

Directions: Read the sentence/question/passage first before selecting the letter that corresponds to your answer.

Directions: Choose the alternative that best expresses the idea in standard written English and is worded most consistently with the tone of the passage. If you believe the original version is best, then choose "NO CHANGE." There will also be questions about sections of the passage or about the passage as a whole. Read the entire passage before answering any of the questions. For some questions you may need to read beyond the underlined section in order to determine the correct answer.

For questions 1 – 15:

Passage 1

"Hair-raising Problems"

Why is it that we are so completely obsessive (84) with the hair on our heads? Millions of dollars are spent each year on cutting hair, lengthening hair, bleaching hair, straightening hair, curling hair, highlighting hair, and even growing hair; whatever you can do to hair, someone is willing to pay the money (85) to do it.

Natural redheads long for to be (86) brunettes and dishwater blondes dream of shiny golden tresses. Both men and women cringe at the sight of each gray hair, so (87) teenagers enjoy weekly experiments with magenta dyes, spikes, and tangerine streaks.

All of these thoughts cross my mind as I examine the result of (88) my most recent hair adventure. As a mature woman watching the gray hairs mixing in rapidly (89) with my natural brunette tones, I decided over a year ago, to (90) approach my stylist with the idea of highlights. Having seen many of my peers go this route, I figured that highlighting was for to be (91) the answer to my reluctance to look my age.

[1] The monthly highlighting went well: excepting (92) for those times when my hair turned out a little too subdued, making me look partially gray instead of brunette. [2] I suffered through it remarkably well, saying to myself, "She'll get it right the next time."

[3] For the most part, (93) I've enjoyed my year of highlights, so much so that I bravely approached Donna, my stylist, two months ago and proclaimed that I was done with wimpy highlighting and ready to go blonde.

[4] The result was not quite what I expected, but I resolved to live with it! (94). [5] Donna was surprised at my suggestion, but quickly began sharing my unbridled enthusiasm as

she gathers (95) the appropriate chemicals and concoctions that would soon transform me.

Three months later, I find myself seesawing between tears and (96) laughter as I attempt to cover up a patch of nearly bald scalp on the top of my head.

For someone who has long been fanatical about the appearance of her hair, this absence of hair has proven to be quite a challenge to my ego and self-confidence. I've always enjoyed styling my hair, and suddenly, I have nothing to style.

Each time I begin to experience a new pang of disgust and despair over this new hair anomaly, I once again ask myself why we are so obsessed with the hair on our heads. The answer always comes to me in a flash, in a simple two-word phrase: pure vanity. Soon after this realization, I cease my crying. (97)

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. obsessed
- C. obsessing
- D. obsessedioned

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. pay
- C. paying money
- D. have paid

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. to have
- C. to be
- D. becoming for



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4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. however
- C. yet
- D. and

5.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. result for
- C. result with
- D. result by

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. rapidly mixing
- C. mixed rapidly in
- D. rapidly mix in to

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. ago to
- C. ago: to
- D. ago to,

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. was being
- C. could of been
- D. was



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9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. well, except
- C. well except
- D. well. Except

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Also
- C. Instead
- D. In light of this

11.

For the sake of logic and coherence, Sentence 5 should be placed:

- A. where it is now.
- B. before Sentence 1.
- C. after Sentence 2.
- D. before Sentence 4.

12.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. she was gathering
- C. she had been gathering
- D. she gathered

13.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. along with
- C. or
- D. as well as



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14. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. If the sentence was deleted, the essay would primarily lose:

- A. a summary of the essay.
- B. the narrator's ability to put her situation into perspective.
- C. a stylistic link to the essay's introduction.
- D. an understanding of the author's purpose in writing the essay.

15. Suppose the writer had chosen to write a how-to article for people wanting to change their hair color. Would this essay fulfill the writer's goal?

- A. Yes, because the author's approach to changing her own hair color would ease the anxiety of others wishing to do the same.
- B. Yes, because this essay emphasizes the universality of people changing their hairstyles and hair color.
- C. No, because this article only deals with the narrator's own experimentation with her hair and does not provide steps for others to do the same.
- D. No, because the essay discourages people from changing their hair color.

