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TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT 2.0

English Language Arts and Reading

Sample Questions

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Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA2) English Language Arts and Reading Sample Questions

The TSIA2 English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) test covers four main categories: two reading focused and two writing focused.

Reading-focused test questions cover the following two categories:

- Literary text analysis (explicit information, inferences, author's craft, vocabulary)
- Informational text analysis and synthesis (main ideas and supporting details, inferences [single-passage], author's craft, vocabulary, synthesis [paired argumentative passages])

Writing-focused test questions cover the following two categories:

- Essay revision and editing (development, organization, effective language use, Standard English conventions)
- Sentence revision, editing, and completion (conventions of grammar, conventions of usage, and conventions of punctuation)

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Sample Questions

Directions for questions 1–15

Read the passage(s) below and then choose the best answer to each question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage(s).

In this passage from a novel, two young women visit a bookshop in the fictional town of Brahmpur, India.

(1) The Imperial Book Depot was one of the two best bookshops in town, and was located on Nabiganj, the fashionable street that was the last bulwark of modernity before the labyrinthine alleys and ancient, cluttered neighbourhoods of Old Brahmpur. **(2)** Though it was a couple of miles away from the university proper it had a greater following among students and teachers than the University and Allied Bookshop, which was just a few minutes away from campus. **(3)** The Imperial Book Depot was run by two brothers, Yashwant and Balwant, both almost illiterate in English, but both (despite their prosperous roundness) so energetic and entrepreneurial that it apparently made no difference. **(4)** They had the best stock in town, and were extremely helpful to their customers. **(5)** If a book was not available in the shop, they asked the customer himself to write down its name on the appropriate order form.

(6) Twice a week an impoverished university student was paid to sort new arrivals onto the designated shelves. **(7)** And since the bookshop prided itself on its academic as well as general stock, the proprietors unashamedly collared university teachers who wandered in to browse, sat them down with a cup of tea and a couple of publishers' lists, and made them tick off titles that they thought the bookshop should consider ordering. **(8)** These teachers were happy to ensure that books they needed for their courses would be readily available to their students. **(9)** Many of them resented the University and Allied Bookshop for its entrenched, lethargic, unresponsive and high-handed ways.

(10) After classes, Lata and Malati, both dressed casually in their usual salwaar-kameez[1], went to Nabiganj to wander around and have a cup of coffee at the Blue Danube coffee house. **(11)** This activity, known to university students as "ganjing," they could afford to indulge in about once a week. **(12)** As they passed the Imperial Book Depot, they were drawn magnetically in. **(13)** Each wandered off to her favourite shelves and subjects. **(14)** Malati headed straight for the novels, Lata went for poetry. **(15)** On the way, however, she paused by the science shelves, not because she understood much science, but, rather, because she did not. **(16)** Whenever she opened a scientific book and saw whole paragraphs of incomprehensible words and symbols, she felt a sense of wonder at the great territories of learning that lay beyond her—the sum of so many noble and purposive attempts to make objective sense of the world. **(17)** She enjoyed the feeling; it suited her serious moods; and this afternoon she was feeling serious.

[1]A salwaar-kameez is a traditional Indian garment.

Adapted from Vikram Seth, *A Suitable Boy*.

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1. The first paragraph (sentences 1–5) suggests which of the following about the relationship between university students and teachers and the Imperial Book Depot?
   A. University people avoid Yashwant and Balwant because the two do not speak English well.
   B. Students will soon start buying their books from a newer and more modern bookshop.
   C. Both students and teachers prefer the Imperial Book Depot to the bookshop closer to campus.
   D. Teachers dislike using complicated handwritten forms to order books for their classes.

2. In the second paragraph (sentences 6–9), the narrator indicates which of the following about Imperial Book Depot business practices?
   A. The staff acquire only those books that are most in demand.
   B. The clerks prefer to help people find nonacademic books and magazines.
   C. The owners employ students and rely on teachers for information.
   D. Staff members are generally lazy and take too many breaks for tea.

