

Writing Skills: Section 5

Writing Skills Question 1

Corrected Sentence:

In 1761 the Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn began his career as assistant musical director in the court of Prince Eszterházy, where he remained until the prince's death in 1790.

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the wordiness of the original sentence by deleting the unnecessary word "there" after the relative clause "where he remained."

Choice (A) results in wordiness. The word "there" is unnecessary after the relative clause "where he remained" and should be deleted.

Choice (B) results in wordiness. The phrase "where it was that he remained" is wordy and can be more concisely expressed as the relative clause "where he remained."

Choice (D) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses ("In 1761 the Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn began his career as assistant musical director in the court of Prince Eszterházy" and "he remained there until the prince's death in 1790") are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (E) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses ("In 1761 the Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn began his career as assistant musical director in the court of Prince Eszterházy" and "he was to remain there until the prince's death in 1790") are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 2

Corrected Sentence:

When he finished reading the story of King Dushyanta and the young maiden Shakuntala, the director decided to make the classic Indian tale into a movie.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the verb tense error of the original by replacing the present perfect verb phrase "has decided," which is not logically consistent with the past tense verb "finished," with the past tense verb "decided."

Choice (A) results in a verb tense error. The present perfect verb phrase "has decided" is not logically consistent with the past tense verb "finished" and should be replaced with the past tense verb "decided."

Choice (B) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the present perfect participial phrase "having decided."

Choice (C) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the present participle "deciding."

Choice (D) results in a verb tense error. The future tense verb phrase "will decide" is not logically consistent with the past tense verb "finished" and should be replaced with the past tense verb "decided."

Writing Skills Question 3

Corrected Sentence:

The Voting Rights Act prohibits states from using literacy tests to keep citizens from voting.

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the unidiomatic preposition of the original by replacing the infinitive form of the verb, “to use,” with the preposition and gerund “from using.” The verb “prohibits” is idiomatically followed by the preposition “from”: *prohibits* something or someone *from* doing something.

Choice (A) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The infinitive form of the verb, “to use,” is not idiomatic after the verb “prohibits” and should be replaced with the idiomatic preposition and gerund “from using.”

Choice (B) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The phrase “that states not use” after the verb “prohibits” is not idiomatic and should be replaced by the phrase “states from using.” The verb “prohibits” is idiomatically followed by the preposition “from”: *prohibits* something or someone *from* doing something.

Choice (C) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The preposition “against” is not idiomatic after the verb “prohibits” and should be replaced with the preposition “from.” In this case, the phrase “against states using” should be replaced with the phrase “states from using.”

Choice (E) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The phrase “to the use of” is not idiomatic after the verb “prohibits” and should be replaced with the idiomatic preposition and gerund “from using.”

Writing Skills Question 4

Corrected Sentence:

Henri Gauthier-Villars, the husband of Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, admired her writing but took advantage of her talent by publishing four of her novels under his own pen name, “Willy.”

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by replacing the unidiomatic, passive construction “by four of her novels being published” with the active construction “by publishing four of her novels” to indicate how Henri Gauthier-Villars took advantage of his wife’s talent.

Choice (A) results in unidiomatic phrasing. In this context, the preposition “by” must be followed by a present participle, not a noun (“four”), in order to create an idiomatic, active construction: “by publishing four of her novels.” The construction “four of her novels being published” is passive and does not indicate who published the four novels.

Choice (C) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“Henri Gauthier-Villars, the husband of Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, admired her writing but took advantage of her talent” and “he published four of her novels under his own pen name, “Willy”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (D) results in a subordination/coordination error and improper use of a relative pronoun. There is nothing in the sentence to which the relative pronoun “which” can logically refer. The phrase “which he published four of her novels” should be replaced by the prepositional phrase “by publishing four of her novels” in order to indicate how Henri-Gauthier-Villars took advantage of his wife’s talent.

Choice (E) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“Henri Gauthier-Villars, the husband of Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, admired her writing but took advantage of her talent” and “four of her novels were published under his own pen name, ‘Willy’”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 5

Corrected Sentence:

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the behavior of chimpanzees and other primates, primatologist Jane Goodall conducted a 45-year study of chimpanzee social and family life.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the modification error of the original by placing the subject “primatologist Jane Goodall” immediately after the dependent clause that modifies it, “In order to gain a deeper understanding of the behavior of chimpanzees and other primates.”

Choice (A) results in a modification error and a sentence fragment. The sentence suggests that “a 45-year study” might “gain a deeper understanding of the behavior of chimpanzees and other primates.” This does not make sense: a study might *provide* a deeper understanding of something, but could not *gain* a deeper understanding. In addition, there is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the past participle “conducted.”

Choice (B) results in a modification error and a sentence fragment. The sentence suggests that “a 45-year study” might “gain a deeper understanding of the behavior of chimpanzees and other primates.” This does not make sense: a study might *provide* a deeper understanding of something, but could not *gain* a deeper understanding. In addition, there is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause that begins “that was conducted.”

Choice (C) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause that begins “who conducted.”

Choice (D) results in a coordination error. The conjunction “therefore” is not necessary in the sentence and should be deleted. In addition, the present tense “conducts” should be replaced with the past tense “conducted”; if the study took 45 years, then it is a completed action that took place in the past.

Writing Skills Question 6

Corrected Sentence:

Although William Christopher “W.C.” Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader, he is best known as the first composer to write down the blues.

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of all the other options by placing the subject “he” directly after the dependent clause that modifies it, “Although William Christopher ‘W.C.’ Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader.”

Choice (B) results in a sentence fragment. There is no subject or main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the dependent clause “Although William Christopher ‘W.C.’ Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader.”

Choice (C) results in faulty sentence structure. A dependent clause (“Although William Christopher ‘W.C.’ Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader”) and an independent clause (“he is best known as the first composer to write down the blues”) are improperly joined by a comma and the conjunction “and.” The conjunction is unnecessary and should be removed.

Choice (D) results in a sentence fragment. There is no subject or main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the dependent clause “Although William Christopher ‘W.C.’ Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader.”