For questions 16 – 30:

Passage 2

“A Modern Blacksmith”

You will probably never find his name in a history book, but to this day, Walker Lee continues to contribute to America heritage (99). Walker Lee is an old-fashioned, modern-day blacksmith who still practices (100) the fine art of manipulating metal over a hot fire. In his words, “Blacksmithing is no dying art!”

Walker Lee had began (101) his career in hand-forged ironwork at the age of 30. The idea of creating an object out of iron, a most intractable material (102), appealed to him. He started on this new venture by collecting and reading every book he could find that described the process of blacksmithing: its history, its practical and decorative uses, and the equipment needed to establish and outfit his own smithy. During the course of his research, Lee discovered a tool necessary for the success of any blacksmith: the anvil, a heavy block of iron or steel upon which the blacksmith hammered and shaped the malleable metal.

Lee bought his first anvil from 84-year-old Hurley Alford Templeton of Philadelphia, lugging (103) it home to Michigan in the back of a 4-H county bus. This anvil weighed 100 pounds, about the minimum size Walker Lee needed to get started (104) in his craft.

Lee's first anvil cost him \$100, and four months later, he paid \$75 for an additional implement—a vice—from Cornell University in New York. This important tool also made its (105) way back to Michigan in the back of Lee's 4-H bus.

Lee had spent the summer carting 4-H groups out from Michigan to the east coast for various county fairs and expositions. (106)

Once Lee obtained his first portable forge, he was ready to build his blacksmith shop, commonly referred to as a "smithy." (107) In the interest of economy, he constructed this shop out of inexpensive oak planks and tarpaper. It was a crude little shack but stood for (108) only nine years. Lee, who by then was completely hooked on blacksmithing, replaced his first shop with a finer one made of more expensive wood; this shop also had glass windows, a definite improvement over Lee's original "smithy."

[1] The very first object Lee forged was a long, pointed (109) Hudson Bay dagger. [2] Many people refer to this type of knife as a "dag." [3] As he recalls that event he says, "From the minute I first saw the thing take shape, I was hooked . . . still am. There's an element of magic in it to me. You heat it up and pound it with a hammer and it goes where you want it to go."

[4] Years later at a family event Lee (110), Discovered that his Italian ancestors were accomplished coppersmiths. [5] During the gathering, Lee's great uncle Johnny was proclaiming (111) that Lee's propensity for blacksmithing was "in the blood" as he happily presented Lee with a new 125-pound anvil. (112)

As an outside observer watches (113) Walker Lee bending and shaping a hot metal rod into some recognizable form, it is difficult to discern the origin of the magic Lee spoke of; is it in the glowing, orange steel or in Walker himself?

16.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. American heritage.
- C. Americas heritage.
- D. American's heritage.

17.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. who still continues to practice
- C. who continues to still practice
- D. who practices still

18.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. had begun
- C. begun
- D. began

19.

Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. one of the most intractable metals, iron,
- B. a most intractable material, that being iron
- C. iron (a most intractable material)
- D. a most intractable material, iron,

20. Which choice most emphasizes the difficulty in moving the large anvil?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. taking
- C. driving
- D. transporting

21. At this point, the writer wants to express how Lee first began the craft of blacksmithing. Which choice would most effectively accomplish this task?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. continue

- C. keep going
- D. move on

22.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. it's
- C. its'
- D. the

23.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Carting 4-H groups out from Michigan to the east coast for various county fairs and expositions, Lee had spent the summer.
- C. Lee had spent the summer, for various county fairs and expositions, carting 4-H groups out from Michigan to the east coast.
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

24. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would most effectively introduce the subject of this paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Obtaining a portable forge for the shop proved to be Lee's biggest challenge.
- C. Blacksmith shops can be difficult to construct, but the most challenging task is moving the necessary equipment into it.
- D. A blacksmith's forge requires some type of blower in order to keep the fire hot enough to bend the steel.

25.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. that stood for
- C. which standing for
- D. and stands for



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26.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. long pointed,
- C. long, and pointed
- D. long-pointed

27.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. later at a family, event Lee
- C. later, at a family event, Lee,
- D. later, at a family event, Lee

28.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. proclaimed
- C. had been proclaiming
- D. having proclaimed

29. Which of the following sentences in this paragraph is LEAST relevant to the main focus of the essay and, therefore, could be deleted?