3. As used in sentence 8, "readily" most nearly means
   A. easily
   B. gladly
   C. willingly
   D. voluntarily

4. The third paragraph (sentences 10–17) suggests that Lata regards science as
   A. a topic that is less engaging than fiction
   B. an interest that is not worth pursuing
   C. a simple but appealing field of study
   D. an unfamiliar but intriguing subject

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Passage 1

As computer programs and online services continue to advance, paperless offices are growing in popularity. Going paperless is certainly a more environmentally friendly option than using reams of paper. A paperless office may also save on various overhead expenses. However, it may be expensive in the long run to go paperless, depending on the size and needs of your company. Another option might be using less paper instead of attempting a completely paperless office. This way, your company can enjoy some advantages of a paperless system while avoiding some of the disadvantages.

Passage 2

Many companies today are choosing not to go paperless because of the high costs of doing so. Despite the "green" advantages, going paperless requires companies to maintain up-to-date hardware and software, and upgrades often come at a steep cost. Businesses may need to hire an IT person to monitor their systems, train new users, and perform regular backups of information. Ensuring online security is also vital, and the more people a company has using a system, the closer the system must be monitored for privacy issues and viruses. It takes a lot of time and money to go paperless, and for many small businesses, it's just not worth the expense.

5. The author of Passage 1 would most likely criticize the author of Passage 2 for
   A. overemphasizing the significance of a company's size
   B. overlooking the environmental benefits of going paperless
   C. failing to consider an alternative to eliminating all paper
   D. underestimating the consequences of technological issues

Passage 1

Are people who work from home slackers? Recent research suggests just the opposite. One study examined the habits and concerns of both in-office and off-site employees over the course of two years. The researchers learned that those who worked at home were 13% more productive and worked longer hours on average than those who worked in the office. Interestingly, the telecommuters took far less time off than their in-office counterparts. The researchers also found that the rate of at-home workers who quit their jobs was far lower than it was for employees who worked in the office. Without stressful commutes, worries about having to take sick days, and various distractions in the office, the telecommuters reported being much happier with their positions.

Passage 2

After working from home for the past year, I was relieved to get back into the office. The office environment has provided me with a much-needed, set schedule—I work for eight hours, and then I go home to a relaxed and work-free environment. When I worked at home, my "office" was always accessible, and my work hours bled into my leisure time so that I was never fully free of my job. Even when spending time with my family after dinner, I'd be checking emails and thinking about projects. Today, my former home office is a family room, and when I spend time relaxing there, work never crosses my mind. Well, almost never.

6. The authors of both passages probably would characterize telecommuters as being generally
   A. unproductive
   B. stressed
   C. hardworking
   D. satisfied

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The first known dentures, worn as early as 700 BCE by the Etruscans of central Italy, were composed mainly of animal teeth held together by gold bands. Later, in the 16th century, a denture made of wooden teeth held in place by suctions became popular in Japan. A "natural" look emerged with the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries, which featured teeth made of ivory or porcelain and mounted on plates of gold or vulcanite, a type of rubber. While some modern dentures still feature porcelain teeth, most dentures today contain teeth made from plastic and mounted on a metal base.

7. The author uses the term "natural" to indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries
   A. resembled real human teeth
   B. included some real human teeth
   C. contained animal teeth rather than artificial substances
   D. were made of materials found in nature

American copyright laws, laws that prohibit the use, distribution, or adaptation of another's product without permission, first applied only to the copying of books, but now cover such diverse products as sound recordings, motion pictures, and computer programs. The federal Copyright Act of 1790 allowed copyright protection for 14 years with one 14-year extension allowed (if the author survived the first 14-year term). The Copyright Act of 1909 extended copyright protection to 28 years with a 28-year renewal, and the Copyright Act of 1976 extended it further, to 75 years.

8. What is the main purpose of this passage?
   A. To explain the need for copyright laws
   B. To show how copyright laws have been applied
   C. To indicate how copyright laws have changed
   D. To argue that copyright laws need to be expanded

If you are committed to healthy, green living and want to reduce your environmental footprint, you might consider expanding your daily diet to include bugs. Supporters of the edible insect initiative rightfully argue that farming insects has a much lower environmental impact than does raising livestock since bugs are easier to harvest and require a fraction of the water and land space that cattle need. Indeed, the high-protein, low-fat health benefits of bug-eating have long been known. For hundreds of years, crickets, silkworms and even tarantulas have been served roasted, stewed, and fried at the dinner tables of many cultures.

