

Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a “NO CHANGE” option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

The Case for Electronic Health Records

The US health-care system has made significant strides in the implementation of systems that manage electronic health records, which include information such as a patient’s medical history, medications currently

1 prescribed, and a list of allergies. From 2001 to 2013, the use of electronic health record systems by

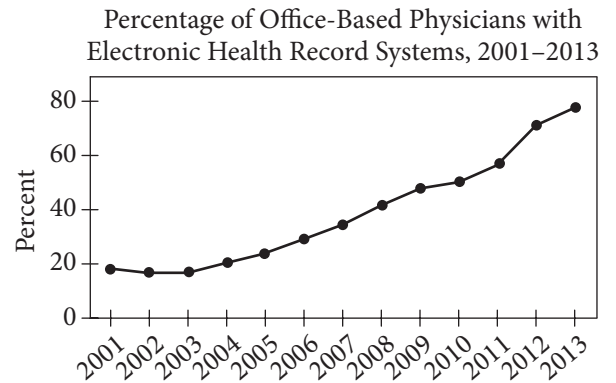
1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) prescribed; and
- C) prescribed: and
- D) prescribed and,

office-based physicians **2** began to decline only in the last three years. While this progress is commendable, the US health-care system needs to make the full transition to electronic health records a high priority.

2

The writer wants to complete the sentence with accurate and relevant information from the graph to support the claim made about advances in the implementation of electronic health record systems. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?



Adapted from National Center for Health Statistics, *Data Brief Number 143*, US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published in 2014.

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) increased most dramatically between 2011 and 2012.
- C) increased from less than 20 percent of physicians to nearly 80 percent of physicians.
- D) fluctuated from year to year until about 80 percent of physicians were using electronic health records.

3 Regrettably, electronic medical records require infrastructure that can be expensive to build; they don't require physical storage space, they don't need to be photocopied and collated, and 4 they are less likely to be physically misplaced. More importantly, electronic records accelerate communication between 5 different and various health-care providers, allowing for more efficient patient treatment. For example, when paramedics have access to electronic records in ambulances, they can learn what kinds of treatment they should immediately begin on a 6 patient. Immediate treatment results in safer and earlier care. Even small improvements in efficiency add up. The Veterans Health Administration, the largest integrated health-care system in the United States, reports that after the implementation of electronic health records in 1995, its total productivity has increased by 6 percent per year.

3

Which phrase most effectively sets up the examples in the second part of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Electronic health records provide many advantages over paper ones:
- C) Researchers have weighed the benefits and drawbacks of electronic health records:
- D) Typically, electronic health records need a full-time staff to maintain them:

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) because they are
- C) being
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) different
- C) diverse, different
- D) singularly different

6

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) patient, resulting
- B) patient and results
- C) patient, and those treatments result
- D) patient because it results

[1] These concerns, however, are also problems for paper records. [2] Despite these clear benefits, some patients and medical professionals still harbor concerns about the potential for error and the violation of patient privacy when electronic records are used. [3] By no means free from errors, handwritten records are especially prone to errors resulting from illegible handwriting. [4] Electronic health record systems can actually reduce errors by, for instance, cross-referencing drug **7** information, this provides doctors with automatic warnings about possible adverse drug interactions. [5] **8** Likewise, at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, serious medical errors decreased by 55 percent after an electronic record system was implemented. [6] Furthermore, patient privacy is no more threatened by electronic records than it is by paper records, which **9** are—according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, typically accessed by at least 150 different health-care professionals. **10**

The best way to address these concerns about accuracy and privacy **11** are not to avoid adopting electronic health record systems but rather to implement them effectively. The benefits of fully transitioning from paper to electronic health records far outweigh any perceived disadvantages.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) information to provide
- C) information; providing
- D) information, provides

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Still,
- C) In this case,
- D) In fact,

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) are
- C) are,
- D) are;

10

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 2 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 5.
- D) after sentence 6.

