



ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Mystery Paper Sculptor

Between March and November of 2011, an anonymous donor left intricately¹ crafted paper sculptures at various cultural institutions in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Delighted, each sculpture was left secretly and was later discovered by staff.² The delicate sculptures—streetscapes, plants,² and animals—were carved exclusively from the pages and bindings of books. The tiny details in the pieces are awe-inspiring.

The first sculpture discovered—at the Scottish Poetry Library—was a tiny tree formed from a book of verse. Library staff dubbed³ it the “poetree.” The tree sits atop a book. Beneath the tree are the halves of a golden paper egg, each half filled with words clipped from the poem “A Trace of Wings” by Edwin Morgan.

1. Which choice most effectively emphasizes the complexity of the paper sculptures?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. impressively
- C. terrifically
- D. superbly

2. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Each sculpture was left secretly and later discovered by delighted staff.
 H. Left secretly and later discovered by staff, each sculpture was delighted.
 J. Secretly delighted, each sculpture was discovered by staff.

3. A. NO CHANGE
 B. specified
 C. adorned
 D. honored

At Edinburgh’s Filmhouse Cinema, a three-
dimensional sculpted scene shows patrons

sitting in a movie theater as horse leaps out of
the screen. At the Scottish Storytelling Centre, a

dragon crafted from the pages of a mystery novel
was found nesting in a window. At the National
Museum of Scotland, a paper tail was spotted emerging
from the spine of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s book
The Lost World. Inside, a dinosaur charges through
shredded pages of the open book. More creations
appeared at more than a few additional places where
literature and artifacts are related to books and writing.

Therefore, a total of ten sculptures were bestowed on
special institutions, whose staff are thrilled by their luck.

The creator of these sculptures are not known
because no one has claimed responsibility. So far, that
is. The last gift came with a note in which the mystery
artist reveals her gender. Whatever: whoever created

the art, your intention is clear. Each gift came with a

note expressing special gratitude for “libraries, books,

words, ideas.” 13

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. Cinema, a three-dimensional sculpted, scene
H. Cinema a three-dimensional sculpted scene,
J. Cinema a three-dimensional, sculpted, scene

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. movie theaters as horse’s leaps
C. a movie theater as horses leap
D. movie theater’s as horse leap

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. dragon—crafted from the pages
H. dragon, crafted from the pages,
J. dragon crafted from the pages,

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. a number of additional cultural institutions support-
ing intellectual endeavors dedicated to promoting
C. quite a lot of other cultural institutions character-
ized by loyalty and dedication to
D. several libraries and museums devoted to

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. Eventually,
H. Of course,
J. However,

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. creators of this sculptures are
C. creator of these sculptures is
D. creators of this sculptures is

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. Disregarding the unknown identity of the person
who
H. Without consideration of or concern about whoever
J. Regardless of who

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. whose
C. her
D. our

12. F. NO CHANGE
G. note of gratitude expressing special gratefulness
and thanks
H. thank-you note on each one expressing special
thanks
J. thankful note expressing special thanks

13. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, the
paragraph would primarily lose a statement that:
A. suggests the essay writer knows the identity of the
artist.
B. explains why the artist created the sculptures.
C. proves the artist is a woman.
D. indicates the artist is a librarian.

Ironically, the creator of these exquisite sculptures who destroyed books—cutting them
14

up with refashioning them into elaborate works
15 of art—as “a tiny gesture in support of the special places.” The mystery artist celebrated the magic of those places and, at the same time, made some magic.

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. for whom books were destroyed—
H. as she destroyed books—
J. destroyed books—
15. A. NO CHANGE
B. and
C. nor
D. so

PASSAGE II

Building a Cork Boat

[1]

As a young boy, John Pollack dreamed of building a full-size boat made entirely of bottle corks. [A] At the age of thirty-four, Pollack sailed his dream down the Douro River in Portugal. It all began as Pollack is likely to point out, with
16 a single cork.

[2]

To amass the staggering number of corks needed to construct the boat, 165,231 in all, Pollack convinced the
17 staff, of several restaurants in Washington, DC, to donate
17 discarded corks for his cause. [B] Pollack eventually received cork donations from a cork-importing company
18 based in Portugal.