9. In the first sentence, "expanding" most nearly means
   A. intensifying
   B. broadening
   C. developing
   D. exaggerating

The 1922 German Expressionist film *Nosferatu*, directed by F. W. Murnau, is considered one of the most influential films in cinematic history—while also being a classic vampire movie. The film is closely based on Bram Stoker's 1897 novel, *Dracula*; however, the villain in the film is called "Count Orlok" rather than "Count Dracula." The reason is that the small studio that produced the film, Prana Film, was unable to secure the rights to Stoker's novel. In fact, shortly after finishing *Nosferatu*, its one and only film, Prana went bankrupt in order to dodge copyright lawsuits from Stoker's widow.

10. In context, "secure" (sentence 3) most nearly means
   A. shelter
   B. fasten
   C. obtain
   D. guarantee

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Polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, is used in most water-carrying pipes in the United States. Known for their resistance to the corrosion that can be caused by water, PVC pipes are more durable than the metal pipes of old. As useful as PVC is, it may be surprising that it was accidentally discovered in 1835 by Henri Victor Regnault, who observed a mysterious white solid plastic forming inside some test tubes that were left exposed to sunlight in his lab.

11. It can be inferred from the passage that metal pipes
    A. are used more than PVC pipes outside of the United States
    B. are more expensive than PVC pipes
    C. are more likely to corrode than PVC pipes
    D. are no longer used in the United States

The first coin-operated vending machines in the United States were installed on the elevated platforms of the New York City railway system in 1888. These machines sold a chewing gum called "Tutti-Frutti," which was manufactured by the Thomas Adams Gum Company. The machines were eventually updated to feature animated figures that would dance each time a gum purchase was made.

12. All of the following statements about the vending machines discussed in the passage are true EXCEPT
    A. they dispensed chewing gum in exchange for coins
    B. they were the first of their kind in the country
    C. they were utilized by train passengers
    D. they were originally designed to entertain customers

The main authors of The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are usually thought of as America's founders. Other, less known personages also deserve that designation, however, and Noah Webster was one of these. Through his writings, which include the still-influential dictionary that bears his name, Webster sought to legitimize an "American English" that was independent of British spelling and pronunciation. For instance, Webster removed the "u" from "colour," creating the distinct American version of the word.

13. According to the passage, Noah Webster
    A. helped write the Constitution
    B. was a poor speller
    C. authored a new dictionary
    D. was unknown in his lifetime

Swarms of locusts causing deadly plagues are usually thought of as the stuff of myths. However, the desert locust *Schistocerca gregaria* has been responsible for damage to populations across three continents. The desert locust does its damage by consuming its body weight in food each day, devouring virtually any type of vegetation it encounters. When millions of locusts swarm into an area, their effect on the food supply in that area and surrounding areas can be catastrophic. Fortunately, it takes a big, sustained rainstorm (a rare event in desert areas) to create the conditions in which desert locusts thrive.

14. The passage is primarily about
    A. the damage done by swarms of desert locusts
    B. the consumption behavior of the desert locust
    C. comparing real plagues to mythical ones
    D. protecting vulnerable areas from desert locusts

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Some historians attribute the origins of the front porches so common in American houses to the covered porticos of classical Rome. Indeed, our word "porch" derives from the Latin *portico*. However, these colonnaded spaces were almost always connected to public or religious structures rather than to private homes. The loggias of Renaissance Venice, recessed front entryways built into the ground floor of Venetian canal houses, perhaps provide a better starting point for the evolution of the American-style porch. This architectural feature later became popularized throughout Europe by the 17th-century Venetian architect Andrea Palladio. Eventually, English colonists would spread the loggia to the American colonies.

