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Test Prep PRAXIS-Writing-Section

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QUESTION NO: 1

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

A consummate gentleman, Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched.

- A. Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched.
- B. Stefan's etiquette and social grace were unmatched.
- C. Stefan's etiquette as well as his social grace were unmatched.
- D. Stefan possessed unmatched etiquette and social grace.
- E. Stefan's social grace was matched only by his etiquette.

ANSWER: D**Explanation:**

“Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched”, “Stefan's etiquette and social grace were unmatched”, “Stefan's etiquette as well as his social grace were unmatched”, and “Stefan's social grace was matched only by his etiquette” are all dangling modifiers. Choice “Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched” has a verb agreement problem, too.

QUESTION NO: 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

It is ineffective for high school administration to make policy without even asking for student input; banning flip flops and enforcing strict dress codes has merit but there must be a happy medium in school policy.

- A. ineffective
- B. administration
- C. student
- D. has
- E. No error

ANSWER: E**Explanation:**

This sentence is correct as written.

QUESTION NO: 3

Identify the error in the following sentence:

"I don't want too and you can't make me," said he.

- A. "I don't
- B. too
- C. me,"
- D. said he.
- E. No error

ANSWER: B**Explanation:**

The form should be to.

QUESTION NO: 4

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Sports are a significant part of life for people all across the world, as was demonstrated in 2006 when billions of people came together to be involved with the World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.

- A. World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.
- B. World cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.
- C. World Cup either through playing, watching or through advertising.
- D. World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising.
- E. World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising for it.

ANSWER: D**Explanation:**

This sentence tests your knowledge of capitalization and awareness of parallelism. The original sentence is incorrect because choice "World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising" destroys the parallelism (i.e. thru advertising instead of simply "advertising") and uses the informal spelling of through (i.e. "thru"). Only choices "World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising" and "World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising for it" correct the parallelism error; however, the list should strictly contain gerunds in order to be parallel, so "advertising for it" is not the best choice. By ending with "for it" the author is also implying that one may "play for it" and "watch for it," and although one may play for the World Cup through a grammar stretch, one cannot possibly "watch for it" and do the same thing as one who simply "watches it." Choice "World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising" uses the appropriate capitalization (because the

World Cup is a major sports event it is a proper noun that must be capitalized) and maintains strict parallelism in the concluding list of ways to be involved.

QUESTION NO: 5

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Since the work force is becoming increasingly competitive in light of technological advances and outsourcing, therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

- A. therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- B. moreover, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- C. but, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- D. so it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- E. it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

ANSWER: E**Explanation:**

This sentence is a run-on sentence and can be fixed with the deletion of one word: "therefore." By beginning with a conjunction such as "Since" the sentence already has a descriptive clause in motion and just needs to be followed by a succinct (brief) statement of what the background of the first clause was describing. All of the choices except choice "it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree." use this erroneous second conjunction (i.e. therefore, moreover, but, so), so they must be eliminated. Choice "it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree" is grammatically sound.

QUESTION NO: 6

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Many people would immediately stop smoking if they knew only all the dangers, says the report.

- A. Many people
- B. immediately stop
- C. dangers, says
- D. knew only
- E. No error

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The words knew and only should be switched.

QUESTION NO: 7

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

For homes in typically colder geographic regions, it is particularly important to have effective and efficient heating systems.

- A. For homes in typically colder geographic regions
- B. For people in homes in typically colder geographic regions
- C. For homes in typically cold geographic regions
- D. People in typically colder geographic regions
- E. Homes in typically colder geographic regions

ANSWER: C**Explanation:**

The problem with this sentence is that it makes sense conversationally but not in written English. You cannot just say “colder geographic regions” when there is no object of comparison. Colder compared to what? An area can easily be identified as cold without a prior standard (such as the southern regions or areas near the equator) but not “colder.” Also, it is wrong to refer to people as the subject of this sentence because the second clause states that “it is particularly important to have ... heating system.” People cannot have heating systems usually. Therefore, choice “For homes in typically cold geographic regions”, which uses a descriptive rather than comparative term, is the best choice.

QUESTION NO: 8

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

In the last fifty years, those who from the ground up built the business have been replaced by a new generation.

- A. No error
- B. those whose business was ground up
- C. those who built the business from the ground up
- D. in which the business was built from the ground up
- E. those who built the business ground

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Although the sentence as it is written is not technically incorrect, version “those who built the business from the ground up” is easier to read because it puts the verb clause who built the business in front of the relative clause from the ground up.

QUESTION NO: 9

Identify the error in the following sentence:

At long last the doctor – a total stranger; showed up at the house.

- A. At long last
- B. – a
- C. stranger;
- D. at the house.
- E. No error

ANSWER: C**Explanation:**

Another dash, rather than a semi-colon, is appropriate here.

QUESTION NO: 10

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Study the ancient fighting art of Hapkido and you will learn to avoid directly matching your strength against your opponents.

- A. your strength against your opponents.
- B. yours against your opponent.
- C. your strength against your opponent.
- D. your strength with your opponent.
- E. your opponent's strength against one's own.

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

“yours against your opponent” doesn’t say what’s being matched with what. “your strength against your opponent”, “your strength with your opponent”, and “your opponent's strength against one's own” all have some sort of parallelism error.