Choice (E) results in a sentence fragment. There is no subject or main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the dependent clause “Although William Christopher ‘W.C.’ Handy was a successful cornet player and a band leader.”

Writing Skills Question 7

Corrected Sentence:

The seven oceans of the world are, in reality, one vast body of water.

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the sentence fragment of the original by providing a main verb, “are,” to carry out the action of the sentence.

Choice (A) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence.

Choice (C) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause beginning “which are.”

Choice (D) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause beginning “that in reality are.”

Choice (E) results in faulty sentence structure and a pronoun agreement error. There are two subjects in the sentence, “The seven oceans” and “it,” with no conjunction connecting them. In addition, the singular pronoun “it” does not agree with the plural subject “The seven oceans.”

Writing Skills Question 8

Corrected Sentence:

Everyone can help reduce environmental pollution by traveling on public transportation whenever possible, choosing low-toxicity paints, and using fewer household chemical products.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the lack of parallelism of the original by providing the gerund “using” for consistency with the previous gerunds “traveling” and “choosing.”

Choice (A) results in a lack of parallelism. The phrase “if fewer household chemical products are used” is not parallel with the other gerund phrases in the series, “traveling on public transportation whenever possible” and “choosing low-toxicity paints.” The conjunction “if” should be replaced with the gerund “using”: “using fewer household chemical products.”

Choice (B) results in a lack of parallelism and an ambiguous pronoun. The phrase “if they use fewer household chemical products” is not parallel with the other gerund phrases in the series, “traveling on public transportation whenever possible” and “choosing low-toxicity paints.” In addition, there is nothing in the sentence to which the plural pronoun “they” can logically refer. The phrase “if they use” should be replaced with the gerund “using”: “using fewer household chemical products.”

Choice (C) results in a lack of parallelism. The phrase “if one uses fewer household chemical products” is not parallel with the other gerund phrases in the series, “traveling on public transportation whenever possible” and “choosing low-toxicity paints.” The phrase “if one uses” should be replaced with the gerund “using”: “using fewer household chemical products.”

Choice (D) results in a lack of parallelism. The phrase “the use of fewer household chemical products” is not parallel with the other gerund phrases in the series, “traveling on public transportation whenever possible” and “choosing low-toxicity paints.” The phrase “the use of” should be replaced with the gerund “using”: “using fewer household chemical products.”

Writing Skills Question 9

Corrected Sentence:

Ernest Withers, who with his camera famously documented the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, also photographed such baseball icons as Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays.

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the faulty sentence structure of the original by removing the unnecessary second subject, the pronoun “he.”

Choice (A) results in faulty sentence structure. The pronoun “he,” which refers to the first subject, “Ernest Withers,” is unnecessary and should be deleted.

Choice (B) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause that begins “who with his camera.”

Choice (D) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause that begins “who with his camera.”

Choice (E) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause that begins “who with his camera.”

Writing Skills Question 10

Corrected Sentence:

As senior speech writer for President Clinton, Carolyn Curiel crafted many of Clinton’s major speeches, including some of his most famous.

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other options by appropriately using the prepositional phrase “including some of his most famous” directly after the noun it modifies, “speeches.”

Choice (B) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The phrase “in which included” is not idiomatic and should be replaced with “including,” which functions as a preposition in this context.

Choice (C) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“As senior speech writer for President Clinton, Carolyn Curiel crafted many of Clinton’s major speeches” and “they include some of his most famous”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (D) results in a subject-verb agreement error and unidiomatic phrasing. The singular verb “includes” does not agree with the plural noun “speeches.” In addition, in this context, “speeches that [include]” is not idiomatic; the relative clause beginning “that includes” should be replaced with the prepositional phrase “including some of his most famous.”

Choice (E) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The phrase “by her including” is not idiomatic in this context and should be replaced with “including,” which functions as a preposition in this context.

Writing Skills Question 11

Corrected Sentence:

Exercising vigorously for at least 30 minutes every day can lower levels of bad cholesterol by as much as 30 percent.

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the lack of subject error of the original by removing the ambiguous pronoun “it”—which does not logically refer to anything in the sentence—and replacing it with the gerund “Exercising” to serve as the subject.

Choice (A) results in a lack of subject. There is nothing in the prepositional phrase “By exercising vigorously for at least 30 minutes every day” to which the pronoun “it” can logically refer. Therefore, the sentence has no clear subject.

Choice (B) results in a lack of subject. There is nothing in the dependent clause “If one exercises vigorously for at least 30 minutes every day” to which the pronoun “it” can logically refer. Therefore, the sentence has no clear subject.

Choice (D) results in a lack of subject. There is nothing in the dependent clause “If you exercise vigorously for at least 30 minutes every day” to which the pronoun “one” can logically refer. Therefore, the sentence has no clear subject. In addition, the pronouns “you” and “one” are inconsistent.

Choice (E) results in unidiomatic phrasing. It is not idiomatic to say “To exercise vigorous...can lower levels of bad cholesterol.” The infinitive form of the verb “To exercise” should be replaced with the gerund “Exercising,” and the adjective “vigorous” should be replaced with the adverb “vigorously.”

Writing Skills Question 12

Corrected Sentence:

In collaboration with her mother, a fashion designer, the artist Faith Ringgold produced *Echoes of Harlem*, the first of her large, painted story quilts, in 1980.

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the modification error of the original by placing the subject “the artist Faith Ringgold” directly after the prepositional phrase that modifies it, “In collaboration with her mother, a fashion designer.”

Choice (A) results in a modification error. It does not make sense to say that “*Echoes of Harlem*,” a quilt, did something “In collaboration with her mother, a fashion designer.”

Choice (B) results in a modification error and a sentence fragment. It does not make sense to say that “*Echoes of Harlem*,” a quilt, did something “In collaboration with her mother, a fashion designer.” In addition, there is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the past participle “produced.”

Choice (D) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the present perfect participle “having produced.”

Choice (E) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the present participle “producing.”