15. Does the author agree with the "historians" who attribute the origins of the American front porch to the classical Roman portico?
    A. Yes, because the word "porch" derives from the Latin word *portico*
    B. Yes, because the buildings of ancient Rome have influenced many American architects
    C. No, because Roman porticos had public uses rather than domestic ones
    D. No, because Italian architecture was popular in Europe but not in America

Directions for questions 16–19

Read the following early draft of an essay and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

(1) What happens in our brains when we read? **(2)** As one would expect, the parts of the brain associated with language development and processing play a central role. **(3)** But recent research by neuroscientists suggests that the words and phrases we encounter when reading stories activate many other parts of our brains as well, including those responsible for smell, touch, motion, and even empathy.

(4) In one study, researchers asked participants to read words and have them scanned by a brain imaging machine. **(5)** Brain imaging machines are also used to detect the effects of tumors, stroke, head and brain injury, or diseases such as Alzheimer's. **(6)** When subjects looked at words such as "perfume," their primary olfactory cortex, the region used for smells, lit up; when they saw words such as "chair," this region remained dark. **(7)** In another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused the sensory cortex, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not. **(8)** The sensory cortex is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch. **(9)** In a third study, sentences like "Pablo kicked the ball" caused brain activity in the motor cortex, which coordinates the body's movements. **(10)** This activity was concentrated in different parts of the motor cortex depending on whether the movement was arm-related or leg-related.

(11) The idea that reading activates parts of the brain associated with "real life" functions goes beyond simple words and phrases: there is evidence that the brain treats the detailed interactions among characters in a book as something like real-life social encounters. **(12)** One scientist has proposed a reason: reading produces a vivid simulation of reality, one that "runs on minds of readers just as computer simulations run on computers." **(13)** The brain, it seems, does not make much of a distinction between reading about an experience and encountering it in real life.

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16. In context, which phrase should replace the vague pronoun "them" in sentence 4 (reproduced below)?

    In one study, researchers asked participants to read words and have them scanned by a brain imaging machine.

    A. the researchers
    B. the participants
    C. the words
    D. their brains

17. Which sentence provides unnecessary information and should be deleted from the second paragraph (sentences 4–10)?

    A. Sentence 4
    B. Sentence 5
    C. Sentence 6
    D. Sentence 9

18. In context, which of the following is the best way to revise and combine sentences 7 and 8 (reproduced below)?

    In another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused the sensory cortex, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not. The sensory cortex is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch.

    A. Since the sensory cortex is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch, in another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused it, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not.
    B. In another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused the sensory cortex, the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not.
    C. In another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused the sensory cortex, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not and it is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch.
    D. In another study, metaphors involving texture, such as "The singer had a velvet voice," roused the sensory cortex, while phrases such as "The singer had a pleasing voice" did not; however, the sensory cortex is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving texture through touch.

19. Which piece of evidence, if added to the third paragraph (sentences 11–13), would best support the writer's argument?

    A. Information about a study that showed substantial overlap in the parts of the brain used to understand stories and those used to navigate interactions with other people
    B. A discussion of how the nature of reading has changed due to people choosing to read books, magazines, and newspapers on computers and mobile devices rather than in print
    C. A quote from a neuroscientist about the connection between watching television and decreased brain activity
    D. A statement from a teacher about how reading great literature enhances students' minds and improves students as human beings

Directions for questions 20–30

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

20. Indiana is the smallest state in the Midwest <u>although they have</u> one of the largest populations of any state in that region.

    A. although they have
    B. although with
    C. but has
    D. but they have

21. The fans in the audience expressed <u>one's</u> appreciation for the performance by giving the lead actor a standing ovation.

    A. one's
    B. their
    C. its
    D. your

22. Charleston, South Carolina, is a popular city for tourists, <u>with their historical sites and beautiful weather</u>.

