



Answer Explanations

SAT[®] Practice Test #2

QUESTION 23.

Choice A is the best answer because it correctly completes the noun phrase that begins with “sea otters,” and directly follows the noun phrase with the verb “help.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each separates the noun “otters” from the verb “help” in a way that results in a grammatically incomplete sentence.

QUESTION 24.

Choice B is the best answer because the data in the chart show lower sea urchin density in areas where sea otters have lived for two years or less than in areas where no otters are present.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none accurately describes the data in the chart.

QUESTION 25.

Choice B is the best answer because the conjunctive adverb “however” accurately communicates the contrast between an environment shaped by the presence of sea otters, described in the preceding sentence, and an environment shaped by the absence of sea otters, described in this sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each presents a conjunctive adverb that does not accurately depict the relationship between the preceding sentence and the sentence with the underlined word.

QUESTION 26.

Choice A is the best answer because the additional information usefully connects the carbon dioxide levels mentioned in this sentence with the global warming mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each misinterprets the relationship between the proposed information and the main points of the paragraph and the passage.

QUESTION 27.

Choice D is the best answer because it offers the verb “suggests” followed directly by its object, a that-clause, without interruption.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each contains punctuation that unnecessarily separates the study from its findings—that is, separates the verb from its object.

QUESTION 28.

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately reflects the fact that sea urchins “graze voraciously on kelp,” as stated in the first paragraph, and it also maintains the tone of the passage.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each offers a term that does not accurately describe the behavior of sea otters.

QUESTION 29.

Choice C is the best answer because the possessive singular pronoun “its” corresponds with the referent “kelp,” which appears later in the sentence, and with the possessive relationship between the pronoun and the “terrestrial plant cousins.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none provides a pronoun that is both singular and possessive.

QUESTION 30.

Choice C is the best answer because it provides the noun “sea otters” to identify who or what “played a role.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each provides a pronoun that makes no sense in the context of the paragraph and the passage, which is about the role sea otters play—not the role scientists play or the role kelp plays.

QUESTION 31.

Choice D is the best answer because sentence 5 indicates that sea otters’ importance in decreasing atmospheric carbon dioxide was not known, and the sentence to be added indicates that a surprise will follow. Sentence 6 provides that surprise: sea otters have a large impact on the amount of carbon dioxide kelp can remove from the atmosphere.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each interrupts the logical flow of ideas in the paragraph.

QUESTION 32.

Choice B is the best answer because its clear wording and formal tone correspond with the passage’s established style.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains vague language that is inconsistent with the passage’s clear wording and formal tone.

QUESTION 33.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides punctuation that appropriately identifies “removed” as the definition of “sequestered.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each contains punctuation that obscures the relationship between “sequestered,” “removed,” and the text that follows.

QUESTION 34.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a conjunction that correctly identifies the relationship between “a practice” and the actions involved in the practice.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each contains a conjunction that miscommunicates the relationship between the text that precedes and follows the underlined portion.

QUESTION 35.

Choice A is the best answer because it provides a comma to close the appositive clause “a practice whereby products are designed to have a limited period of usefulness,” which also begins with a comma.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because each provides closing punctuation inconsistent with the punctuation at the beginning of the clause.

QUESTION 36.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides an adjective that accurately describes the clear “contrast” between products “designed to have a limited period of usefulness” and those “produced to be durable.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none provides an adjective that appropriately modifies “contrast” in the context of the paragraph.

QUESTION 37.

Choice A is the best answer because by mentioning the “specialized” methods used in repair shops, it suggests that repairing goods is seen as a specialty rather than as a common activity. This connects logically with the “rare” repair shops introduced just before the underlined portion.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because none provides information that supports the claim made in the sentence.

QUESTION 38.

Choice B is the best answer because it provides the correct spelling of the noun “fair,” meaning exhibition, and uses the correct word “than” to create the comparison between a “fair” and a “café.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each contains a misspelling of either “fair” or “than.”

QUESTION 39.

Choice C is the best answer because it offers a relative pronoun that properly links the noun “Martine Postma” with the appropriate verb “wanted.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none contains a pronoun that is appropriate for the referent and placement of the clause.

QUESTION 40.

Choice D is the best answer because it provides the most concise phrasing and links the sentence appropriately to the previous sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each provides an unnecessary adverb that obscures the relationship between this sentence and the previous one.

QUESTION 41.

Choice D is the best answer because the gerund “waiting” corresponds with the preposition “for” and the present tense used in the rest of the sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each contains a verb form not used with the preposition “for.”

QUESTION 42.

Choice C is the best answer because it appropriately places sentence 5, which describes the places Repair Cafés can be found today, between a sentence that gives the first Repair Café’s location and purpose and a statement about current customers and how they use Repair Cafés.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each creates a paragraph with an inappropriate shift in verb tense and, therefore, an illogical sequence of information.

QUESTION 43.

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately states that the issue of “corporate and service-based jobs” is not particularly relevant at this point in the paragraph. The focus here is on repairing objects in a “throwaway culture,” not jobs.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each misinterprets the relationship between the proposed text and the information in the paragraph.

QUESTION 44.

Choice D is the best answer because the phrase “and other countries” communicates the fact that there are additional items not being named that could be added to the list; no other wording is required to clarify that point.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each presents a word or phrase that results in a redundancy with “and other countries.”