe and England.

The professionals, to their chagrin, were beaten out by an amateur astronomer named Johann Georg Palitzsch, a small farmer who lived near Dresden. With the 8-foot-long telescope that he had made himself, Palitzsch discovered the comet on Christmas Day in 1758, fulfilling Halley's prediction. Clairaut had missed the date of perihelion by only 32 out of some 28,000 days; this prediction was a triumph for Newton's theory, and proof that comets are true rovers of the Solar System. As a tribute to Halley, the comet officially carries his name.

35. Read the following sentence from the passage.

Man's universe virtually exploded near the beginning of the eighteenth century.

What does the word *exploded* mean in the context of the passage?

- A. blew apart
- B. disintegrated
- C. expanded
- D. melted

36. According to the passage, Galileo believed that the movement of bodies

- A. would eventually cease if left alone.
- B. would continue at uniform speed if left unhindered.
- C. would change orbits freely in open space.
- D. was critical to our understanding of comets.

37. The reader can conclude from the passage that astronomers in early 1758 were particularly interested in

- A. finding out if Saturn had moons similar to those of Jupiter.
- B. determining the masses of the "giant planets."
- C. accurately predicting the return of Halley's comet.
- D. restricting the field of astronomy to professionals.

38. Which of the following statements BEST summarizes the main idea in the second-to-last paragraph?

- A. Astronomers had acquired enough information to attempt to predict the date of the next appearance of Halley's comet.
- B. In terms of work and calculations, astronomers had clearly taken on an impossible task.
- C. Much of the information issued by scientists of previous eras was incorrect and possibly dangerous.
- D. The search for Halley's comet was of little scientific interest until the closing months of 1758.

- 39.** Which of the following statements from the passage is a FACT?
- A. “The distances turned out to be colossal, almost incredible.”
 - B. “Only in the recent Space Age have this unit and other planetary measures been known to an accuracy of nearly one part in a million, typical of the accuracy of planetary direction measures.”
 - C. “These numbers must have chilled the marrow of the eighteenth century conservatives, many of whom still believed that the Earth was the center of the Universe.”
 - D. “Practically speaking, however, the theory and calculations are awesome.”

- 40.** What is the main idea of this passage?
- A. The work of professional scientists has frequently been proven meaningless by bright amateurs.
 - B. Due to A. C. Clairaut’s hard work, his predictions about the arrival time of the comet turned out to be the most accurate.
 - C. After years of scientific collaborations, Halley’s prediction was finally proven true.
 - D. The size of Palitzsch’s telescope gave him an advantage over other astronomers.

STOP

Language Practice Test

- 1.** Choose the sentence that uses noun forms correctly.
- A. Thirty-two people attended the womans' meeting.
 - B. Yesterday I visited my two sisters-in-law.
 - C. The length of John's sailboat is thirty-five foot.
 - D. My father repairs radioes as a hobby.

- 2.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- A. A good student must complete his or her assignments on time.
 - B. Each of the students have their own plans following graduation.
 - C. Neither of the candidates showed his surprise after the election.
 - D. Rachel jogs daily because she craves healthy exercise.

- 3.** Read the paragraph. Find the sentence that contains an incorrect shift in tense.

(1) In 1896 gold was discovered near the Klondike River in the Yukon Territory of northwestern Canada. (2) For the next two years, the Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands of spectators north. (3) Once they arrived in the Yukon, these hopeful adventurers were becoming less concerned with gold than with the struggle against the savage climate. (4) Average winter temperatures in the Yukon ranged from fifteen to thirty degrees below freezing.

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

- 4.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in the use of pronouns.

- A. Paul and me study together.
- B. Laura and her are the best students in the class.
- C. The teacher chose Bob and I to represent our class in the school essay contest.
- D. When Bob won the contest, I congratulated him.

5. Choose the sentence in which the comma or commas (,) are used correctly.

- A. My dog, a feisty little terrier, loves to chase rabbits and squirrels.
- B. My dog, a feisty little terrier loves to chase rabbits, and squirrels.
- C. My dog, a feisty little terrier loves to chase rabbits and squirrels.
- D. My dog a feisty little terrier, loves to chase rabbits and squirrels.

6. Choose the sentence in which the apostrophe (') is used correctly.

- A. The childrens' bookstore is on Maple Street.
- B. It's a great day for a ballgame.
- C. The soldier's barracks covered two square miles.
- D. Getting up early to exercise has lost it's charm.

7. Choose the correct word or words to complete the sentence.

I _____ the doorbell several times, but no one answered.

- A. ring
- B. ringed
- C. rang
- D. will have been ringing

8. Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of commonly confused words.

