

Form 68A

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The **ACT**[®]

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ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The Tale of *The Tale of Genji*

Murasaki Shikibu, an aristocratic Japanese woman was born in Kyoto, Japan, around AD 973. Like most ladies of that period who served in the court of the empress, Lady Murasaki was likely accomplished in both music and writing. However, her writing was not limited to the traditional poetry was expected of cultured women of that time. She wrote a long work of fiction, *The Tale of Genji*, which not only is still read today and has been called the world's first great novel.

Although little is known of the events of her life, but scholars speculate that Lady Murasaki began writing her fiction before she came into the service of the Empress Akiko. Since the "grand ladies" of the court thought literature important, perhaps Murasaki's writing was the reason she was summoned to court.

Instead, she completed most of the stories of the life of Genji while both serving the empress

- A. NO CHANGE
 B. Shikibu an aristocratic Japanese woman,
 C. Shikibu, an aristocratic Japanese woman,
 D. Shikibu an aristocratic Japanese woman
 - F. NO CHANGE
 G. that they were serving
 H. which served
 J. served
 - A. NO CHANGE
 B. expected
 C. expecting
 D. that expected
 - F. NO CHANGE
 G. while
 H. but also
 J. so it
 - A. NO CHANGE
 B. While little
 C. Even though little
 D. Little
6. Which transition word or phrase best emphasizes the limited knowledge scholars have about Lady Murasaki?
- F. NO CHANGE
 G. Apparently,
 H. On the other hand,
 J. Likewise,

1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

and observed the activities and attitudes of court society.

7

The fifty-four-chapter book,

which takes place over almost three-quarters of a century,

8

describes the life and loves of a Prince Genji and the

lives of there children and grandchildren. Although other

9

fiction was written during this period, Murasaki's work went beyond the usual style. Instead of using the flat characterizations and fairy-tale predicaments of the typical romance, Murasaki portrayed believable people in daily situations. Recent critics have been astonished at the modern character of the tale.

In the more than one thousand years since

10

The Tale of Genji was written, it has been translated

into over thirty languages and has appeared in a variety of formats. In the twelfth century, the tale was illustrated with picture scrolls; in the

seventeenth century, books of wood-block prints

11

based on the tale was produced.

12

13 Today, Lady Murasaki's eleventh-century tale can even be read online at a Web site provided

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. had observed
C. was observing
D. observing

8. If the writer were to delete the underlined portion, the paragraph would primarily lose:
F. a detailed description of the setting of the book.
G. a sense of the length of time the book's events span.
H. information about the specific length of each character's life.
J. a tone of mystery and suspense.

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. our
C. his
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. thousand years, since
H. thousand, years since
J. thousand years since.

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. century, books of wood-block prints,
C. century books, of wood-block prints
D. century books of wood-block prints,

12. F. NO CHANGE
G. is
H. were
J. are

13. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

It is also known that Lady Murasaki's name Shikibu was most likely based on her father's court position in the Bureau of Ceremony, or *shikibu-shō*.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it adds relevant information about Lady Murasaki's name that helps modern readers understand this paragraph.
B. Yes, because it shows an additional way that Lady Murasaki was connected to the court.
C. No, because it interrupts the flow of this paragraph, which is not primarily about Lady Murasaki's background.
D. No, because it doesn't provide enough information about Lady Murasaki's father.



by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. 14

14. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most effectively conclude the paragraph and support information given in the preceding sentence?
- F. Lady Murasaki's tale is still rather interesting.
 - G. Lady Murasaki had to write by hand with a pen dipped in ink.
 - H. The character of Prince Genji was probably based on several people known by Lady Murasaki.
 - J. Prince Genji is starting his second millennium with the latest technology.

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. Suppose that the writer had intended to write an essay giving an overview of the history of the development of the novel as a literary form. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- A. Yes, because it discusses the elements of *The Tale of Genji* that make it a novel.
 - B. Yes, because it notes that *The Tale of Genji* was written over one thousand years ago.
 - C. No, because it fails to mention other novels written by Lady Murasaki.
 - D. No, because it focuses only on *The Tale of Genji*, an example of an early novel.