    A. with their historical sites and beautiful weather
    B. with its historical sites and beautiful weather
    C. it has historical sites and beautiful weather
    D. because of their historical sites and beautiful weather

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23. If I see the man who works at that store, he is wearing a green baseball cap.
    A. If
    B. Until
    C. Whenever
    D. Even though

24. Walking on a leash and barking on command, the judges were impressed by the dog.
    A. judges were impressed by the dog
    B. dog impressed the judges
    C. judges were being impressed by the dog
    D. dog having impressed the judges

25. Nothing grows as well in Kentucky as burley tobacco, being the state's chief agricultural crop.
    A. tobacco, being the
    B. tobacco, the
    C. tobacco and the
    D. tobacco, it is the

26. Some children are taught by precept rather than by example, they do not tend to adopt their parents' values.
    A. Some children are taught by precept rather than by example, they
    B. Teaching children by precept rather than by example, the result is they
    C. Because some children are taught by precept rather than by example and
    D. Children who are taught by precept rather than by example

27. With the increase in fuel prices, and some truck drivers being in very difficult circumstances.
    A. With the increase in fuel prices, and some truck drivers being
    B. With the increase in fuel prices, some truck drivers are
    C. With fuel prices being what they are, some truck drivers being
    D. Fuel prices being what they are, thus some truck drivers are

28. Because Jean Rhys grew up in the West Indies island of Dominica and was educated there; this served as excellent background material for her most successful novel, *Wide Sargasso Sea,* which is set in the West Indies.
    A. there; this served as
    B. there; thus giving her
    C. there, she had
    D. there, and therefore she had

29. Stamp collecting being a hobby sometimes used in schools to teach economics and social studies.
    A. collecting being a hobby
    B. collecting, a hobby,
    C. collecting, which is a hobby
    D. collecting is a hobby

30. The committee members took a long lunch break to tour the city, the committee members reconvened.
    A. The committee members took
    B. After taking
    C. While the committee members took
    D. Although taking

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Answer Key

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. C
11. C
12. D
13. C
14. A
15. C
16. D
17. B
18. B
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. B
23. C
24. B
25. B
26. D
27. B
28. C
29. D
30. B

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Rationales

1. **Choice C is the best answer.** In sentence 2, the narrator tells us that "[t]hough it was a couple of miles away from the university proper" the Imperial Book Depot "had a greater following among students and teachers than the University and Allied Bookshop, which was just a few minutes away from campus." This information suggests that the university community has reasons for preferring the Imperial Book Depot to its closer-to-campus rival. Choice A is incorrect because rather than avoiding Yashwant and Balwant, university people seek them out. Choice B is incorrect because students seem content with the Imperial and there is no indication that they are on the verge of seeking out a newer bookshop. Choice D is incorrect because university teachers seem more than willing to fill out the order forms that Yashwant and Balwant urge on them.

2. **Choice C is the best answer**. In the second paragraph (sentences 6–9), the narrator says that "an impoverished university student was paid to sort new arrivals onto the designated shelves"; the narrator then says that Yashwant and Balwant prevailed upon university teachers to "tick off titles that they thought the bookshop should consider ordering." In short, the proprietors of the Imperial Book Depot employ students and rely on teachers for information. Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that staff members acquire only those books that are most in demand. Choice B is incorrect because while the store does have "general stock" as well as academic material, there is no indication that staff prefer to help customers find nonacademic materials. Choice D is incorrect because no staff members are described as lazy—far from it, in fact—and the tea drunk in the passage is drunk by the faculty members from whom the proprietors are acquiring information.

3. **Choice A is the best answer.** In sentence 8, the narrator states that "teachers were happy to ensure that books they needed for their courses would be readily available to their students." In this context, "readily" most nearly means "easily." The teachers were happy that the books students needed could be obtained without difficulty. Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the books are inanimate and not personified in the passage; therefore, they cannot be "gladly," "willingly," or "voluntarily" available.

4. **Choice D is the best answer.** In the third paragraph (sentences 10–17), the narrator tells us that Lata habitually headed for the poetry section of the bookshop, but that "[o]n the way . . . she paused by the science shelves, not because she understood much science, but, rather, because she did not." In science books she sees "whole paragraphs of incomprehensible words and symbols" that fill her with "a sense of wonder at the great territories of learning that lay beyond her." She is mystified by science texts, but she senses in them "the sum of so many noble and purposive attempts to make objective sense of the world." Science is somewhat baffling and unfamiliar to her, but "[s]he enjoyed the feeling"—it intrigues and interests her. Choice A is incorrect because while science may be less engaging to her than her beloved poetry, there is no mention of Lata's attraction to fiction. Choice B is incorrect because she clearly does not consider science to be unworthy of pursuit; in her own way, she pursues it regularly. Choice C is incorrect because she clearly does not consider science to be "simple."