- A. The mayor's policies have affected every city agency.
- B. I can easily adapt to new surroundings.
- C. Gerald acceded to his mother's wishes.
- D. Antonia immigrated from The Netherlands.

9. Choose the best way to rewrite the underlined part of the sentence.

My cousin failed his final exams due to the fact that he neglected to study diligently.

- A. because of the fact that
- B. in light of the fact that
- C. because
- D. according to the fact that

10. Choose the sentence in which quotation marks are used correctly.

- A. Voltaire once said, “Superstition sets the world aflame. Philosophy quenches it.”
- B. Voltaire once said that “superstition sets the world aflame but that philosophy quenches it.”
- C. Voltaire once said, Superstition sets the world aflame. “Philosophy quenches it.”
- D. Voltaire once said, “Superstition sets the world aflame, but philosophy quenches it”.

11. Choose the sentence that contains a misplaced modifier.

- A. The crowd watched the marathoners running smoothly and easily.
- B. Celebrating our victory, my friends and I stayed at the restaurant until midnight.
- C. The proud father announced the birth of his twins with pink and blue balloons.
- D. Steering the ship to the north, the captain avoided the storm.

12. Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in sentence structure.

- A. While we were waiting for the bus.
- B. Make the necessary corrections, then rewrite your paper.
- C. The newspaper remained on the front doorstep I knew they hadn’t been home.
- D. When you walk into the capitol, you will see the information kiosk.

- 13.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in subject-verb agreement.
- A. Her great joy were Japanese gardens.
 - B. The chorus have separate parts to learn.
 - C. Toast and tea are my favorite breakfast.
 - D. Raisins or an apple make a good snack.

- 14.** Choose the sentence that is written in the active voice.
- A. Ten runs were scored by the home team.
 - B. The accident was reported by a witness.
 - C. A commercial photographer took these pictures.
 - D. The issue was discussed by the committee.

- 15.** Choose the sentence that would NOT be appropriate in a formal report.
- A. Charles Dickens was born to a middle-class English family near Portsmouth, a seaport not far from London.
 - B. Dickens lived during a time of startling change in England.
 - C. He must've seen the rural simplicity of his early childhood go down the drain.
 - D. The industrial age was ushered in with the noise and dirt of steam engines, railroads, and textile mills.

- 16.** Choose the sentence with parallel structure.
- A. I enjoy the novels of William Faulkner because they are complex, engaging, and I find them challenging.
 - B. I enjoy the novels of William Faulkner because of their complexity, they are engaging, and I am challenged by them.
 - C. I enjoy the novels of William Faulkner because I find them complex, engaging, and I also find them challenging.
 - D. I enjoy the novels of William Faulkner because they are complex, engaging, and challenging.

- 17.** Choose the sentence in which the semicolon (;) is used correctly.
- A. We visited friends in the following cities; Akron, Ohio, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois.
 - B. This will be a year of difficult decisions for you; for example, you must decide on a career.
 - C. This road map is several years old, however; it is adequate for our needs.
 - D. Because of the severe snowstorm; classes were cancelled yesterday.

- 18.** Choose the sentence in which ALL the capitalization is correct.
- A. She quoted her favorite line of poetry from Wordsworth: "I wandered lonely as a cloud."
 - B. When president Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France, he moved the Western boundary of the United States to the Rocky Mountains.
 - C. The Egyptian City Alexandria is named for Alexander the great.
 - D. Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman and philosopher, once wrote, "there never was a good war or a bad peace."

- 19.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of quotation marks.
- A. "Why," he asked, "weren't we told in time that a tornado had been sighted?"
 - B. "The best poem I've ever read," she said, "is W. H. Auden's 'The Unknown Citizen.'"
 - C. Greetings, welcomed the college president. "I know you're all happy to be here today."
 - D. Julia asked, "When does the party begin?"

- 20.** Choose the BEST order for the sentences in the following paragraph.
- (1) Today Shakespeare is regarded by many as the greatest writer in the English language. (2) Shakespeare's works have continued to delight and move audiences for approximately four hundred years. (3) The words of Ben Johnson about his friend William Shakespeare (1564–1616) have proven to be prophetic: "He was not of an age, but for all time." (4) His plays have been translated into many languages and performed on stages all over the world.
- A. 2-4-3-1
 - B. 3-2-1-4
 - C. 1-3-4-2
 - D. 4-2-1-3

- 21.** Choose the sentence that has parallel structure.
- A. At the party, we sang, danced, and were laughing late into the night.
 - B. Late into the night, we had sung, danced, and laughing at the party.
 - C. At the party, we sang, danced, and laughed late into the night.
 - D. Late into the night, we sang, danced, and we also laughed late into the night.