[3]

Constructing the boat introduced a challenge of another variety. Pollack finally tried gluing the
19 corks together to create stackable logs, but he soon realized that this strategy was too time-consuming. [C]

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. began, as Pollack is likely to point out,
H. began, as Pollack is likely to point out
J. began as Pollack is likely to point out
17. A. NO CHANGE
B. boat (165,231) in all, Pollack convinced the staff of several restaurants,
C. boat—165,231 in all—Pollack convinced the staff of several restaurants
D. boat, 165,231, in all, Pollack convinced the staff of several restaurants
18. F. NO CHANGE
G. donations, from a cork-importing company,
H. donations, from a cork-importing company
J. donations from a cork-importing company,
19. A. NO CHANGE
B. next
C. first
D. also

He calculated that it would have taken him and one other person more than a year's worth of eight-hour days to glue all the corks needed for the boat.

[4]

Piles of corks threatened to take over Pollack's apartment. He used a foam template to assemble a

group of corks into a pretty interesting shape. He then fastened each cluster of corks with multiple rubber bands and encased each cluster in fishnet.

To bind clusters together and shaping them into flexible columns proved to be both efficient and architecturally

sound. Dozens of friends expedited this proper process by volunteering to help with the construction of the boat.

[5]

The completed cork boat, which resembled a Viking ship, was more impressive than Pollack had ever imagined.

[D] In his childhood imagination, he had saw himself floating the boat in his neighbor's swimming pool. But

at a length of twenty-two feet, Pollack's masterpiece

was best suited with a grand voyage. In 2002, the

company that had donated thousands of corks to

Pollack's project sponsored the vessel's launch in

Portugal. There, during the boat's successful journey

on the Douro River, in the country of Portugal, Pollack's dream was fully realized.

20. F. NO CHANGE
G. than a year's
H. than a years'
J. then a years

21. Which choice most effectively introduces the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
B. Over the course of many months, Pollack convinced people to help.
C. Pollack was afraid that he would have to put his cork boat dream on hold.
D. After a series of trials, Pollack devised a workable strategy.

22. Which choice provides the most specific description of the assembled groups of corks?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. hexagonal
H. certain
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. Binding clusters together and to shape
C. Binding clusters together and shaping
D. Binding clusters together and shape

24. Which choice best indicates that constructing the cork boat was challenging?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. authentic
H. rigorous
J. grim

25. A. NO CHANGE
B. had seen himself
C. seen himself
D. saw him

26. F. NO CHANGE
G. length, of twenty-two feet,
H. length of twenty-two feet;
J. length of twenty-two feet

27. A. NO CHANGE
B. most well suited to
C. better suited for
D. best suited as

28. F. NO CHANGE
G. company, which
H. company whom
J. company, who

29. A. NO CHANGE
B. River, which is a river in Portugal,
C. River in Portugal,
D. River,



Question 30 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

30. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the essay:

“Remember,” he would say as he made his daily pickups, “every cork counts.”

The sentence would most logically be placed at:

- F. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- G. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- H. Point C in Paragraph 3.
- J. Point D in Paragraph 5.

PASSAGE III

Lightning in the Sand

As my friend Anna and I walked the sand dunes of southeastern New Mexico, she told me that she hoped we’d find a fulgurite, one as translucent white as the southeastern New Mexico sands around us. A fulgurite—whose name stems from the Latin word *fulgur*, which means “thunderbolt”—is a hollow silica glass tube formed when lightning strikes sand. A fulgurite is created in one explosive second by fusion and pressure as sand heated by a lightning blast melts, and becomes glass. Commonly called “petrified lightning,” a fulgurite places the shape of a miniature lightning bolt into the earth, often branching deep into the ground.

Anna told me that I had possibly seen a small fragment of a fulgurite before, without realizing I had, on a beach. She explained though that even experts are rarely able to locate a fully intact fulgurite.