Writing Skills Question 13

Corrected Sentence:

The change in regulations pertaining to extracurricular activities has confused parents, teachers, and students alike.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the subject-verb agreement error of the original by providing the singular verb “has” to agree with the singular subject “change.”

Choice (A) results in a subject-verb agreement error. The plural verb “have” does not agree with the singular subject of the sentence, “change.”

Choice (B) results in a subject-verb agreement error. The plural verb “have” does not agree with the singular subject of the sentence, “change.”

Choice (C) results in a subject-verb agreement error. The plural verb “confuse” does not agree with the singular subject of the sentence, “change.”

Choice (D) results in a modification error and unidiomatic phrasing. The adverb “alike,” which modifies the verb phrase “has confused,” should idiomatically be placed after the direct object “parents, teachers, and students” in order to indicate more clearly who has been confused by the change.

Writing Skills Question 14

Corrected Sentence:

According to legend, the Princess of the Mountains and the King of the Sea united to create the country of Vietnam, a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the modification error of the original by placing the proper noun “Vietnam” directly before the phrase that modifies it, “a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts.”

Choice (A) results in a modification error. The sentence illogically implies that “the King of the Sea” is “a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts.”

Choice (B) results in a modification error. The sentence illogically implies that “the King of the Sea” is “a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts.”

Choice (C) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the dependent clause “when the Princess of the Mountains was united with the King of the Sea, creating the country of Vietnam” and the modifying noun phrase “a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts.”

Choice (D) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“According to legend, the Princess of the Mountains was united with the King of the Sea” and “they created the country of Vietnam, a nation known for its beautiful mountains and scenic coasts”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 15

Corrected Sentence:

Flying buttresses, like those used in the construction of the Gothic cathedral at Chartres, France, relieve pressure on a building’s walls by transmitting the roof’s thrust outward to exterior pillars.

Choice (A) is correct. It avoids the errors of the other options by providing the plural verb “relieve” to agree with the plural subject of the sentence, “Flying buttresses.”

Choice (B) results in a subject-verb agreement error and a comma splice. The singular verb “relieves” does not agree with the plural subject of the sentence, “Flying buttresses.” In addition, two independent clauses (“Flying buttresses, like those used in the construction of the Gothic cathedral at Chartres, France, relieves pressure on a building’s walls” and “it transmits the roof’s thrust outward to exterior pillars”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (C) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the participial phrase “relieving pressure on a building’s walls” and the prepositional phrase “by transmitting the roof’s thrust outward to exterior pillars.”

Choice (D) results in faulty sentence structure. A sentence fragment, “Flying buttresses, like those used in the construction of the Gothic cathedral at Chartres, France,” is improperly joined to an independent clause, “they relieve pressure on a building’s walls by transmitting the roof’s thrust outward to exterior pillars,” resulting in two subjects, “Flying buttresses” and “they.”

Choice (E) results in a modification error and a coordination error. It is not clear what the prepositional phrase “by relieving pressure on a building’s walls” is modifying. In addition, the coordinating conjunction “and” is improperly placed between the subject (“Flying buttresses”) and the verb (“transmit”) of the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 16

Corrected Sentence:

Archaeologists have determined that the city was destroyed sometime in the eleventh century as the result of either a war or a natural disaster.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the lack of parallelism of the original by providing the conjunctive phrase “as the result of” and by using the correlative construction “either...or...” to connect the two noun phrases “a war” and “a natural disaster.”

Choice (A) results in a lack of parallelism. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases by using the correlative construction “either...or...” Here, however, the correlative construction “either...or...” is improperly used to connect a prepositional phrase (“from a war”) with a noun phrase (“a natural disaster”).

Choice (B) results in a lack of parallelism. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases by using the correlative construction “either...or...” Here, however, the correlative construction “either...or...” is improperly used to connect a gerund phrase (“resulting from a war”) with a noun phrase (“a natural disaster”).

Choice (C) results in a lack of parallelism and a modification error. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases by using the correlative construction “either...or...” Here, however, the correlative construction “either...or...” is improperly used to connect a verb phrase (“resulted from a war”) with a noun phrase (“a natural disaster”). In addition, the sentence illogically implies that “the eleventh century...either resulted from a war or a natural disaster.”

Choice (D) results in a lack of parallelism. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases by using the correlative construction “either...or...” Here, however, the correlative construction “either...or...” is improperly used to connect an adverbial phrase (“as the result of a war”) with a noun phrase (“a natural disaster”).

Writing Skills Question 17

Corrected Sentence:

Though it begins in the bustling city of Anchorage, the Iditarod dogsled race runs through vast tracts of wilderness separating small towns and villages.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the modification error of the original by providing the dependent clause “Though it begins in the bustling city of Anchorage” to complete the sentence with an appropriate comparison (the place where “the Iditarod dogsled race runs” is compared to the place where “it begins”).

Choice (A) results in a modification error. The sentence illogically implies that “the Iditarod dogsled race” is “Unlike the bustling city of Anchorage.” It makes no sense to compare a race to a city.

Choice (B) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The phrase “Contrary to beginning in the bustling city of Anchorage” is not idiomatic in this context (it is not idiomatic to say that a thing is “contrary to beginning in” a certain place) and should be rephrased as “Though it begins in the bustling city of Anchorage.”

Choice (C) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“It begins in the bustling city of Anchorage”) and (“however, the Iditarod dogsled race runs through vast tracts of wilderness separating small towns and villages”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (D) results in faulty sentence structure. There is no main verb preceding the conjunction “but” to carry out the action of what should be the first independent clause, only the participle “Beginning.”

Writing Skills Question 18

Corrected Sentence:

The Caesar salad was named not for the Roman emperor Julius Caesar, as many people assume, but for the restaurant owner Caesar Cardini.

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the comma splice of the original by providing the correlative construction “not for...but for...” in order to show a contrast involving two things, or in this context, two people (“Julius Caesar” and “Caesar Cardini”).

