

Answers: Practice #6 "Coffee" "Arctic"

Writing and Language Test Answer Explanations

Question 1

Choice D is the best answer because the pronoun "it" in the independent clause that begins "it has been . . ." needs the antecedent "coffee." The passive voice phrase "coffee was introduced" is acceptable in this context because indicating who introduced coffee to Italy is not important to the passage.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each results in a vague or ambiguous pronoun ("it," "they," "their").

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Question 2

Choice B is the best answer because the phrase "in fact" signals the relationship between the preceding sentence, which states a fact (coffee "has been a ubiquitous part of Italian culture"), and the following sentence, which provides evidence for the fact ("one cannot visit . . .").

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because these transitional expressions don't signal an accurate relationship between the two sentences they connect. "However," "even so," and "despite" indicate that a contrast will follow, not support for a previous statement.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Question 3

Choice C is the best answer because the plural pronoun "they" agrees in number with the plural noun "coffeehouses," and the plural verb "have become" is used correctly to show that the action is current and ongoing.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the singular pronoun "it" does not agree in number with the plural noun "coffeehouses." Choice D is incorrect because the helping verb "had" cannot describe an action that began in the past and continues into the present.

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Question 4

Choice C is the best answer because the subjective pronoun "who" is used correctly as the subject of the clause to refer to those people who frequent coffeehouses, and the plural verb "love" agrees with the plural pronoun "those."

Choice A is incorrect because "which" is not the correct pronoun to use when referring to people. Choice B is incorrect because "loves" is a singular verb and a plural one is needed to agree with the plural

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

pronoun “those.” Choice D is incorrect because “whom” is the objective case of the pronoun; in this instance the subjective case “who” is needed.

Question 5

Choice B is the best answer because the singular present tense verb “contributes” agrees with the singular noun “way” and is consistent with the previous verb in the sentence, “functions.”

Choice A is incorrect because the plural verb “contribute” doesn’t agree in number with the singular noun “way.” Choice C is incorrect because it offers a participle instead of the basic present tense verb needed for the clause. Choice D is incorrect; the pronoun “which” is unnecessary since a clause isn’t being introduced.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 6

Choice B is the best answer because the example of a fee that is “three to four times as much as the price per drink” most clearly supports the statement that coffeehouses “charge a premium for table service.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not support or explain what “charge a premium” means. Choice A focuses on being able to sit and rest; choice C focuses on the surprise of tourists; and choice D focuses on being waited on at a table.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Question 7

Choice A is the best answer because it most concisely and clearly combines the two sentences (the two sentences need to be combined because “They do this” is a clunky beginning for the second sentence). The new sentence is clear in its description of standing at a coffeehouse bar and being physically very close to others drinking coffee at the bar.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect either because they are wordy or because the syntax does not result in a cohesive sentence.

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 8

Choice B is the best answer because it provides a transition from the previous paragraph’s focus on “the coffee-drinking experience” to the topic of this paragraph, “the making of” coffee “and the timing of its consumption.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect either because they don’t provide a transition between the topics of the two paragraphs or because they include irrelevant information.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 9

Choice A is the best answer because the adjective “correct” is clear and concise.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they all include redundant words. “Correct,” “proper,” “properly,” and “appropriate” all convey the same idea, and any combination of these words should not be used together.

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 10

Choice D is the best answer because two commas are necessary to set off a transitional phrase such as “for example” when it is used in the middle of a sentence.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they all include incorrect punctuation. When needed, commas should be used in pairs to set off transitions and cannot be partnered with colons or dashes.

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 11

Choice D is the best answer because the sentence should not be added. The passage focuses on coffee drinking in Italy and this suggested addition is about the United States. Choice D correctly addresses the reason the sentence should not be added: “because it digresses from the main topic.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because they result in adding a sentence that does not fit with the passage. Choice C is incorrect because it gives a reason that is not supported by the passage.

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Question 12

Choice B is the best answer because a comma is needed to connect the independent clause “Each year . . . Arctic” to the appositive that follows (“A journey . . . fuel up”).

Choices A and C are incorrect because a period or semicolon can’t be used to connect an independent clause to an appositive. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon should be used to connect two independent clauses, not an independent clause and a dependent clause or phrase.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Question 13

Choice C is the best answer because a comma and a conjunction are needed to connect the independent clauses “and the Arctic . . . the year” and “the shorebirds . . . pilgrimage.” Additionally, a verb (“fail”) is needed to complete the second independent clause, not a participle (“failing”).

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice A is incorrect because a participle cannot be used to replace the basic present tense verb “fail.” Choice B is incorrect because a conjunction is needed between the independent clauses. Choice D is incorrect because if a semicolon is used, what follows must be an independent clause.

Question 14

Choice C is the best answer because a pair of commas is needed to set off the nonrestrictive phrase “regardless of latitude” in the middle of the sentence.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because none contains a pair of commas to set off the nonrestrictive phrase.

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Question 15

Choice D is the best answer because the word “mortality” is clear and concise, and no ideas or words are repeated.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they contain redundant words or ideas. “Continuing on” and “continue on” should not be used in the same sentence. “Keep going” and “continuing on” repeat the same idea, as do “mortality” and “death.”

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Question 16

Choice B is the best answer because the singular verb “provides” agrees in number with the singular noun “study.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the plural verbs “provide,” “are providing,” and “have provided” don’t agree with the singular noun “study.”

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 17

Choice B is the best answer because the phrase “four quail eggs” is plural, not possessive, and needs no apostrophe.

Choices A and C are incorrect because no apostrophe is needed in the plural “eggs.” Choice D is incorrect because “quail” should not be plural.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 18

Choice A is the best answer because sentence 5 (the scientists returning to count the eggs “many times over nine days”) logically joins sentence 4 (how many eggs were used to bait the nests at the beginning of the nine-day period) with sentence 6 (how many eggs were required to consider a nest to have survived at the end of the nine-day period).

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because moving sentence 5 would result in a paragraph that doesn't make sense logically or chronologically.

Question 19

Choice B is the best answer because it doesn't contain a conjunctive adverb or transitional phrase, neither of which is needed here.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they contain conjunctive adverbs or transitional phrases that are not needed in the middle of this sentence.

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 20

Choice C is the best answer because the figure indicates that the percent of surviving nests decreased over time at each of the four locations (all four lines show a decrease over the nine-day period).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not correctly represent the information conveyed in the figure. The figure does not indicate that the number of predators invading the nests either increased or decreased, nor does it indicate that the percent of surviving nests increased.

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Question 21

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately describes the data represented in the figure. The percent of surviving nests was greater at higher latitudes (for example, 82 degrees North) than at lower latitudes (for example, 63 degrees North).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the figure does not indicate that the percent of surviving nests at locations having higher latitudes was smaller or remained the same, or that the percent of eggs was lower.

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Question 22

Choice A is the best answer because it most clearly and concisely combines the underlined sentences to indicate the relationship between the risks to the shorebirds and rewards for their offspring.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are wordy or combine ideas in a way that is not logical. Additionally, none indicates the risk-reward relationship as clearly as choice A does.

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

: Hard