31. A. NO CHANGE
 B. and nearly transparent to the eye almost as the white sands of these dunes.
 C. as these sands.
 D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
32. F. NO CHANGE
 G. sand heated (by a lightning blast) melts
 H. sand, heated by a lightning blast melts,
 J. sand heated by a lightning blast melts
33. Which choice best builds on the preceding sentence by emphasizing the dramatic nature of the mark a fulgurite leaves on the earth?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. sketches
 C. burns
 D. sends
34. F. NO CHANGE
 G. explained, though, that even experts
 H. explained though that, even experts,
 J. explained, though that even experts

The thin, brittle glass tubes break easily. Occasionally,
³⁵
 after strong, sustained winds have shifted desert sands,

while an unbroken, previously buried fulgurite will be
³⁶
 revealed, showing as a tube protruding from the ground.

37 I scanned the area, hopeful that I'd see a tube newly

uncovered. Anna made clear that we'd be lucky to come
³⁸
 upon a small piece of fulgurite, just a few inches long.

Anna had shown me fulgurites she had found on other trips. Their colors ranged from black to brown to green, corresponding to the color of the sand in which she had discovered them. I wasn't surprised that I'd never recognized fulgurites on any beach: no one had ever told me what to look for.
³⁹

35. Given that all the statements are true, which one provides the most relevant information at this point in the essay?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Human-made fulgurites are not any easier to excavate than naturally occurring fulgurites.
- C. A fulgurite is not a geode (a crystal-lined stone), though the two are often confused.
- D. Still, pieces of fulgurite can be worked into jewelry.

36. F. NO CHANGE

- G. however
- H. so
- J. DELETE the underlined portion.

37. Which of the following sentences, if added here, best connects the preceding sentence to the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A. Anna told me that there had been a brief rain shower in the area the day before.
- B. I could see bright pink sand verbenas blooming in the distance.
- C. Swift winds were moving the white sands that day.
- D. Dig carefully.

38. F. NO CHANGE

- G. uncovered, I focused my gaze on the sands in the distance.
- H. uncovered, I looked closely.
- J. had it been uncovered.

39. Which choice most effectively concludes this sentence and leads into the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. I focus on looking for seashells, sand dollars, and smooth rocks when I'm walking the sands.
- C. usually, I'm not in the mood for a science project when I'm on vacation.
- D. on their surface, they look like pieces of tree branches.



Their interiors, though, are smooth, clear glass stained
40

with tiny bubbles trapped formed by air and moisture
41
during the rapid cooling of the melted sand after the lightning strike.

We continued exploring the dunes.

Anna laughed and said we needed only to stop at the local gift shop to unearth
42

our treasure. 43 But given

our luck finding fulgurites in
44

deserts and on beaches, she wanted to
45
keep searching to find our own piece of bright, white lightning in the sand.

40. Which choice makes clearest the light, sporadic arrangement of the bubbles in the glass?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. pointed
- H. speckled
- J. covered

41. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:

- A. where it is now.
- B. after the word *bubbles*.
- C. after the word *during*.
- D. after the word *cooling*.

42. F. NO CHANGE
G. for having unearthed
H. that would unearth
J. unearthing

43. If the writer deleted the preceding sentence, the essay would primarily lose a:

- A. bluntly critical comment that makes clear Anna's frustration with trying to find a white fulgurite in the sand dunes of New Mexico.
- B. mildly scolding response by Anna to the narrator's impatience with the time and attention it might take for them to find a white fulgurite.
- C. light moment in the form of a good-natured joke by Anna about how easy it could be to find a white fulgurite.
- D. moment of excitement when Anna remembers that they could easily find a white fulgurite at the local gift shop.

44. F. NO CHANGE
G. her
H. my
J. their

45. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would provide the essay with new information?

- A. beaches in Florida, Utah, California, and Nevada,
- B. beaches, but so far not this day in the New Mexico sands,
- C. beaches, in other words, sandy locales,
- D. beaches, even a green fulgurite,

PASSAGE IV

Planet Earth's Windiest Observatory

[1]

Step outside into blowing snow, freezing fog, 45 mph winds with hurricane-force gusts, and a -50° Fahrenheit windchill. Welcome to a typical January day at the Mount Washington Observatory. [A] Weather conditions at this facility, which sits atop its namesake's 6,288-foot peak⁴⁶

in New Hampshire, has earned the location the nickname "Home of the World's Worst Weather."⁴⁷

[2]