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5. **Choice C is the best answer.** The author of Passage 2 discusses the high costs of "going paperless" and concludes that "for many small businesses, it's just not worth the expense." The author of Passage 1 acknowledges the costs of going paperless ("it may be expensive in the long run") but proposes another option: using less paper. The author of Passage 1 would most likely criticize the author of Passage 2 for failing to consider the option of reducing, but not completely eliminating, paper in an office. Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not place much emphasis on the size of a company. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does note "the 'green' advantages" of going paperless. Choice D is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 speaks of technological considerations throughout the passage.

6. **Choice C is the best answer.** The author of Passage 1 refers to a study that shows that telecommuters "worked longer hours on average" and "took far less time off" than those who worked in an office. The author of Passage 2 indicates that when working from home, the author "was never fully free" from work, "checking emails and thinking about projects" while spending time with family. Therefore, it is very likely that both authors would characterize telecommuters as hardworking. Choice A is incorrect because both authors suggest that telecommuters are productive. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 cites research findings that show that people actually are "happier with their positions" when they telecommute. Choice D is incorrect because it is clear that the author of Passage 2 was not satisfied when working from home.

7. **Choice A is the best answer.** The author states that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries, which were made of ivory and porcelain, had a more "natural" look than the previous dentures, which had been made of wood and animal teeth. Teeth made of ivory or porcelain would likely look more "natural"—that is, more like human teeth—than animal teeth or wooden teeth would. Choices B and C are incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the dentures of the 18th and 19th centuries contained real human teeth or animal teeth. Choice D is incorrect because the author uses the word "natural" to describe the appearance of the dentures, not the materials used to make the dentures.

8. **Choice C is the best answer.** The main purpose of the passage is to indicate how copyright laws have changed, both in terms of the types of products protected and the length of the protection. The author of the passage indicates that these laws "first applied only to the copying of books, but now cover . . . diverse products" and that the term of copyright protection has been extended from 14 years to 75 years. Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the author is not focused on explaining the need for copyright laws, giving examples of how copyright laws have been applied, or arguing that copyright laws need to be further expanded.

9. **Choice B is the best answer.** In the first sentence, the author states that "If you are committed to healthy, green living . . . you might consider expanding your daily diet to include bugs." In this context, "expanding" most nearly means "broadening." The author is indicating that people who want to be healthy and environmentally conscious should consider a broader, more extensive diet—one that includes bugs. Choice A is incorrect because the author is not suggesting "intensifying," or strengthening, one's diet. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "developing" would mean beginning or creating; it is somewhat illogical to suggest that people could create their daily diet, as humans already must consume food on a daily basis. Choice D is incorrect because it is not clear what it would mean to exaggerate, or overstate, one's diet "to include bugs."

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10. **Choice C is the best answer.** The author of the passage explains that "the small studio that produced" *Nosferatu* "was unable to secure the rights to" Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula*. In this context, "secure" most nearly means "obtain," or get; the author is indicating that the film studio was unable to get the rights to the novel *Dracula*. Choice A is incorrect because it is not clear how a film studio would "shelter," or protect, a novel. Choice B is incorrect because the author is not indicating that the studio physically attached, or fastened, the novel to anything. Choice D is incorrect because it is clear that the studio did not have the rights to *Dracula*; therefore, the studio would not be able to "guarantee" those rights, or promise or pledge them to anyone else.

11. **Choice C is the best answer.** The author states that PVC pipes are "Known for their resistance to the corrosion that can be caused by water" and "are more durable than . . . metal pipes." The author is implying, but not directly stating, that metal water-carrying pipes are more likely to corrode than PVC pipes. Choices A, B, and D are incorrect. The author notes that metal pipes were more common in the past ("metal pipes of old"), and that PVC is used in most pipes in the United States today, but there is no indication that metal pipes are used more than PVC pipes outside of the United States, that they are more expensive than PVC pipes, or that they are no longer used in the United States.