- 22.** Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence.
- At this time next year, Maxine _____ for college.**
- A. had left
 - B. will be leaving
 - C. would have left
 - D. left

- 23.** Choose the sentence in which the underlined word is an error in subject-verb agreement.
- A. Neither the windows nor the door was locked.
 - B. A grove of oak trees protects the house from the wind.
 - C. Everyone in the organization participates in the fund raiser.
 - D. The United States are bordered by Canada and Mexico.

- 24.** Choose the sentence that is written in the passive voice.
- A. Someone holds the winning ticket.
 - B. The candidate is known by almost everyone in the city.
 - C. Manuela will give the committee's report.
 - D. The members will vote by a show of hands.

- 25.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in the use of commonly confused words.
- A. Montgomery is further south than Birmingham.
 - B. The children laid down to take their afternoon naps.
 - C. The principal of fair play is important in sports.
 - D. Migrant workers have borne many hardships over the years.

- 26.** Choose the sentence in which the colon (:) is used correctly.
- A. The joyous news was announced to the waiting crowd: The queen had given birth to a healthy daughter.
 - B. Three important composers from the United States are: Aaron Copeland, Samuel Barber, and Duke Ellington.
 - C. What kinds of music are most popular in: South America, Asia, and Africa?
 - D. The first three runners to cross the finish line were: John, Samir, and Michal.

- 27.** Look at the underlined part of the sentence. Choose the answer that shows the correct capitalization for that part.

The newest addition to the department is Matthew Hardy, doctor of philosophy.

- A. Doctor of Philosophy
- B. doctor of Philosophy
- C. Doctor of philosophy
- D. Correct as it is

- 28.** Choose the sentence in which ALL the underlining is used correctly.

- A. Some critics consider William Faulkner's A Rose for Emily to be his greatest short story and The Sound and the Fury to be his greatest novel.
- B. T. S. Eliot is well-known for his poems The Wasteland and The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.
- C. James Joyce's novel Ulysses is loosely based on Homer's epic The Odyssey.
- D. James Baldwin's essay Many Thousands Gone can be found in his collection Notes of a Native Son.

- 29.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of the apostrophe.
- A. Phyllis’s enthusiasm is evident whenever she enters her English classroom.
 - B. My dog slipped out of it’s leash and ran down the street.
 - C. Do ladies’ styles change more often than men’s?
 - D. My grandfather’s high school had a girls’ entrance and a boys’ entrance.

- 30.** Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
- A. The new computer, that I bought, is a laptop model.
 - B. The crowd subdued by the candidate’s poor showing soon dispersed.
 - C. James Wong Howe, a famous camera operator, was born in China.
 - D. Our dinner plans were cancelled; consequently we ate leftovers from the previous night.

- 31.** Read the following paragraph. Then choose the sentence that does NOT belong in the paragraph.

(1) Language is like modeling clay: It can be shaped in many ways to create many different impressions. (2) Visual artists also mould their materials in many different ways to produce variations in shape, texture, and color. (3) Of all the forms of literature, poetry molds and stretches language the most. (4) Poets use imagery and figurative language to stretch words beyond their literal meanings, thus creating vivid impressions of their subjects.

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

- 32.** Read the following paragraph from a formal report. Choose the sentence in which the language is inappropriate.

(1) Down through the centuries you can see that the King Arthur legend has stimulated the imaginations of a bunch of different writers, who have shaped and reshaped the story of King Arthur and his knights. (2) Writing over five hundred years ago, Sir Thomas Malory added his version of the legend to what was already a great wealth of literature. (3) Taken together, all of these versions of the legend form a body of writing known as Arthurian Romance. (4) Each retelling of the legend of Arthur is different, and yet there are common motifs, or repeated patterns, that run through all of them.

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

- 33.** Choose the item that is a sentence fragment.
- A. As a young man, John Milton read any book he could find.
 - B. He also learned Latin, Greek, Italian, and Hebrew.
 - C. After graduating from Cambridge, he decided to travel through Europe for a year.
 - D. Because he wanted to learn more about the world.

- 34.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in the use of pronouns.
- A. It was David and me who sent the flowers.
 - B. The person who called was her.
 - C. This application was sent to both you and me.
 - D. For Luke and I, there was an afternoon snack.

- 35.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- A. The jury renders their verdict after deliberations.
 - B. Linda and Dave will visit Spain, where you can see Arabic architecture.
 - C. Everyday a doctor must make his rounds at the hospital.
 - D. The team plays its last game of the season next week.