Choice (A) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“The Caesar salad was named not for the Roman emperor Julius Caesar, as many people assume” and “it is named for the restaurant owner Caesar Cardini”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (B) results in a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“The Caesar salad was named not for the Roman emperor Julius Caesar, as many people assume” and “it was named for the restaurant owner Caesar Cardini”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (C) involves a lack of parallelism. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases using the correlative construction “not for...but for...” However, here the correlative conjunction “not for” is improperly used with the coordinating conjunction “but” to link a noun phrase (“the Roman emperor Julius Caesar”) with a clause (“it was named for the restaurant owner Caesar Cardini”).

Choice (D) involves a lack of parallelism. The sentence intends to link two noun phrases by using the correlative construction “not for...but for...” Here, however, the correlative conjunction “not for” is improperly used with the coordinating conjunction “but” to link a noun phrase (“the Roman emperor Julius Caesar”) with a verb phrase (“was named for the restaurant owner Caesar Cardini”).

Writing Skills Question 19

Corrected Sentence:

The security office recommends that, when asked to provide a password, you not choose any string of letters that can be found in a dictionary.

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the unidiomatic phrasing of the original by replacing the imperative verb phrase “do not choose” with the subjunctive verb phrase “you not choose,” which idiomatically follows the verb “recommend,” and which serves as part of the subordinate clause “that... you not choose any string of letters that can be found in a dictionary.”

Choice (A) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The subordinate clause “that...do not choose any string of letters that can be found in the dictionary” is not idiomatic in this context and should be rephrased using the subjunctive verb form: “that...you not choose any string of letters that can be found in a dictionary.” An office would not recommend that *do not choose*; it would recommend that *you not choose*.

Choice (B) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The subordinate clause “that...not to choose any string of letters that can be found in the dictionary” is not idiomatic in this context and should be rephrased using the subjunctive verb form: “that...you not choose any string of letters that can be found in a dictionary.” An office would not recommend that *not to choose*; it would recommend that *you not choose*.

Choice (C) results in unidiomatic phrasing. The subordinate clause “that...not choosing any string of letters that can be found in the dictionary” is not idiomatic in this context and should be rephrased using the subjunctive verb form: “that...you not choose any string of letters that can be found in a dictionary.” An office would not recommend that *not choosing*; it would recommend that *you not choose*.

Choice (E) results in wordiness. The clause “your choice should not be” can be reduced to the clearer and more concise phrase “you not choose.”

Writing Skills Question 20

Corrected Sentence:

Born in London to Bengali parents and raised in Rhode Island, Jhumpa Lahiri explores in her fiction cultural conflicts that often arise for those who emigrate from India to the United States.

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the modification error of the original by placing the proper noun “Jhumpa Lahiri” directly after the phrase that modifies it, “Born in London to Bengali parents and raised in Rhode Island.”

Choice (A) results in a modification error. The sentence illogically implies that “Jhumpa Lahiri’s fiction” was “Born in London to Bengali parents and raised in Rhode Island.”

Choice (B) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause beginning “whose fiction...”

Choice (D) results in a sentence fragment. There is no main verb to carry out the action of the sentence, only the relative clause beginning “in whose fiction...”

Choice (E) results in a modification error. The sentence illogically implies that “the fiction of Jhumpa Lahiri” was “Born in London to Bengali parents and raised in Rhode Island.”

Writing Skills Question 21

Corrected Sentence:

Frances Harper won fame not only for her poems opposing slavery but also for her lectures supporting women’s suffrage.

The error in the sentence occurs at (C). The phrase “and also” does not appropriately complete the intended correlative construction “not only...but also...” and should be replaced with the correlative conjunction “but also.”

There is no error at (A). The past tense verb “won” appropriately describes an action that began and ended in the past. In addition, the noun “fame” appropriately serves as the direct object of the verb “won.” (To “win fame” is to become famous.)

There is no error at (B). The preposition “for” appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “for her poems opposing slavery,” which modifies the noun “fame.”

There is no error at (D). The present participle “supporting” appropriately serves as part of the participial phrase “supporting women’s suffrage,” which modifies the noun “lectures.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 22

Corrected Sentence:

Born in Puerto Rico, actress María “Mapy” Cortés became so famous in Mexico during the 1940s that film companies clamored to make movies featuring her and her husband, Fernando Cortés.

The error in the sentence occurs at (D). The nominative pronoun “she” cannot function as the object of the participle “featuring” and should be replaced with the objective pronoun “her.”

There is no error at (A). The past participle “Born” appropriately serves as part of the participial phrase “Born in Puerto Rico,” which modifies “María ‘Mapy’ Cortés.” In addition, the preposition “in” idiomatically follows the participle “Born” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “in Puerto Rico.”

There is no error at (B). The preposition “during” appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “during the 1940s.”

There is no error at (C). The conjunction “that” appropriately serves as part of the correlative construction “so...that...” In addition, the adjective “film” appropriately modifies the plural noun “companies.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 23

Corrected Sentence:

Though the creator of the yo-yo was awarded a patent in 1866, the toy did not become widely available until 1928, when Pedro Flores opened the Yo-Yo Manufacturing Company.

There is no error in the sentence.

There is no error at (A). The past tense verb phrase “was awarded” appropriately describes an action that began and ended in the past.

There is no error at (B). The past tense verb phrase “did not become” appropriately indicates that an action (the yo-yo becoming “widely available”) did not occur before a particular time in the past (“1928”).

There is no error at (C). The adverb “widely” appropriately modifies the predicate adjective “available.”

There is no error at (D). The relative pronoun “when” appropriately refers to the noun “1928” and appropriately introduces the relative clause “when Pedro Flores opened the Yo-Yo Manufacturing Company.”

Writing Skills Question 24

Corrected Sentence:

In 1994 singer-songwriter Bob Dylan published *Drawn Blank*, a collection of sketches he made from 1989 to 1992 depicting people as well as landscapes and indoor scenes.

The error in this sentence occurs at (B). In this context, the present perfect verb phrase “has made” is not logically consistent with the past tense verb “published.” It should be replaced with the past tense verb “made” to indicate an action that was completed during a definite time period in the past (“from 1989 to 1992”).