- A. Sentence 2
- B. Sentence 3
- C. Sentence 4
- D. Sentence 5

30.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. was watching
- C. had been watching
- D. watched



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For questions 31 – 45:

Passage 3

“Unfulfilled Promises”

If you have ever entered a contest of any sort—you (114) are well aware of the legal requirements, exclusions, and disclaimers that always accompany (115) the contest’s entry form. Many laws today regulate a contest sponsor’s responsibilities to the entrants, and courts are filled with lawsuits asserting with non-compliance (116) on both sides.

However, this was not always the case. In 1896, a contest motivated a Norwegian immigrant, Helga Estby, to travel nearly 3,500 miles on foot (117) from the state of Washington to New York City. Unfortunately, as is still sometimes true, Helga won the competition only to find that the promise (118) \$10,000 award was mysteriously absent.

[1] Helga had been living (119) on her farm with her husband and nine children in Spokane, Washington, when she read of a \$10,000 prize being offered to a woman who was willing to walk across the country. [2] Because the Estby farm was facing foreclosure, Helga decided that walking across the country in a bicycle skirt for that kind of money was a small price to pay for a greater rewarding. (120)

[3] At the time, this style of skirt was considered to be inappropriate because it revealed the female ankle. [4] The only requirement, from all accounts, was that she wear a modern, newfangled bicycle skirt as she traveled. (121)

So, in May of 1896, Helga and her 18-year-old daughter, Clara, had set off (122) on their long journey.

Helga carried a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper for protection. (123) Presumably, Helga and Clara found food and shelter along the way, and they arrived in New York City in December, seven months after their departure. The contest sponsors, however, were to be found nowhere. (124)

This story of bravery and persistence had therefore been kept a secret (125) for nearly a century, primarily because Helga’s seven- month absence from the farm wreaked havoc on her family. Two of her children died of diphtheria while she was gone. Even worse, her husband had sequestered the surviving children in an unheated shed, thinking that this was the only way to keep them from being infected with the disease. Since the contest sponsor failed to award Helga the money, the Estbys ended up losing the farm; her expedition had been a disaster.

At the time, Helga's trip was considered an embarrassment by the Norwegian-American community and was kept utterly quiet. After Helga's death, her own children burned the hundreds of pages Helga had written through the years, leaving only (126) a small scrapbook of newspaper clippings and very few details of Helga's life or her ill-fated trip.

Looking back 100 years, one can only marvel at the boldness and bravery that must have energized Helga Estby to make that journey on foot across the country in an effort to save her family farm.(127) (128)

31.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. sort; you
- C. sort you
- D. sort, you

32.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. always are accompanying
- C. accompany always
- D. are accompanying

33.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. lawsuits asserting non-compliance
- C. lawsuits of non-compliance asserting
- D. non-compliance lawsuits asserting

34.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. on foot, 3,500 miles
- C. 3,500 miles on feet
- D. 3,500 miles per foot

35.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. promise for the
- C. promised
- D. promising

36.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. been living
- C. has been living
- D. had lived

37.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. greatly rewarding
- C. great reward
- D. greatest reward

38. Which of the following sequences of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. 1, 3, 2, 4
- C. 3, 2, 4, 1
- D. 1, 4, 3, 2

39.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. have set off
- C. set off
- D. went to set off

40.

A. NO CHANGE

B. For protection, Helga carried a revolver as well as a red pepper-containing spray gun.

C. Helga, for protection, she carried a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper.

D. Carried by Helga for protection were a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper.

41.

A. NO CHANGE

B. were nowhere when found

C. to be found nowhere

D. were nowhere to be found

42.

A. NO CHANGE

B. had been kept a secret

C. had been actually kept a secret

D. had in fact been kept a secret

43

A. NO CHANGE

B. years leaving only

C. years; leaving only

D. years leaving only,

44. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would best conclude the sentence while providing the reader with the most specific explanation for Helga's motivation to walk across the country?

A. NO CHANGE

B. to win \$10,000.



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- C. in an effort to save her children from diphtheria.
- D. to help her daughter Clara gain experience.

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

In 1984, Helga's great-great-grandson wrote a story about his ancestor for a history assignment. Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it links the ending of the essay to its introduction.
- B. Yes, because this information is highly relevant to the rest of the essay.
- C. No, because this story might not focus on Helga's farm.
- D. No, because this information introduces a new subtopic of the essay.



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