

Answers: Practice #5 "Nod"

PSAT/NMSQT Practice Test #1

Writing and Language Test Answer Explanations

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Question 1

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) see an annual loss of \$63.2 billion each year
- (C) lose \$63.2 billion annually
- (D) have a yearly loss of \$63.2 billion annually

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Concision

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because it states the situation succinctly and is free of redundancies.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because all three contain a redundancy in which a reference to the annual nature of the loss is stated twice; for example, Choice A states "yearly" and "annually."

Question 2

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) main things leading up to
- (C) huge things about
- (D) primary causes of

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Effective Language Use / Style and tone

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because the use of language is correct for standard written English and matches the formal tone of the passage.

Choices A and C are incorrect because both rely on colloquial language, specifically "big" and "huge," which strays from the formal tone of the article. Additionally, "things" in Choice C is vague and informal. Choice B is incorrect for the same reason.

Question 3

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) have spent
- (C) spends
- (D) are spent

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Usage / Agreement / Subject-verb agreement

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer because the verb “spends” grammatically corresponds with the singular noun “American.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the noun and verb do not grammatically correspond. The verbs “spend,” “have spent” and “are spent” would correspond with a plural noun, but not with the singular noun “American.”

Question 4

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) workers; managers
- (C) workers, managers,
- (D) workers, managers

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Conventions of Punctuation / Within-sentence punctuation

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates a complete sentence with clauses whose relationship to one another is clear.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a sentence fragment. Choice B is incorrect because the first clause is dependent, signaled by the conditional phrase “As long as,” so a semicolon cannot be used. Choice C is incorrect because the comma following “managers” inappropriately separates the noun from the verb “should champion.”

Question 5

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- (A) where it is now.
- (B) before sentence 1.
- (C) after sentence 1.
- (D) after sentence 4.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Organization / Logical sequence

Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. Sentence 3 logically follows the statement in sentence 1 where readers learn that part of the problem is the work itself. Sentence 3 then tells readers what about the work has caused the decrease in sleep: “The hours the average American spend[s] working have increased dramatically....”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not order the information in the paragraph logically.

Question 6

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

“Even fifteen-minute power naps improve alertness, creativity, and concentration.”

Should the writer make this addition here?

- (A) Yes, because it demonstrates that the benefits of napping can be gained without sacrificing large amounts of work time.
- (B) Yes, because it explains the methodology of the studies mentioned in the previous sentence.
- (C) No, because a discussion of the type of nap workers take is not important to the writer’s main point in the paragraph.
- (D) No, because it contradicts the writer’s discussion of napping in the previous sentences.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Development / Focus

Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer because it adds relevant information in support of the claim that companies should allow their employees to take naps.

Choice B is incorrect because the prospective sentence does not explain methodology. Choice C is incorrect because the example in the sentence provides additional information in support of napping. Choice D is incorrect because there is no contradiction.

Question 7

Which choice provides a supporting example that reinforces the main point of the sentence?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) including a lower risk of cardiovascular problems such as heart attack and stroke.
- (C) which are essential in an era of rising health care costs.
- (D) in addition to making employees more efficient.

Item Difficulty: Hard

Content: Development / Support

Best answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because it offers a specific example of a long-term health benefit that could lead to “reduced health care costs.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they offer no supporting examples of long-term health benefits that could reduce health care costs.

Question 8

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) gently wake
- (C) gently to wake
- (D) gentle waking of

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Parallel structure

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because the verb “wake” is consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, “block” and “play.” Furthermore, choice B provides a verb that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because, in each instance, the verb is not consistent with the preceding verbs in the series, “block” and “play.”

Question 9

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) among
- (C) between
- (D) into

Item Difficulty: Easy

Content: Conventions of Usage / Conventional expression

Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer because, in this context, the preposition “among” is the only idiomatic choice: napping can be promoted “among” people but not “throughout,” “between,” or “into” them.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the prepositions “throughout,” “between,” and “into” are unidiomatic in this context.

Question 10

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) but it benefits
- (C) as also to
- (D) but also to

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Sentence Structure / Sentence formation / Subordination and coordination

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it completes a parallel construction in which two elements are compared. In this construction “but also to” is parallel to “not only to” and thus is the only choice that creates a grammatically complete and standard sentence. The “not only...but also” construction is also known as a correlative conjunction, meaning that these two phrases should always travel in pairs.

Choices A and C are incorrect because they fail to complete the comparison that the preposition “not only to” signals. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on and incomplete sentence.

Question 11

The writer wants a concluding sentence that restates the main argument of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) Clearly, employers should consider reducing employees' hours when they are overworked.
- (C) Companies should consider employee schedules carefully when implementing a napping policy.
- (D) More businesses should follow their lead and embrace napping on the job.

Item Difficulty: Medium

Content: Organization / Introductions, conclusions, and transitions

Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer because it logically concludes the essay, the main argument of which is that napping during the workday boosts employee productivity and morale and reduces costs associated with poor health and absences.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because none of these choices restates the main argument of the passage.