There is no error at (A). The modifying noun phrase “a collection” appropriately refers to the proper noun “*Drawn Blank*.” The preposition “of” idiomatically follows the noun phrase “a collection” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “of sketches.”

There is no error at (C). The present participle “depicting” appropriately modifies the noun “sketches” to indicate what the “sketches” are “depicting,” or portraying: “people as well as landscapes and indoor scenes.”

There is no error at (D). The conjunctive phrase “as well as” appropriately serves to link the nouns “people” and “landscapes and indoor scenes.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 25

Corrected Sentence:

In response to increasing global competition, the company has pledged to provide professional development programs to ensure that its employees are the most qualified in the field.

The error in the sentence occurs at (D). In this context, the superlative adjectives “most” and “highest” are redundant. Since only one superlative adjective is needed in a superlative construction, “highest” should be deleted.

There is no error at (A). The noun “competition” appropriately serves as the object of the preposition “to,” and the present participle “increasing” (which functions as an adjective) and adjective “global” both appropriately modify the noun “competition.”

There is no error at (B). The present perfect verb phrase “has pledged” is logically consistent with the present participle “increasing” that precedes it and the present tense verb “are” that follows it to describe an action that began in the past and is continuing.

There is no error at (C). The singular possessive pronoun “its” agrees with the singular noun (“company”) to which it refers.

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 26

Corrected Sentence:

Elected president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953, Indian diplomat Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit had risen to political prominence during India’s struggle for independence from Great Britain.

The error in this sentence occurs at (B). The correct past perfect form of the verb is “had risen,” not “had rose.”

There is no error at (A). The past participle “Elected” appropriately serves to introduce the participial phrase “Elected president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953,” which appropriately modifies the noun phrase “Indian diplomat Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit” and describes an action that occurred in the past.

There is no error at (C). The preposition “during” idiomatically follows the noun “prominence” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “during India’s struggle for independence from Great Britain.”

There is no error at (D). The noun “independence” appropriately serves as the object of the preposition “for” and the preposition “from” idiomatically follows the noun “independence” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “from Great Britain.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 27

Corrected Sentence:

For those who challenged the right of Parliament to levy taxes on the colonies, the tea tax was as objectionable as the stamp tax.

The error in this sentence occurs at (A). The use of the nominative personal pronoun “they” as the object of the preposition “For” is incorrect in this context. The pronoun “they” should be replaced by the demonstrative pronoun “those” to refer to the people “who challenged the right of Parliament.”

There is no error at (B). The relative pronoun “who” appropriately refers to what should be the demonstrative pronoun “those” and appropriately introduces the modifying phrase “who challenged the right of Parliament to levy taxes on the colonies.”

There is no error at (C). The noun phrase “the right” idiomatically serves as the object of the verb “challenged,” and the preposition “of” idiomatically follows the noun phrase “the right” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “of Parliament.”

There is no error at (D). The correlative construction “as objectionable as” appropriately serves to modify and compare the noun phrases “the stamp tax” and “the tea tax.” In other words, the two taxes were equally “objectionable.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 28

Corrected Sentence:

As a young man, Orville Wright worked alongside his older brother Wilbur, first in a printing business and later in a bicycle shop, which soon became the site of aeronautical experiments.

The error in this sentence occurs at (A). The plural noun “men” does not agree with the singular subject “Orville Wright” to which it refers; the phrase “As young men” should be replaced with the phrase “As a young man.”

There is no error at (B). The preposition “alongside” idiomatically follows the verb “worked” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “alongside his older brother Wilbur.”

There is no error at (C). The adverb “first” appropriately modifies the verb “worked,” and the preposition “in” idiomatically follows the adverb “first” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “in a printing business.”

There is no error at (D). The past tense verb “became” is logically consistent with the past tense verb “worked” that precedes it, and the adverb “soon” appropriately modifies the verb “became.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 29

Corrected Sentence:

The Pirahã people of Brazil communicate almost as much by singing, whistling, and humming as they do by pronouncing consonants and vowels.

The error in this sentence occurs at (C). The sentence intends to link two prepositional phrases (“by singing, whistling, and humming” and “by pronouncing consonants and vowels”) using the correlative construction “as much...as...” The conjunction “than” should be replaced with the conjunction “as.”

There is no error at (A). The plural verb “communicate” agrees with the plural subject “people.”

There is no error at (B). The conjunction “and” appropriately serves to link the final two gerunds in the series “singing, whistling, and humming.”

There is no error at (D). The plural verb “do” agrees with the plural subject “they.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 30

Corrected Sentence:

At the age of eighteen, Yuan-tsung Chen left Beijing for the countryside to participate in land-reform efforts; her novel, *The Dragon's Village*, is based on her experiences there.

The error in this sentence occurs at (A). The preposition “Since” is unidiomatic in this context. It should be replaced with the preposition “At” to refer to an event occurring at one single time (“the age of eighteen,” when “Yuan-tsung Chen left Beijing for the countryside”).

There is no error at (B). The preposition “for” idiomatically follows the proper noun “Beijing” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “for the countryside.”

There is no error at (C). The infinitive form of the verb, “to participate,” appropriately introduces the infinitive phrase “to participate in land-reform efforts,” which modifies the past tense verb “left.”

There is no error at (D). The singular verb phrase “is based” agrees with the singular subject “novel,” and the preposition “on” idiomatically follows the verb phrase “is based” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “on her experiences.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 31

Corrected Sentence:

Had the sound of children playing not awakened him when it did, he would in all probability have missed his plane.

The error in this sentence occurs at (B). The plural pronoun “they” does not agree with the singular noun to which it refers, “sound.” The sentence indicates that it is the *sound* of the children that awakened him, not the children themselves. The plural pronoun “they” should be replaced with the singular pronoun “it.”

There is no error at (A). The past tense verb “awakened” is logically consistent with the past tense verbs “did” and “would...have missed” that follow it, and the singular pronoun “him” appropriately serves as the object of the verb “awakened” and is consistent with the pronoun “he” to which it refers.