PASSAGE II

Stars in His Eyes

Some people are starstruck at an early age, but one ¹⁶

such person is Neil de Grasse Tyson, whom ¹⁷ turned his fascination for the star-studded sky into a career. By the

age of nine, with the knowledge ¹⁸ that he wanted to spend his life exploring the universe. Today, Tyson is a

prominent astrophysicist, writer, and educator. He is also the youngest person and the first African American to direct New York City's Hayden Planetarium.

- 16. F. NO CHANGE
G. age, so one
H. age. As a result, one
J. age. One
- 17. A. NO CHANGE
B. he
C. who
D. which
- 18. F. NO CHANGE
G. he knew
H. having the knowledge
J. knowing

In his memoir, *The Sky Is Not the Limit*, Tyson tells the story of how he was first captivated by the cosmos. A close friend from his Bronx, New York, neighborhood took him to the rooftop of a building, there Tyson was told to look up into the night sky. Through a simple pair of binoculars, Tyson viewed the Moon as an exciting new three-dimensional world that astounded him. From that

point on, his interest in becoming a scientist was set.

[1] In junior high, Tyson bought his first telescope with money he had earned walking his neighbors' dogs. [2] To further prepare for his future career, he joined astronomy clubs, took extra mathematics courses, and spent many hours looking up at the star-filled dome inside the planetarium that he now oversees. [3] While earning university degrees in both physics and astrophysics, he worked as a columnist for *StarDate*, an astronomy magazine. [4] In 1988, he published the first of his numerous books on astronomy and astrophysics. [5] Soon after he was appointed director of the Hayden Planetarium in 1996, Tyson spearheaded a seventy-million-dollar reconstruction project. [6] Under his leadership, the New York City landmark was transformed, one at a time, into a high-tech glass-and-steel wonder.

19. A. NO CHANGE
 B. building and told Tyson
 C. building, then Tyson was told
 D. building, momentarily, Tyson was told
20. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the most specific visual details of what Tyson saw?
 F. NO CHANGE
 G. world, which he later described in detail in his book.
 H. world of craters, mountains, and plains.
 J. world of remarkable features unlike those visible to the naked eye.
21. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 A. point,
 B. point ahead,
 C. point forward,
 D. point onward,
22. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 F. a telescope, his first one,
 G. himself his first telescope
 H. his first telescope for him
 J. a telescope—his first—
23. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively provides new and specific information?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. joined clubs, took classes,
 C. showed an interest in astronomy
 D. made a point of learning relevant information
24. F. NO CHANGE
 G. transformed, for instance,
 H. transformed, before you know it,
 J. transformed

[7] Visitors to the planetarium's Space Theater can now view the marvels of the cosmos through a dramatic

25

virtual tour. 26

Tyson recognizes the possibilities of his

27

position he always makes himself available to

28

children who visit the planetarium. Committed to being a leader in the field of science education, he

has achieved what for many would be a dream come true.

29

25. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

- A. a spectacular
- B. a striking
- C. an overemotional
- D. a sensational

26. The writer wants to divide the preceding paragraph into two in order to separate information about Tyson's background and early accomplishments in science from information about his work with the Hayden Planetarium. The best place to begin the new paragraph would be at the beginning of Sentence:

- F. 3.
- G. 4.
- H. 5.
- J. 6.

27. A. NO CHANGE

- B. possesses the recognition of
- C. acknowledges the recognition of
- D. has recognition and awareness of

28. F. NO CHANGE

- G. position and
- H. position, which he
- J. position, for which he

29. The writer would like to end the essay by offering a sense of Tyson's passion for astronomy and his desire to see others succeed. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer's goal?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. is knowledgeable about star formation, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of the Milky Way.
- C. has an important message for everyone he meets: "Reach for the stars."
- D. knows more about the night sky now than he did when he first looked at the Moon through binoculars.

Question 30 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

30. Suppose the writer's goal had been to write a brief essay describing a prominent astrophysicist. Would this essay accomplish that goal?

- F. Yes, because it explains that Tyson reluctantly chose a career in astrophysics by following in the path of his best friend.
- G. Yes, because it offers a profile of a well-known astrophysicist who became the head of the Hayden Planetarium.
- H. No, because it focuses on the importance of astrophysics to children who visit the Hayden Planetarium.
- J. No, because it provides more information about Tyson's family life than about his career in astrophysics.

PASSAGE III

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and question 45 will ask you to choose where Paragraph 1 should most logically be placed.