12. **Choice D is the best answer.** The vending machines were NOT originally designed to entertain customers. The author of the passage states that the vending machines were "eventually updated to feature animated figures that would dance," presumably to entertain customers, but the passage does not state that the machines were originally designed for entertainment purposes. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because according to the passage they are all true.

13. **Choice C is the best answer.** According to the author of the passage, Noah Webster's writings "include the still-influential dictionary that bears his name." Choice A is incorrect because the author indicates that Noah Webster was a "less known personage" than the "main authors of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution," not that he helped write the Constitution. Choice B is incorrect because the author indicates that Webster created "distinct American version[s]" of words, not that he was a poor speller. Choice D is incorrect because although the author refers to Webster as being "less known" than other so-called "Founding Fathers," the author does not indicate that Webster was unknown in his lifetime.

14. **Choice A is the best answer.** The author of the passage primarily focuses on the damage done by swarms of desert locusts, discussing where ("across three continents"), how (by "consuming its body weight in food each day"), and under what conditions ("a big, sustained rainstorm") the locusts cause this damage. Choice B is incorrect because while the author mentions the consumption behavior of the locust ("consuming its body weight in food each day"), this is not the main topic of the passage. Choice C is incorrect because while the author acknowledges that some people think of "deadly plagues" caused by locusts as "the stuff of myths," the author makes no comparison between real and mythical plagues. Choice D is incorrect because the author does not mention protecting vulnerable areas from locusts.

15. **Choice C is the best answer.** The author of the passage does not agree with the "historians" who attribute the origins of the American front porch to the classical Roman portico. The author points out that "these colonnaded spaces were almost always connected to public or religious structures rather than to private homes"—that is, Roman porticos had public uses rather than domestic ones—and suggests that "loggias of Renaissance Venice . . . perhaps provide a better starting point." Choices A and B are incorrect because the author does *not* agree with the historians. Choice D is incorrect because although the author disagrees with the historians, the author indicates that Italian architecture was popular in America ("English colonists . . . spread the loggia to the American colonies"), not unpopular.

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16. **Choice D is the best answer.** In context, the only logical choice is "their [the participants'] brains." Only brains would be "scanned by a brain imaging machine." Choices A and C are incorrect because the machine would not have scanned the researchers or the words. Choice B is incorrect. Indirectly, the participants were being scanned, but "their brains" is a more precise fit in this context than "the participants."

17. **Choice B is the best answer.** Sentence 5 indicates other uses of brain imaging machines ("machines are also used to detect the effects of tumors . . . "). If the passage were to go on to discuss these other uses, sentence 5 might prove to be important. But in the context of this paragraph, which is about three studies of the relationship between words and sentences read by readers and activity in different parts of the brain, further information about brain imaging machines is unnecessary. Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because each sentence presents necessary information in the context of the paragraph.

18. **Choice B is the best answer.** All that the original sentence 8 adds to sentence 7 is background information about the sensory cortex. Therefore, it is best to incorporate the information in sentence 8 into the existing structure of sentence 7, as is done in choice B. Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they create confusion by introducing vagueness or relationships that are not supported by the passage.

19. **Choice A is the best answer.** The third paragraph (sentences 11–13) continues the passage's discussion of the links between reading and brain activity, highlighting the fact that the brain does not distinguish very much "between reading about an experience and encountering it in real life." Only choice A provides detailed supporting evidence for the connections between reading and "real life" functions, with a focus on those social encounters described in the third paragraph. Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they offer information unrelated to the central concerns of the passage.

20. **Choice C is the best answer.** It provides the singular verb "has" to agree with the singular subject "Indiana." Choice A is incorrect because it results in an agreement error; the plural pronoun "they" does not agree with the singular noun to which it refers, "Indiana." Choice B is incorrect because it results in unidiomatic phrasing: the dependent clause "although with . . . region" is not idiomatic. Choice D is incorrect because, like choice A, it results in an agreement error; again, the plural pronoun "they" does not agree with the singular noun "Indiana."