There is no error at (C). The prepositional phrase “in all probability,” meaning “likely,” idiomatically modifies the verb phrase “would...have missed.”

There is no error at (D). The verb phrase “have missed” appropriately completes the past conditional verb phrase “would...have missed” and is logically consistent with the past tense verbs “awakened” and “did.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 32

Corrected Sentence:

Organs located in the tail of the electric eel enable the animal to produce electricity, which it uses in hunting prey.

The error in this sentence occurs at (B). The singular verb “enables” does not agree with the plural subject of the sentence, “Organs,” and should be replaced with the plural form of the verb, “enable.”

There is no error at (A). The past participle “located” appropriately serves as an adjective in this context, modifying the subject “Organs,” and the preposition “in” idiomatically follows the past participle “located” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “in the tail of the electric eel.”

There is no error at (C). The infinitive form of the verb, “to produce,” appropriately introduces the infinitive phrase “to produce electricity,” which modifies the verb “enable” and indicates what the “Organs...enable” the eel to do: “to produce electricity.”

There is no error at (D). The preposition “in” idiomatically follows the verb “uses” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “in hunting prey.” In addition, the gerund “hunting” appropriately serves as the object of the preposition “in.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 33

Corrected Sentence:

When governments intervene on behalf of favored businesses, give subsidies to corporations, or adopt supposedly business-friendly policies, they violate the principle of free market competition.

The error in this sentence occurs at (D). The singular pronoun “it” does not agree with the plural noun to which it refers, “governments,” and should be replaced with the plural pronoun “they.” Similarly, the singular form of the verb (“violates”) should be replaced with the plural form (“violate”) to agree with the plural pronoun “they.”

There is no error at (A). The complex preposition “on behalf of,” meaning “in the interest of,” idiomatically follows the verb “intervene” and appropriately introduces the prepositional phrase “on behalf of favored businesses.”

There is no error at (B). The present tense plural verb “give” is consistent with the present tense plural verbs “intervene” and “adopt” in the compound verb phrase “intervene...give...or adopt.”

There is no error at (C). The conjunction “or” appropriately serves to link the main verbs “give” and “adopt.”

There is an error in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 34

Corrected Sentence:

That the thieves were unable to sell the sculptures they had smuggled out of Sicily suggests that the market for stolen antiquities has shrunk.

There is no error in this sentence.

There is no error at (A). The relative pronoun “That” appropriately introduces the relative clause “That the thieves were unable to sell the sculptures they had smuggled out of Sicily,” which serves as the subject of the sentence.

There is no error at (B). The past tense verb phrase “were unable” is logically consistent with the past perfect verb phrase “had smuggled” that follows it. It appropriately describes a past action (the unsuccessful attempt to sell the sculptures) that occurred after another action in the past (the smuggling of the sculptures out of Sicily).

There is no error at (C). The past perfect verb phrase “had smuggled” is logically consistent with the past tense verb phrase “were unable” that precedes it. It appropriately describes a completed past action (the smuggling of the sculptures out of Sicily) that occurred before another action in the past (the unsuccessful attempt to sell the sculptures).

There is no error at (D). The present perfect verb phrase “has shrunk” is logically consistent with the present tense verb “suggests” that precedes it. It appropriately describes an action that began in the past and continues into the present (the “shrinking” or lessening of the demand for stolen antiquities).

Writing Skills Question 35

Choice (C) is correct. Sentence 1 mentions three “feelings” that “might come over visitors to an art gallery” that had a snow shovel on display: “Shock, revulsion, amusement.” Sentence 2 indicates that artist Marcel Duchamp “anticipated”—that is, intended and planned for—certain reactions “when he created the snow shovel piece in 1915.” It makes sense that Duchamp would have anticipated the feelings or reactions mentioned in Sentence 1. In other words, “Strong reactions like these [shock, revulsion, amusement] were exactly what Marcel Duchamp... anticipated.”

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 1 mentions three “feelings” that “might come over visitors to an art gallery” that had a snow shovel on display: “Shock, revulsion, amusement.” Sentence 2 indicates that artist Marcel Duchamp “anticipated”—that is, intended and planned for—certain reactions “when he created the snow shovel piece in 1915.” The problem with the revision in choice (A), “A reaction like this” is that it refers to only one feeling, but three—shock, revulsion, and amusement—are mentioned. A better revision is “Strong reactions like these were.”

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 1 mentions three “feelings” that “might come over visitors to an art gallery” that had a snow shovel on display: “Shock, revulsion, amusement.” The revision in choice (B), “Getting viewers to see this was,” does not effectively link Sentence 2 to Sentence 1 because it fails to mention the visitors’ reactions (“this” seems to refer to the snow shovel). A better revision is “Strong reactions like these were.”

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 1 mentions three “feelings” that “might come over visitors to an art gallery” that had a snow shovel on display: “Shock, revulsion, amusement.” Sentence 2 indicates that artist Marcel Duchamp “anticipated”—that is, intended and planned for—certain reactions “when he created the snow shovel piece in 1915.” The problem with the revision in choice (D), “Viewers’ strong reactions was” is that it results in a subject-verb agreement error; a plural subject, “reactions,” is paired with a singular verb, “was.” A better revision is “Strong reactions like these were.”

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 1 mentions three “feelings” that “might come over visitors to an art gallery” that had a snow shovel on display: “Shock, revulsion, amusement.” Sentence 2 indicates that artist Marcel Duchamp “anticipated”—that is, intended and planned for—certain reactions “when he created the snow shovel piece in 1915.” The problem with the revision in choice (E), “Their strong reaction,” is that it is unclear to whom or to what the pronoun “Their” refers. It is also unclear whether the “reaction” referred to in the revision is shock, revulsion, amusement, or some combination of these. A better revision is “Strong reactions like these were.”