- 36.** Choose the sentence that does NOT contain an error in the use of noun forms.
- A. I picked three ripe tomatos from my garden yesterday.
 - B. My music teacher and I played a piece for two pianoes.
 - C. The ground thundered beneath the horse's hooves.
 - D. The farmer's cow gave birth to two calfs.

- 37.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of verb tense.
- A. Before John arrived at the corner, the two cars collided.
 - B. By the time the omelet was ready, I had set the table.
 - C. When I returned to work after my vacation, I found a pile of papers on my desk.
 - D. We learned that water expands when it freezes.

- 38.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of modifiers.
- A. Running a victory lap in his bare feet, the marathoner stubbed his toe on a pebble.
 - B. Using high-powered binoculars, the lost child was found.
 - C. Discouraged by criticism, the candidate gave up his bid for office.
 - D. Blowing from the north, the wind tossed the pines.

- 39.** Choose the BEST way to rewrite the underlined part of the sentence.

At the present time, an agreement between the parties is remote.

- A. Now
- B. At this point in time
- C. At present
- D. Right now

- 40.** Choose the sentence that contains an error in the use of commonly confused words.

- A. Using a stolen key, the thief gained access to the building.
- B. Why should I advise you when you never accept my advice?
- C. This flowered scarf will be a perfect compliment to your outfit.
- D. The judge listened carefully to the witnesses and the attorneys on both sides before handing down her disinterested verdict.

- 41.** Read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that would be the BEST concluding sentence.

Ernest Hemingway is one of the most famous stylists in American literature. He led an adventurous life that is often reflected in the exploits of his heroes. The typical Hemingway hero is a quietly courageous individual who displays “grace under pressure” and rarely expresses emotions. _____.

- A. Hemingway was born in Oak Park, Illinois, and later worked as a reporter in Kansas City.
- B. War became a central topic in Hemingway’s fiction, including his ground-breaking story collection *In Our Time*.
- C. A lifelong lover of adventure, Hemingway watched bullfights in Spain and hunted big game in Africa.
- D. Rugged on the outside but sensitive underneath, the Hemingway hero has inspired scores of writers.

- 42.** Choose the item that is a run-on sentence.

- A. Make necessary corrections, then rewrite your paper.
- B. Meandering through the wheat field is a narrow but deep creek that irrigates the farm.
- C. Help to keep your home safe; take precautions against the dangers that lurk in your medicine cabinet.
- D. When is the next flight to New York, and how long will it take?

- 43.** Choose the sentence that is in the passive voice.

- A. The queen planned a party for the princess.
- B. Doorbells were rung up and down the street.
- C. The new pitcher threw a wicked fastball.
- D. The class read every book on the required list.

- 44.** Choose the sentence in which ALL of the capitalization is correct.

- A. Located in east Africa, Uganda is a small but densely populated agricultural nation.
- B. It was a British Colony for many decades, and English is widely spoken there.
- C. In fact, because Ugandans descend from various African tribes that speak different languages, English is Uganda’s official language.
- D. Barbara Kimenye, a Native Ugandan, writes in English.

- 45.** Look at the underlined sentence part. Choose the answer that shows the correct punctuation for that part.

Since I have been jogging everyday I have lost ten pounds.

- A. everyday: I
- B. everyday; I
- C. everyday, I
- D. Correct as it is

- 46.** Read the following paragraph. Find the sentence that contains an incorrect shift in verb tense.

(1) Langston Hughes was born in 1902 in Missouri. (2) He published one of his most famous poems, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” when he was only nineteen years old. (3) Hughes had moved north to New York City in 1921 to attend Columbia University.

(4) A year later he became a cook on a ship bound for Africa.

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

- 47.** Choose the sentence in which ALL the quotation marks and underlining are correct.

- A. In 1943 Truman Capote won the O. Henry Memorial Award for his short story “Miriam.”
- B. In 1959 he won the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award for “creative writing.”
- C. In 1966 he won the Mystery Writers of America Edgar award for his novel “In Cold Blood.”
- D. Capote also received an Emmy Award in 1967 for the television adaptation of his short story A Christmas Memory.

- 48.** Choose the correct word or words to complete this sentence.

Everyone tipped _____ cap to the winner.

- A. our
- B. their
- C. its
- D. his or her

49. Choose the sentence that does NOT contain a misplaced or dangling modifier.

- A. Gazing out the window, the view of the ocean was breathtaking.
- B. Using radar, planes were detected in the area.
- C. Exhausted after a long day at work, I greeted my dog at the door.
- D. I discussed the high cost of attending university with my family.

50. Choose the correct word or words to complete this sentence.

On Sunday I _____ in the sun for an hour.

- A. lay
- B. lied
- C. laid
- D. have lain

STOP