21. **Choice B is the best answer.** It provides the plural possessive pronoun "their" to agree with the plural noun "fans," to which the pronoun refers. Choices A and C are incorrect because the singular possessive pronouns "one's" and "its" do not agree with the plural noun "fans." Choice D is incorrect because it does not make sense in this context.

22. **Choice B is the best answer.** It provides the singular possessive pronoun "its" to agree with the singular noun phrase that precedes it, "Charleston, South Carolina." Choice A is incorrect because the plural possessive pronoun "their" does not agree with the singular noun phrase "Charleston, South Carolina." Choice C is incorrect because while it provides a singular pronoun, "it," this choice results in a comma splice: two independent clauses are improperly joined with only a comma. Choice D is incorrect because it results in the same pronoun agreement error as choice A as well as the incorrect placement of the comma after "tourists."

23. **Choice C is the best answer.** It avoids the illogical phrasing of the other choices by providing the conjunction "Whenever" to indicate that one thing is true ("he is wearing a green baseball cap") every time another thing occurs ("I see the man"). Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they all result in illogical phrasing that does not indicate the relationship specified by the information in the sentence.

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24. **Choice B is the best answer.** It appropriately places the noun "dog" directly after the phrase that modifies it ("Walking on a leash and barking on command"). Choices A and C are incorrect because they improperly imply that the "judges" were "Walking on a leash and barking on command." Choice D is incorrect because while it also places the noun "dog" after the modifying phrase, this choice results in a sentence fragment; there is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the phrase "having impressed the judges."

25. **Choice B is the best answer.** It places the modifying phrase "the state's chief agricultural crop" directly after "burley tobacco," the noun phrase it modifies. Choice A is incorrect because by using the present participle "being" to introduce the modifying phrase, the choice illogically suggests causality—being the state's chief agricultural crop (in other words, because it is the state's chief agricultural crop), nothing grows as well in Kentucky as burley tobacco. Choice C is incorrect because it presents the modifying phrase "the state's chief agricultural crop" as a noun phrase, treating it as an entirely separate entity from "burley tobacco." This illogically suggests that both "burley tobacco" and "the state's chief agricultural crop" grow better than anything else in Kentucky. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice: two independent clauses are improperly joined with only a comma.

26. **Choice D is the best answer.** It places a relative clause, "who are taught by precept rather than by example," between the subject of the sentence, "Children," and the main verb, "do . . . tend." Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice: two independent clauses are improperly joined by only a comma. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a modification error, implying that "the result" is what taught the children. Choice C is incorrect because it results in faulty sentence structure: a dependent clause ("Because . . . example") is used instead of an independent clause before the conjunction "and."

27. **Choice B is the best answer.** It provides the main verb "are" to carry out the action of the sentence. Choices A and C are incorrect because there is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only instances of the present participle "being." Choice D is incorrect because it results in faulty sentence structure, with no main verb in what is intended to be the first independent clause before "thus."

28. **Choice C is the best answer.** It appropriately joins the dependent clause "Because Jean Rhys grew up . . . and was educated there" to the independent clause "she had . . . the West Indies" with only a comma. Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because each joins two clauses inappropriately. Choice A is incorrect because it uses a semicolon to join a dependent and an independent clause (semicolons should be used to join two independent clauses) and introduces the vague pronoun "this." Choice B is incorrect because it uses a semicolon to join two dependent clauses (and lacks an independent clause). Choice D is incorrect because it unnecessarily places the conjunction "and" and the adverb "therefore" between a dependent and an independent clause.

29. **Choice D is the best answer.** It provides the verb "is" to carry out the action of the sentence. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not provide a main verb and thus result in sentence fragment errors.

30. **Choice B is the best answer.** It provides the adverbial clause "After taking a long lunch break to tour the city" to modify the main verb of the sentence, "reconvened." Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice: two independent clauses are improperly joined with only a comma. Choices C and D are incorrect because while they provide adverbial clauses, neither clause logically modifies the verb "reconvened."

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