Writing Skills Question 36

Choice (A) is correct. Sentences 3 and 4 cite some of the complaints made about Duchamp's snow shovel—that it took no talent to produce, that it did not belong in an art gallery. Sentence 5, on the other hand, notes that “He” (presumably Duchamp) “welcomed controversy” and wanted people to ask questions about art. Any sentence inserted between sentences 4 and 5, then, would need to refer back to the museum patrons' criticisms and be consistent with the statement made about Duchamp in sentence 5 (as well as clarifying that “He” is Duchamp). Only choice (A) meets these conditions. The phrase “this kind of heated debate” refers to the patrons' arguments about the snow shovel, and the focus on Duchamp being “delighted rather than discouraged” leads perfectly to the additional information about Duchamp's goals in sentence 5.

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory. Sentences 3 and 4 cite some of the complaints made about Duchamp's snow shovel—that it took no talent to produce, that it did not belong in an art gallery. Sentence 5, on the other hand, notes that “He” (presumably Duchamp) “welcomed controversy” and wanted people to ask questions about art. Any sentence inserted between sentences 4 and 5, then, would need to refer back to the museum patrons' criticisms and be consistent with the statement made about Duchamp in sentence 5 (as well as clarifying that “He” is Duchamp). Choice (B) meets only the first of these conditions. By mentioning “artists whose works have been condemned by critics,” it does refer indirectly to the patrons' arguments; however, it has no connection to the information provided in sentence 5 about Duchamp's goals.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory. Sentences 3 and 4 cite some of the complaints made about Duchamp's snow shovel—that it took no talent to produce, that it did not belong in an art gallery. Sentence 5, on the other hand, notes that “He” (presumably Duchamp) “welcomed controversy” and wanted people to ask questions about art. Any sentence inserted between sentences 4 and 5, then, would need to refer back to the museum patrons' criticisms and be consistent with the statement made about Duchamp in sentence 5 (as well as clarifying that “He” is Duchamp). Choice (C) meets only the first of these conditions. By indicating that Duchamp's ideas were not “widely accepted,” it does refer indirectly to the patrons' arguments; however, it has no connection to the information provided in sentence 5 about Duchamp's goals.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory. Sentences 3 and 4 cite some of the complaints made about Duchamp's snow shovel—that it took no talent to produce, that it did not belong in an art gallery. Sentence 5, on the other hand, notes that “He” (presumably Duchamp) “welcomed controversy” and wanted people to ask questions about art. Any sentence inserted between sentences 4 and 5, then, would need to refer back to the museum patrons' criticisms and be consistent with the statement made about Duchamp in sentence 5 (as well as clarifying that “He” is Duchamp). Choice (D) meets only the first of these conditions. By mentioning “Critics ... [who] can find fault,” it does refer indirectly to the patrons' arguments; it also makes a connection to sentence 5's “definitions of art.” However, the sentence does not mention Duchamp and thus does not establish that the “He” mentioned in sentence 5 is Duchamp.

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory. Sentences 3 and 4 cite some of the complaints made about Duchamp's snow shovel—that it took no talent to produce, that it did not belong in an art gallery. Sentence 5, on the other hand, notes that “He” (presumably Duchamp) “welcomed controversy” and wanted people to ask questions about art. Any sentence inserted between sentences 4 and 5, then, would need to refer back to the museum patrons' criticisms and be consistent with the statement made about Duchamp in sentence 5 (as well as clarifying that “He” is Duchamp). Choice (E) meets only the first of these conditions. By indicating that Duchamp “would have to try a different approach” in order to be accepted, it does refer indirectly to the patrons' arguments; however, it has no connection to the information provided in sentence 5 about Duchamp's goals. It also introduces an idea (Duchamp changing his approach) that is not present elsewhere in the passage.

Writing Skills Question 37

Choice (B) is correct. Sentence 6 mentions the snow shovel as an example of a “readymade” or “found object.” The original sentences 7 and 8 supply two related pieces of information: that Duchamp wanted to be clear about what his interests were (regarding objects such as the snow shovel), and that those interests were not in “some romantic idea about...ordinary things.” Only choice (B) effectively presents both pieces of information without unnecessary repetition. Duchamp “wanted to be clear that he was not interested in such an object because of some romantic idea...”

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 6 mentions the snow shovel as an example of a “readymade” or “found object.” The original sentences 7 and 8 supply two related pieces of information: that Duchamp wanted to be clear about what his interests were (regarding objects such as the snow shovel), and that those interests were not in “some romantic idea about...ordinary things.” Choice (A) does not effectively present both pieces of information. There is nothing in the sentence to which the second pronoun “it” (“it was not”) can refer. In addition, the phrase “wanted it clear” is not idiomatic in this context and should be replaced with “wanted to be clear.”

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory. The original sentences 7 and 8 supply two related pieces of information: that Duchamp wanted to be clear about what his interests were (regarding objects such as the snow shovel), and that those interests were not in “some romantic idea about...ordinary things.” Choice (C) does not effectively present both pieces of information. It uses the present tense verbs “wants” and “does,” which are not logically consistent with the past tense verbs “used” and “chose” in sentences 6 and 9. Choice (C) also uses the plural noun “objects” to refer to information in sentence 6, which mentions only the singular noun “snow shovel” as an example of a “readymade” or “found object.”

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 6 discusses the snow shovel as an example of a “readymade” or “found object.” The original sentences 7 and 8 supply two related pieces of information: that Duchamp wanted to be clear about what his interests were (regarding objects such as the snow shovel), and that those interests were not in “some romantic idea about...ordinary things.” Choice (D) does not effectively present both pieces of information. It is unclear what Duchamp “wanted to be clear about”: his “interests” or “the object.”

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory. The original sentences 7 and 8 supply two related pieces of information: that Duchamp wanted to be clear about what his interests were (regarding objects such as the snow shovel), and that those interests were not in “some romantic idea about...ordinary things.” Choice (E) does not effectively present both pieces of information. It is unclear whether the pronoun “they” refers to Duchamp’s “interests” or “these objects.” Choice (E) also uses the plural noun “objects” to refer to information in sentence 6, which mentions only the singular noun “snow shovel” as an example of a “readymade” or “found object.”