[B] Though somewhat diminutive compared to other mountains, (Colorado's Pikes Peak, for example, is more than twice its height),⁴⁸ Mount Washington is the tallest peak in the Presidential Range. The peak stands at the confluence of three major storm tracks,⁴⁹

and its steep slopes force rising winds to accelerate.⁵⁰

In fact, scientists in 1934 recorded a surface wind

speed (of 231 mph): one of the fastest ever recorded.⁵¹

46. F. NO CHANGE

- G. their
- H. these
- J. it's

47. A. NO CHANGE

- B. Hampshire, have earned
- C. Hampshire has earned
- D. Hampshire, earns

48. F. NO CHANGE

- G. mountains (Colorado's Pikes Peak,
- H. mountains, (Colorado's Pikes Peak
- J. mountains (Colorado's Pikes Peak

49. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one best uses a comparison to emphasize that the weather on Mount Washington can be extreme?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. is much colder at the summit than at the base of the mountain.
- C. has an average midwinter temperature of 5° Fahrenheit.
- D. has weather that rivals that of Antarctica.

50. F. NO CHANGE

- G. its steep slopes that force
- H. if its steep slopes force
- J. its steep slopes forcing

51. A. NO CHANGE

- B. speed of 231 mph—
- C. speed of 231 mph;
- D. speed, of 231 mph,



[3]

In one study, researchers used a laser beam and advanced optical techniques to measure winds. The observatory also keeps detailed weather records that scientists have used to track climate trends and weather patterns. The ⁵² observatory has also advanced scientists'

understanding of clouds, of ice physics, ⁵³ and the atmosphere.

[4]

To conduct all this research, staff are on-site year-round. Observers, ⁵⁴ who work several twelve-hour shifts over the course of a week. To change personnel in winter, ⁵⁵ though, crews ascend the mountain in a

vehicle, ⁵⁶ gripping the snow using revolving tracks similar to those on a military tank. Observers go outside every hour to gather data, which they send to the National Weather Service. [C]

[5]

Though isolated, the Mount Washington Observatory offers weather enthusiasts many ways to get involved. The observatory takes volunteers and accepts interns, who assist with research. ⁵⁷ The bold can take part in educational trips to the summit in winter. [D] For those who are planning to make a trip to Mount Washington, ⁵⁸ the observatory has a website with live video feeds of the summit.

52. F. NO CHANGE
G. In addition, the
H. Additionally, the
J. Also, the

53. A. NO CHANGE
B. furthered our knowledge of ice physics,
C. as well as ice physics,
D. ice physics,

54. F. NO CHANGE
G. Observers who work
H. Observers work
J. Observers, working

55. A. NO CHANGE
B. winter, of course,
C. winter, however,
D. winter,

56. F. NO CHANGE
G. vehicle while gripping
H. vehicle that grips
J. vehicle and grip

57. A. NO CHANGE
B. research and the
C. research but the
D. research, the

58. Which choice contrasts most directly with the other ways to get involved at the observatory that are mentioned in the paragraph?
F. NO CHANGE
G. prefer a warm recliner to an icy peak,
H. conduct weather research,
J. love the outdoors,



Questions 59 and 60 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

59. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

This information is used to help create regional weather forecasts.

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 4.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 5.

60. Suppose the writer's main purpose had been to describe how mountain ranges affect weather patterns. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?

- F. Yes, because it discusses how the slopes of Mount Washington increase wind speeds.
- G. Yes, because it describes the weather conditions on the summit of Mount Washington.
- H. No, because it outlines the history of the Mount Washington Observatory.
- J. No, because it provides an overview of the Mount Washington Observatory and its research.

PASSAGE V

The Real McCoy

[1]

“It’s the real McCoy.” You might have heard this expression before, but who—or what—is a McCoy, real or otherwise? The saying has been used for generations to declare its⁶¹ the genuine article, the original and best.

[A] While its origin is disputed, many people believe the expression was inspired by the inventions of a Canadian American engineer named,⁶² Elijah McCoy. McCoy, a railroad worker who, as a teenager, had formally studied mechanical engineering, revolutionized railroad and factory operations, affecting both incredibly⁶³ with his dozens of patented products.