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have been
- C) had been
- D) is

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

The Beaver as Ecosystem Engineer

[1] An ecosystem is a complex web of interactions between organisms and their habitats. [2] Each component is **12** vital to the sustainability of the others and to the system as a whole. [3] Beavers, large rodents that use sticks, mud, and leaves to build dams in streams, are perhaps one of the best examples of the **13** interpersonal relationship among all aspects of an ecosystem. [4] New efforts to cultivate beaver populations reflect a growing recognition of the vital role beaver dams play in combating the effects of drought and preserving species diversity. [5] Beavers fell trees to build their dams, and the ponds that form behind a dam can flood the surrounding area. [6] Despite the seeming drawbacks to beaver dams, emerging research confirms that they actually provide significant environmental benefits. **14**

Scientists have called the beaver an “ecosystem engineer” because its dams can alter the ecological makeup of its habitat. By regulating water flow in **15** streams. Dams have ripple effects that radiate to

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) vital: to the sustainability of the others
- C) vital, to the sustainability of the others,
- D) vital; to the sustainability of the others

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) interdependent
- C) societal
- D) associative

14

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 5.
- D) after sentence 6.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) streams; dams
- C) streams, dams
- D) streams—dams

all surrounding organisms. **16** The ponds that form as a result of dams retain nutrient-rich sediment, **17** fostering a variety of plant life and multiplying food sources such as plankton. Attracted by these resources, many different kinds of wildlife **18** inhabits beaver ponds.

16

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

A beaver's life span averages 10–12 years.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it reinforces the scientists' characterization of beavers as "ecosystem engineers."
- B) Yes, because it clarifies information in the previous sentence about the impact of beavers.
- C) No, because the detail is not necessary for understanding beavers' impact on their ecosystems.
- D) No, because it does not provide enough explanation of the factors affecting the beaver's life span.

17

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) adopting
- C) raising
- D) rearing

18

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) inhabit
- C) are inhabited
- D) have inhabited

Recent studies suggest that beaver dams not only create diversely populated ecosystems but also **19** preserve them during times of environmental stress. A landmark 2008 study by ecologists at the University of Alberta found that the presence of beaver populations can mitigate the effects of drought on wetlands. The researchers observed that ponds in Elk Island National Park in Canada that had developed active beaver colonies held significantly more water during years when beavers were present than they did during years when beavers were absent. Furthermore, a group of ponds that had not been recolonized by beavers showed a **20** smaller increase in area of open water over the same period.

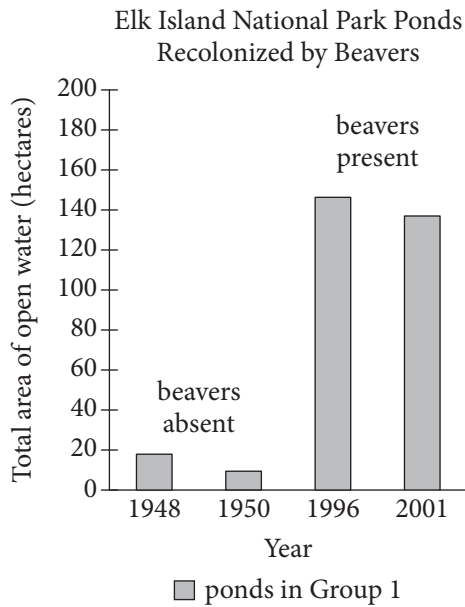
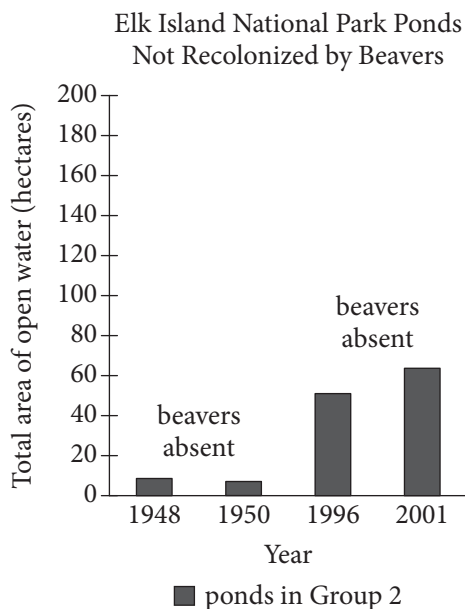
19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to preserve them
- C) preserving them
- D) they are preserved

20

Which choice best reflects the information provided in figures 1 and 2?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) marked decline
- C) greater increase
- D) gradual reduction

Figure 1**Figure 2**

Figures adapted from Glynnis A. Hood and Suzanne E. Bayley, "Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) Mitigate the Effects of Climate on the Area of Open Water in Boreal Wetlands in Western Canada." ©2008 by Biological Conservation.

