



Answer Explanations

SAT® Practice Test #2

Section 2: Writing and Language Test

QUESTION 1.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a noun, “reductions,” yielding a grammatically complete and coherent sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each provides a verb or gerund, while the underlined portion calls for a noun.

QUESTION 2.

Choice B is the best answer because it offers a transitional adverb, “Consequently,” that communicates a cause-effect relationship between the funding reduction identified in the previous sentence and the staffing decrease described in this sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each misidentifies the relationship between the preceding sentence and the sentence of which it is a part.

QUESTION 3.

Choice A is the best answer because the singular verb “has” agrees with the singular noun “trend” that appears earlier in the sentence.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the plural verb “have” does not agree with the singular subject “trend,” and the relative pronoun “which” unnecessarily interrupts the direct relationship between “trend” and the verb.

QUESTION 4.

Choice A is the best answer because it states accurately why the proposed clause should be added to the sentence. Without these specific examples, readers have only a vague sense of what “nonprint” formats might be.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each represents a misinterpretation of the relationship between the proposed clause to be added and the surrounding text in the passage.

QUESTION 5.

Choice D is the best answer because it includes only the preposition and noun that the sentence requires.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each includes an unnecessary pronoun, either “them” or “their.” The sentence contains no referents that would circulate e-books.

QUESTION 6.

Choice D is the best answer because the verb form “cataloging” parallels the other verbs in the series.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each interrupts the parallel structure in the verb series, either through an incorrect verb form or with an unnecessary subject.

QUESTION 7.

Choice B is the best answer because it consolidates references to the subject, “librarians,” by placing the relative pronoun “whose” immediately following “librarians.” This results in a logical flow of information within the sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each fails to place “librarians” as the main subject of the sentence without redundancy, resulting in a convoluted sentence whose relevance to the preceding and subsequent sentences is unclear.

QUESTION 8.

Choice D is the best answer because no conjunction is necessary to communicate the relationship between the clauses in the sentence. The conjunction “While” at the beginning of the sentence already creates a comparison.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each provides an unnecessary coordinating conjunction.

QUESTION 9.

Choice B is the best answer because it mentions time periods when the free services described later in the sentence are particularly useful to library patrons.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each creates redundancy or awkwardness in the remainder of the sentence.

QUESTION 10.

Choice B is the best answer because it is concise; it is also consistent with the formal language in the rest of the sentence and the passage overall.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each is either unnecessarily wordy or uses colloquial language that does not correspond with the tone of the passage.

QUESTION 11.

Choice C is the best answer because it restates the writer’s primary argument, which may be found at the end of the first paragraph: “As public libraries adapt to rapid technological advances in information distribution, librarians’ roles are actually expanding.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not paraphrase the writer’s primary claim.

QUESTION 12.

Choice B is the best answer because it clarifies that the sentence, which mentions a specific large-scale painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, is an example supporting the preceding claim about large-scale paintings.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they propose transitional words or phrases that do not accurately represent the relationship between the preceding sentence and the sentence containing the underlined portion.

QUESTION 13.

Choice D is the best answer because no punctuation is necessary in the underlined phrase.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each separates parts of the noun phrase “painter Georges Seurat’s 10-foot-wide *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*” from one another with one or more unnecessary commas.

QUESTION 14.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the appropriate possessive form, “its,” and a colon to introduce the identifying phrase that follows.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none contains both the appropriate possessive form of “it” and the punctuation that creates a grammatically standard sentence.

QUESTION 15.

Choice C is the best answer because an analysis of the consequences of King Louis XV’s reign is irrelevant to the paragraph.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each represents a misinterpretation of the relationship between the proposed sentence to be added and the main point of the paragraph.

QUESTION 16.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides a coordinating conjunction, “and,” to connect the two verb phrases “are characterized” and “are covered.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each lacks the conjunction needed to connect the two verb phrases “are characterized” and “are covered.”

QUESTION 17.

Choice B is the best answer because it offers an example of an additional household item, a “tea cup,” with a specific measurement that is one-twelfth of its actual size.

Choices A, C, D are incorrect because, compared to the example preceding the underlined portion, each is vague and fails to offer a specific measurement of an additional household item.

QUESTION 18.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides correct punctuation and the coordinating conjunction “but,” which acknowledges the possible contrast between being “sparsely furnished” and displaying “just as true” period details.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each communicates an illogical relationship between the phrases that precede and follow the underlined portion.

QUESTION 19.

Choice A is the best answer because it provides a clause that is the most similar to the two preceding clauses, which both end with a reference to a specific wall.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each deviates from the stylistic pattern of the preceding two clauses.

QUESTION 20.

Choice D is the best answer because the article “a” requires the singular noun “visitor,” and the simple present verb “remark” is the appropriate verb tense in this context.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each contains either a noun or verb that does not fit the context.

QUESTION 21.

Choice D is the best answer because it identifies the drawers, rather than the visitor, as being “dotted with pin-sized knobs.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because all three contain dangling modifiers that obscure the relationship between the visitor, the drawers, and the pin-sized knobs.

QUESTION 22.

Choice B is the best answer because paragraph 3 offers an overview of the exhibit and so serves to introduce the specific aspects of particular miniature rooms described in paragraphs 2 and 4.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each proposes a placement of paragraph 2 that prevents the passage from developing in a logical sequence.