Writing Skills Question 38

Choice (B) is correct. Sentence 10 states that Duchamp “angered many people” with his suggestion that artistic paintings, like snow shovels and other so-called found objects, “are also readymades.” Sentences 11 and 12 elaborate on this unorthodox claim, citing ways in which paintings are like snow shovels and other “readymade” objects: “paint comes ready-made in tubes...every painting is simply something that has been assembled.” Duchamp is making an argument about the nature of painting that includes both a claim (sentence 10) and support for that claim (sentences 11 and 12). Therefore, the best revision for sentence 11 is “According to

his argument, paint comes ready-made in tubes; artists simply take that paint and apply it to a canvas.”

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 10 states that Duchamp “angered many people” with his suggestion that artistic paintings, like snow shovels and other so-called found objects, “are also readymades.” Sentences 11 and 12 elaborate on this unorthodox claim, citing ways in which paintings are like snow shovels and other “readymade” objects: “paint comes ready-made in tubes....every painting is simply something that has been assembled.” Duchamp is making an argument about the nature of painting that includes both a claim (sentence 10) and support for that claim (sentences 11 and 12). Beginning sentence 11 with the phrase “After all, it is said” would imply illogically that the idea of paintings as “readymades” is a common one (“it is said”). If such were the case, Duchamp’s suggestions would not have “angered many people.”

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 10 states that Duchamp “angered many people” with his suggestion that artistic paintings, like snow shovels and other so-called found objects, “are also readymades.” Sentences 11 and 12 elaborate on this unorthodox claim, citing ways in which paintings are like snow shovels and other “readymade” objects: “paint comes ready-made in tubes....every painting is simply something that has been assembled.” Duchamp is making an argument about the nature of painting that includes both a claim (sentence 10) and support for that claim (sentences 11 and 12). Beginning sentence 11 with the phrase “By contrast” would indicate a contrast between the claim and the support for the claim that is not present.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 10 states that Duchamp “angered many people” with his suggestion that artistic paintings, like snow shovels and other so-called found objects, “are also readymades.” Sentences 11 and 12 elaborate on this unorthodox claim, citing ways in which paintings are like snow shovels and other “readymade” objects: “paint comes ready-made in tubes....every painting is simply something that has been assembled.” Duchamp is making an argument about the nature of painting that includes both a claim (sentence 10) and support for that claim (sentences 11 and 12). Beginning sentence 11 with the adverb “Still,” which means “nevertheless,” would indicate a contrast between the claim and the support for the claim that is not present. In addition, the phrase “regardless of what one thinks of what they argue” does not make sense in this context.

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory. Sentence 10 states that Duchamp “angered many people” with his suggestion that artistic paintings, like snow shovels and other so-called found objects, “are also readymades.” Sentences 11 and 12 elaborate on this unorthodox claim, citing ways in which paintings are like snow shovels and other “readymade” objects: “paint comes ready-made in tubes....every painting is simply something that has been assembled.” Duchamp is making an argument about the nature of painting that includes both a claim (sentence 10) and support for that claim (sentences 11 and 12). Beginning sentence 11 with the adverb “Still,” which means “nevertheless,” would indicate a contrast between the claim and the support for the claim that is not present. In addition, the phrase “if this argument is to be believed” does not make sense in this context.

Writing Skills Question 39

Choice (E) is correct. The main topic of the second paragraph seems to be the visual appeal of readymades. Sentences 6-9 introduce the term “readymade” and clarify that Duchamp’s interest in readymades had little to do with their visual appeal; sentences 10-12 detail Duchamp’s argument that even visually appealing paintings can be thought of as readymades; and sentences 13-15 point out Duchamp’s recognition that readymades might have a subtle visual appeal to the artists who selected them. However, the paragraph leaves unanswered the question of how or why everyday objects such as snow shovels might appear to be beautiful to artists or audiences. The paragraph would most be improved by including an explanation of how a readymade might be appealing.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory. The main topic of the second paragraph seems to be the visual appeal of readymades. Sentences 6-9 introduce the term “readymade” and clarify that Duchamp’s interest in readymades had little to do with their visual appeal; sentences 10-12 detail Duchamp’s argument that even visually appealing paintings can be thought of as readymades; and sentences 13-15 point out Duchamp’s recognition that readymades might have a subtle visual appeal to the artists who selected them. Duchamp’s snow shovel exhibit and the responses it received are discussed in the first paragraph, not the second, so a summary of critics’ responses would seem out of place.

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory. The main topic of the second paragraph seems to be the visual appeal of readymades. Sentences 6-9 introduce the term “readymade” and clarify that Duchamp’s interest in readymades had little to do with their visual appeal; sentences 10-12 detail Duchamp’s argument that even visually appealing paintings can be thought of as readymades; and sentences 13-15 point out Duchamp’s recognition that readymades might have a subtle visual appeal to the artists who selected them. Every sentence of the paragraph deals with Duchamp’s ideas about readymades, so a list of other artists who did related work would seem out of place.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory. The main topic of the second paragraph seems to be the visual appeal of readymades. Sentences 6-9 introduce the term “readymade” and clarify that Duchamp’s interest in readymades had little to do with their visual appeal; sentences 10-12 detail Duchamp’s argument that even visually appealing paintings can be thought of as readymades; and sentences 13-15 point out Duchamp’s recognition that readymades might have a subtle visual appeal to the artists who selected them. Duchamp’s snow shovel exhibit is discussed in the first paragraph, not the second, so information about the exhibit’s title would seem out of place.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory. The main topic of the second paragraph seems to be the visual appeal of readymades. Sentences 6-9 introduce the term “readymade” and clarify that Duchamp’s interest in readymades had little to do with their visual appeal; sentences 10-12 detail Duchamp’s argument that even visually appealing paintings can be thought of as readymades; and sentences 13-15 point out Duchamp’s recognition that readymades might have a subtle visual appeal to the artists who selected them. Duchamp’s snow shovel exhibit is discussed in the first paragraph, not the second, so information about the display of the snow shovel would seem out of place.