21 In addition to studying wildlife, researchers are collaborating with local officials to promote beaver populations in habitats where they might be beneficial. Washington State’s Lands Council, a nonprofit organization, has begun working with the state’s Department of Ecology to reintroduce beavers to 10,000 miles of suitable habitat. Officials predict that beaver dams could help retain more than 650 trillion gallons of springtime melted snow, which could help stabilize water levels in streams during dry months. This project provides a low-cost alternative to the construction of artificial dams, which could cost billions of dollars. Through such initiatives, beaver populations are doing what they do 22 best; “engineering” healthier, more stable ecosystems.

21

Which choice provides the best transition from the previous paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Despite the beaver’s reputation as a nuisance,
- C) Spurred by these findings,
- D) Motivated by this opportunity,

22

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) best—“engineering,”
- C) best: “engineering”
- D) best, “engineering,”

Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage.

The Giant: Michelangelo's Victory

Toward the end of the 1400s, as the Renaissance was reaching **23** its height in Florence, Italy, members of the city's powerful Wool Guild were celebrating their recently completed city cathedral. It was a triumph that added to Florence's reputation **24** from sophistication and beauty, yet the guild members were eager to **25** fancy it up even more. They wanted a series of statues to adorn the cathedral's exterior, **26** placing high on buttresses so that the art could be admired from afar. The first result of the members' plan brought great acclaim, though not quite in the way they had anticipated.

23

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it's
- C) its'
- D) their

24

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for
- C) to
- D) with

25

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) make it look super rich.
- C) increase its splendor.
- D) give it a wow factor.

26

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) they were placed
- C) which were placed
- D) placed

In 1501, guild members began the project by commissioning a statue of David, a biblical hero who had defeated a giant named Goliath. The sculptor chosen was Michelangelo, a twenty-six-year-old artist who already had a reputation for great talent. He was directed to use an enormous block of marble from the cathedral’s workshop to create the statue. Nicknamed “the Giant,” the block had many problems. It had been quarried more than forty years earlier and had started to weather from exposure to the elements. Even worse, **27** they had previously used it, chipping away material to rough out a basic shape but giving up midtask. **28** The marble came from the Fantiscritti quarries in Carrara, a small town almost 80 miles north of Florence. Michelangelo was faced with trying to sculpt a monumental statue out of a stone that was generally considered ruined.

27

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) other sculptors had previously used it,
- C) it was used by them before,
- D) they used it previously to begin other sculptures,

28

The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it provides evidence to support the claim that Michelangelo would succeed where others had failed.
- B) Kept, because it includes details that explain why the citizens of Florence might have been critical of commissioning a sculptor from a different city.
- C) Deleted, because it adds irrelevant information that distracts from the paragraph’s focus on the obstacles Michelangelo faced.
- D) Deleted, because it fails to explain why the block had not already been made into a sculpture.

[1] His seventeen-foot-high, intricately detailed figure depicts David in the act of confronting Goliath. [2] Michelangelo had solved the problem of the awkward size and shape of the marble block by positioning David turned slightly sideways with his weight shifted onto one leg, poised as if ready to burst into action. [3] But Michelangelo took on the Giant with zeal and finished the statue in just two years. [4] The statue's form and posture echoed the proportions of classical Roman sculpture, but its expressiveness and level of detail **29** has reflected Renaissance sensibilities. [5] Michelangelo had overcome the limitations of the marble block and, moreover, had turned it into a technical and artistic masterpiece. **30**

Upon viewing the stunning statue, guild members discarded the plan to hoist the statue to an exterior buttress. It was far too beautiful (**31** and was unlike other Renaissance depictions of David) to be placed high above its viewers. After meeting with city officials and

29

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) reflected
- C) had reflected
- D) will reflect

30

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

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

31

Which choice gives a second reason and additional support for the main idea of the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) and depicted a favorite biblical story of the citizens of Florence
- C) and later would come to symbolize Florence's defense of its civil liberties
- D) and, at more than eight tons, far too heavy

prominent citizens, the members agreed that the statue should instead stand outside of Florence's town hall **32** as a symbol and representation of the city's strength and independence. Thus, the guild members achieved their goal of enhancing Florence's **33** prestige.