The Three Sisters

[1]

Three plants together known collectively

³¹

as the “Three Sisters” have long been an important

³²

³³

[2]

The technique is ingenious. Several kernels of corn are planted in a circle in a hill of soil. 34 When the corn is about six inches high, pole bean and squash seeds are planted around the young stalks. As the three plants grow,

the corn stalks support the bean tendrils, while the beans

³⁵

³⁶

31. A. NO CHANGE
B. known together and
C. known together
D. known
32. F. NO CHANGE
G. has been for a long time
H. was for a long time
J. has long been
33. A. NO CHANGE
B. indigenous peoples knew
C. it was known by indigenous peoples
D. the knowledge was possessed by indigenous peoples
34. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, this paragraph would primarily lose information that:
F. illustrates how the Three Sisters benefit each other.
G. provides unnecessary details about the planting of corn.
H. identifies the first step in planting the Three Sisters.
J. proves that corn is the most important of the Three Sisters.
35. A. NO CHANGE
B. tendrils. While
C. tendrils; while
D. tendrils,
36. F. NO CHANGE
G. plant’s root system’s
H. plants’ root system’s
J. plant’s root systems

[3]

Eaten together, the three foods provide balanced nutrition. Corn, in particular, is high in carbohydrates. Although corn and beans are both good sources of protein, each food provides two essential amino acids that the other lacks. Squash yields both vitamins from the fruit and healthful, delicious oil from the seeds is yielded also.³⁷

[4]

Equally and equivalently important is the³⁸

moral lesson that the Three Sisters impart. 39

Many Native peoples see the three plants as

a model of cooperation and harmony, each⁴⁰

plant benefiting from their growth.⁴¹

What the early horticulturists knew, the⁴²

three grow best when they grow together. Many

tribes have legends of three intertwined sisters

who can never be parted, siblings who live together,⁴³

eat together, and celebrate together. At harvesttime,

37. A. NO CHANGE
B. is also yielded.
C. is yielded.
D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
38. F. NO CHANGE
G. important
H. important, that is, of equal weight,
J. important and key
39. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:
The name Three Sisters has also been used to refer to a range of mountains in the Canadian Rockies.
Should the writer make this addition here?
- A. Yes, because the concept of the Three Sisters is a central theme of the essay, and this statement elaborates on that theme.
B. Yes, because the names of crops and the names of mountains both evoke a sense of the importance of nature in our daily lives.
C. No, because it does not explain why the mountains are known as the Three Sisters, which readers would want to know.
D. No, because it distracts the reader from the focus of the essay and does not logically fit into the essay at this point.
40. F. NO CHANGE
G. cooperation and harmonious,
H. cooperative and harmonious,
J. being cooperative and harmony,
41. A. NO CHANGE
B. its
C. his or her
D. the others'
42. F. NO CHANGE
G. Which
H. How
J. As
43. A. NO CHANGE
B. whom can never be parted, siblings whom
C. who can never be parted, siblings whom
D. whom can never be parted, siblings who

ceremonies are held to thank the sisters for growing abundantly and feeding the people.

[5]

44 And as sustainable agriculture becomes more widely recognized as a necessity, the Three Sisters provide one example of how food can be grown with very little strain on natural resources—an ecosystem of plants that thrive when they are grown together.

44. Which of the following true statements, if added here, would most effectively introduce the subject that some modern gardeners are using the planting technique described in the essay?
- F. The idea of planting several types of plants near each other is strange to some modern-day gardeners.
 - G. Many gardeners are discovering the benefits of this sort of companion planting, as it is sometimes known.
 - H. People who enjoy gardening often also enjoy talking about their gardens and showing their gardens to friends.
 - J. Gardening is an activity that can be enjoyed by many types of people, young and old, male and female.

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. For the sake of the logic and coherence of the essay, Paragraph 1 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
 - B. after Paragraph 2.
 - C. after Paragraph 3.
 - D. after Paragraph 4.

PASSAGE IV

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and question 59 will ask you to choose where Paragraph 4 should most logically be placed.