- 61. A. NO CHANGE
- B. its something that’s
- C. that something is
- D. that its

- 62. F. NO CHANGE
- G. American engineer named
- H. American, engineer named,
- J. American, engineer named

- 63. A. NO CHANGE
- B. operations, changing both of these industries fundamentally
- C. operations, so that they would never be the same
- D. operations



[2]

While working for the Michigan Central Railroad in the 1870s, then McCoy was assigned to work on the wheel

64

bearings and axles of trains. [65] Trains needed to come to a halt after only a few miles of travel so that the moving parts could be oiled by hand—a tedious, time-consuming process. McCoy invented a device that released oil while

a train was in motion, substantially reducing the number

66

of maintenance stops had the effect of making travel more efficient. [B] This automatic lubricating device became the first of his fifty-seven patents.

[3]

McCoy applied the principles of this invention to other engineering challenges. Factories in the late 1800s, for example, increasingly relied on steam engines to

68

power factory machines. As with trains, therefore many of the machines' parts had to be oiled manually.

69

McCoy, recognizing the similarities between train wheels and factory machines, designed automated oilers for steam engines. These innovations allowed

70

64. F. NO CHANGE
 G. with that company
 H. during this time
 J. DELETE the underlined portion.

65. In the preceding sentence, the writer is considering revising the phrase “assigned to work on” to “responsible for oiling.” Given that the revised phrase is accurate, should the writer make this revision?
 A. Yes, because the revision specifically describes the procedures McCoy had to follow as he maintained the wheel bearings and axles of trains.
 B. Yes, because the revision provides a clearer connection between McCoy’s main task as a railroad worker and his first patented device.
 C. No, because the revision doesn’t indicate whether McCoy chose to oil the wheel bearings and axles of trains by hand.
 D. No, because the revision doesn’t make clear whether McCoy had worked on trains for other railroad companies.

66. F. NO CHANGE
 G. lessening the frequency of number
 H. subtracting the amount
 J. lowering the amount

67. A. NO CHANGE
 B. and making
 C. helping to make
 D. made

68. F. NO CHANGE
 G. subsequently,
 H. regardless,
 J. however,

69. A. NO CHANGE
 B. the problem being
 C. in that
 D. DELETE the underlined portion.

70. F. NO CHANGE
 G. McCoy would recognize
 H. McCoy, a recognition of
 J. McCoy recognized

factories to give machines a certain timelessness,

71

increasing factory productivity and, as a result, profits. 72

[4]

McCoy's inventions were an instant success. [C] Not surprisingly, other inventors inundated the market with similar—and usually inferior—devices. [D] Supposedly, factory owners who wanted a product proven to do it⁷³ would ask if their purchase was “the real McCoy.” McCoy's inventions would continue to benefit industries in the United States well into the twentieth century, as his⁷⁴ name became synonymous with quality and authenticity.

74

71. Which choice offers the clearest and most precise information about how the operation of factory machines changed as a result of McCoy's innovations?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. rethink operations,
- C. run machines continuously,
- D. use machines differently,

72. The writer is considering deleting the following phrase from the preceding sentence (ending the sentence with a period):

and, as a result, profits.

Should the writer make this deletion?

- F. Yes, because the phrase shifts the focus of the paragraph from the use of McCoy's inventions in factories to factory disputes.
- G. Yes, because the phrase suggests that factory owners were more interested in profits than in which of McCoy's devices would best meet their needs.
- H. No, because the phrase is relevant to the paragraph's discussion of the positive effects that the use of McCoy's inventions had in factories.
- J. No, because the phrase makes clear that the successful use of McCoy's inventions in factories led to higher wages for factory workers.

73. A. NO CHANGE
B. lend itself to superiority
C. give off the best result
D. work well

74. Which choice best concludes the essay by reiterating its main idea?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. so, not surprisingly, in 2001 McCoy was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, located in Alexandria, Virginia.
- H. even having applications in the booming aluminum manufacturing industry of the 1940s.
- J. making this story, for so many reasons, “the genuine article.”

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

75. The writer is considering adding the following true statement to the essay:

The imitators expected that the price of their products—often significantly lower than the price of McCoy's devices—would attract buyers, but price didn't seem to matter most.

If the writer were to add this statement, it would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 4.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 4.

END OF TEST 1

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.