32

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to symbolize and represent
- C) as a symbol of
- D) as a representation that symbolized

33

The writer wants to revise the underlined portion so that the concluding sentence summarizes the main ideas of the passage. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) prestige, and Michelangelo was hailed as a hero in his own right for conquering the Giant and giving Florence a fitting monument.
- B) prestige, and Michelangelo would soon leave Florence for Rome, where he would paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
- C) prestige, especially after parts of the statue were decorated with gold.
- D) prestige, but even though it boasts works of art like Michelangelo's *David*, Italy today ranks only fifth in terms of revenue generated by tourism.

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

Sharing for Success

34 The twenty-first century has presented both unique challenges and innovative solutions to work-related issues. Both Julie Levine and Julie Rocco desired a healthier work/life balance, but they were hesitant to give up their managerial roles overseeing the production of new vehicles. In order to retain these top engineers, the company proposed a creative 35 solution; job sharing.

As the demand for flexible working options in today's marketplace has grown, job 36 sharing, an arrangement in which one full-time job is split between two employees—has become more common. For

34

Which choice provides the best introduction to the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Companies are always searching for new and innovative ways to recruit the best employees.
- C) In 2007, two highly successful full-time engineers at a US car company faced the same dilemma.
- D) According to one national survey, the average full-time US employee works about 1,700 hours per year.

35

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) solution. Job
- C) solution job
- D) solution: job

36

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sharing—
- C) sharing;
- D) sharing:

employees, it provides an appealing alternative to other forms of part-time work, which might not offer comparable health benefits, salary, or stability. For Levine and Rocco, who were compensated at 80 percent of their full-time salaries and benefits, job sharing was a way of continuing to climb the career **37** ladder. They didn't have to work the long hours usually demanded of an employee in a high-level position.

Effective communication is crucial to the success of a job-sharing arrangement. In determining how working time and responsibilities would be divided, **38** steps were taken by Levine and Rocco to ensure that the arrangement provided fluidity and consistency for the employees whom they jointly managed. "It's our job to be seamless," they noted. **39** Nevertheless, they each planned to work three days a week, with a day of overlap on Wednesdays; they also planned to talk on the phone

37

Which choice best combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) ladder, and they weren't having
- B) ladder; however, they didn't have
- C) ladder without having
- D) ladder while still not having

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) there were steps taken by Levine and Rocco to ensure
- C) Levine and Rocco took steps to ensure
- D) Levine and Rocco's steps ensured

39

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) To this end,
- C) However,
- D) Similarly,

each evening to discuss the day’s work. **40** The job shared by Levine and Rocco was the highest-ranking shared job at the company; when “you have to analyze your day and share it with another brain, you show up the next day ready to run,” Levine said. Studies have confirmed that job sharing can improve work quality by encouraging teamwork. In a 2003 survey of employees at the UK National Health Service, for example, more than 70 percent of job sharers felt that communicating with their partners improved their ability to understand and execute their jobs.

41 Job sharing may present some challenges, though. If job sharers have **42** discordant capabilities or are unable to communicate effectively, the arrangement may not be successful. Job-sharing initiatives may also involve some extra cost for companies, since the salaries

40

Which choice best sets up the information that follows in the next part of the sentence?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Levine and Rocco initially had doubts that the arrangement would be successful:
- C) The job shared by Levine and Rocco requires about 80 hours of work total per week:
- D) Both Levine and Rocco found that this collaboration enhanced their job performance:

41

Which choice best sets up the main discussion of the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Moreover, some workers have responsibilities that are difficult to share.
- C) Still, only some positions are suitable for job sharing.
- D) Flexible work arrangements can reduce stress in employees.

42

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) contrary
- C) irreconcilable
- D) mismatched

and cost of benefits for two job-sharing employees are usually higher than **43** being for a single employee. However, proponents contend that the investment is worthwhile because **44** they enable companies to retain the most talented employees. As can be seen from Levine and Rocco's success in developing a best-selling 2011 sport-utility vehicle, job sharing provides an effective flexible working solution when undertaken by motivated employees and companies.

43

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) that of
- C) those for
- D) DELETE the underlined portion.

44

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) those enable
- C) any of them enables
- D) it enables

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.
Do not turn to any other section.**