“Operation Vittles”

[1]

It was 1948. A humanitarian and political drama

46

of lasting importance was about to unfold under

47

46. F. NO CHANGE
 G. 1948, a
 H. 1948, for a
 J. 1948; but a
47. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined word would be LEAST acceptable?
- A. take place
 - B. show up
 - C. be played out
 - D. occur



the homely name "Operation Vittles." 48

[2]

Since the end of World War II three years earlier, the victorious Allies had divided defeated Germany into four sectors. The United States, Great Britain, and France had combined their portions into West Germany, while the Soviet Union had installed a separate government in East Germany.

[3]

Berlin—the capital of Germany, was similarly

divided into four sectors. However, the city's location deep inside East Germany gave a strategic advantage to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, who wanted control over the entire city, not just the one Soviet sector.

Stalin planned to use a tactic of warfare dating back to medieval times. He cut off all ground access into West Berlin—the part of the city he did not already control. Threatening to starve the 2.5 million residents of West

Berlin he thought, might force the other three countries to cede the whole city to him.

[4]

Stalin's siege might have been successful in an era of castles and knights. But this was the aeronautical age, and Stalin's antagonists on ground transportation did not have to rely to move food and supplies into West Berlin.

48. At this point, if the writer wished to emphasize the massive effort put forth in this undertaking, which of the following true statements would best accomplish that goal?
- F. U.S. President Harry Truman made the decision to carry out this operation, which was led by General William Tunner.
 - G. Planes flew into Berlin from West Germany at regular intervals throughout each day.
 - H. Humanitarian work often goes unnoticed, even though it saves thousands of lives every year in many countries throughout the world.
 - J. Before the operation was over, hundreds of planes and thousands of soldiers would deliver millions of pounds of food to people in need.
49. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. Germany; on the other hand, the Soviet Union
 - B. Germany; the Soviet Union, for example,
 - C. Germany, but the Soviet Union
 - D. Germany; the Soviet Union, in contrast,
50. F. NO CHANGE
G. Berlin, the capital of Germany,
H. Berlin, the capital of Germany—
J. Berlin the capital of Germany
51. A. NO CHANGE
B. city's location,
C. cities' location
D. cities' location,
52. Given that all the choices are true, which one would be the best transition between the first and last parts of this paragraph?
- F. NO CHANGE
 - G. had met with leaders of the United States and Britain to divide the postwar world.
 - H. first came to power when he became secretary general of the Communist Party in 1922.
 - J. adopted the name "Stalin," which means "Man of Steel," when he was a young revolutionary.
53. A. NO CHANGE
B. Berlin, he thought
C. Berlin he thought
D. Berlin, he thought,
54. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
- F. where it is now.
 - G. after the word *rely*.
 - H. after the word *food*.
 - J. after the word *Berlin* (and before the period).



What resulted from this siege was one of the largest humanitarian efforts to date pilots who had bombed

Berlin relentless during the war were now called upon to deliver food—"vittles"—as part of the Berlin

Airlift. [57] "Operation Vittles" needed to operate around the clock, with a C-54 aircraft landing in Berlin every three minutes to keep the residents from starving. About 3,500 tons of food, medical supplies, and fuel arrived at Tempelhof Airfield daily.

[5]

The Soviets tried to thwart the operation by bugging and harassing pilots with blinding spotlights, near misses by Soviet planes, and radio interference. These tactics failed. After fifteen months, Stalin relented, the roads to West Berlin were reopened, and "Operation Vittles" came to a successful conclusion.

Questions 59 and 60 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

55. A. NO CHANGE
B. date, pilots
C. date. Pilots
D. date pilots;
56. F. NO CHANGE
G. unrelented
H. unrelentless
J. relentlessly
57. If the writer were to remove the word *vittles* (and the surrounding punctuation) from the preceding sentence, the essay would primarily lose:
- A. an explanation of the name of the operation.
B. specific information about the airplanes' cargo.
C. a detail that interjects a note of seriousness.
D. nothing at all, since the word is irrelevant to the essay.
58. F. NO CHANGE
G. harassing and making flying extremely difficult for
H. making flying difficult and challenging for
J. harassing
59. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this essay, Paragraph 4 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
B. after Paragraph 1.
C. after Paragraph 2.
D. after Paragraph 5.
60. Suppose the writer had intended to write a brief essay focusing on the important humanitarian efforts during the period following World War II. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- F. Yes, because it focuses on many humanitarian programs, which it succeeds in presenting as a representative group of such humanitarian efforts.
G. Yes, because it focuses on one example of a humanitarian program that is described in detail and carefully linked to other humanitarian efforts that immediately followed World War II.
H. No, because it focuses on only one example of a humanitarian program and neglects to treat it as representative of other post-World War II humanitarian efforts.
J. No, because it devotes too much emphasis to World War II itself, rather than focusing on humanitarian efforts around that time.

PASSAGE V

Innovation and Prior Discoveries

The philosopher, John Stuart Mill wrote that “all good
61

things which exist are the fruits of originality.” However,
62

Mill probably also understood that the fact is that
63
no human invention is absolutely original. Every
innovation—whether scientific or artistic—is
influenced by prior discoveries.

Albert Einstein is often considered the most
original scientist of the modern age. Therefore, he
64
acknowledged his reliance on the work of others,
such as mathematician Emmy Noether—who herself
relied on prior discoveries. The mathematical
theorem that now bears her last name 65 helped

lie the foundation for quantum physics and allowed
66
Einstein to formulate his theory of general relativity.

In literature, author Gertrude Stein epitomized
originality. Her writing initially shocked readers because
it departed from conventional grammar, storytelling, and
style. Stein separated words from their fixed meanings.
She used words not as representations of reality but

61. A. NO CHANGE
B. philosopher John Stuart Mill,
C. philosopher, John Stuart Mill,
D. philosopher John Stuart Mill
62. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
F. Nevertheless,
G. On the other hand,
H. Instead,
J. Still,
63. A. NO CHANGE
B. it's a fact that
C. as a matter of fact
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
64. F. NO CHANGE
G. Even he, though,
H. In the meantime, he
J. He
65. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true parenthetical information:
(known as Noether's theorem)
Should the writer make this addition here?
A. Yes, because it supports the main point of this sentence.
B. Yes, because it offers evidence of Noether's innovative thinking.
C. No, because it merely restates information already provided.
D. No, because it fails to note that the theorem is in the field of mathematics.
66. F. NO CHANGE
G. lay the foundation on
H. lie the foundation on
J. lay the foundation for

as pure forms, as if they were musical notes. Yet, as

67

innovative as she was, borrowed from the world of

68

visual art, particularly from the Cubist painters.

69

Stein remarked, that she was doing in writing
what Pablo Picasso was doing in painting.

70

It's often difficult to trace an innovation as a single
origin. Modern peanut butter, with its smooth, creamy

71

texture and long shelf life, emerged in 1922 when
Joseph L. Rosefield began selling his peanut butters
in California. However, George A. Bayle, Jr., sold a

72

peanut paste as early as 1890, and others are known to
have used ground or crushed peanuts centuries earlier.

73

Although Mill praised originality, his own work drew
on that, of fellow utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham.
Mill and Bentham both advocated striving for the greatest
good for the greatest number of people. Mill, however,
will argue that people should seek the highest quality—not
only quantity—of pleasure. Mill, then, made an important
contribution to philosophy—regardless of how original his
ideas were.

74

75

67. A. NO CHANGE
B. as
C. it was as though
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

68. F. NO CHANGE
G. who borrowed
H. she borrowed
J. borrowing

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. most particular
C. in particularly
D. particular

70. F. NO CHANGE
G. remarked that:
H. remarked that,
J. remarked that

71. A. NO CHANGE
B. to
C. through
D. into

72. Which of the following placements for the underlined phrase would NOT be acceptable?
F. Where it is now
G. After the word *life* (and before the comma)
H. After the word *when* (placing commas around the phrase)
J. After the word *California* (and before the period)

73. The writer is considering replacing the underlined word with the following phrase:
Africans, the Chinese, and the Inca
Given that the revision would create a true statement, should the writer make this revision here?
A. Yes, because it adds details that help support the claim made in the paragraph's opening sentence.
B. Yes, because it proves the paragraph's point that Bayle's peanut paste was appreciated by people around the world.
C. No, because it creates a digression from the paragraph's focus on peanut butter.
D. No, because it undermines the paragraph's claim that Bayle sold a peanut paste as early as 1890.

74. F. NO CHANGE
G. that of fellow, utilitarian, philosopher
H. that, of fellow utilitarian philosopher,
J. that of fellow utilitarian philosopher

75. A. NO CHANGE
B. argued that
C. argued with
D. argues with

END OF TEST 1

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.