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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, American Literature	100
Topic 2, English Composition	113
Total	213

QUESTION NO: 1

Who wrote the first American slave autobiography after obtaining his freedom?

- A. Josiah Henson
- B. Frederick Douglass
- C. Nat Turner
- D. William Wells Brown
- E. Olaudah Equiano

ANSWER: E**Explanation:**

Olaudah Equiano was born in what is now Nigeria before being captured and sold as a slave in America. After his escape, he traveled to England where he wrote an account of his time as a slave in *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African* (1789).

QUESTION NO: 2

Leighton Rees, a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, died at age 63.

Begin with "Leighton Rees was a factory worker".

- A. who then died
would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and who then died at age 63." (Awkward)
- B. will have died
would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and will have died at age 63." (Not intended meaning)
- C. then did die
would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and he then did die at age 63." (Awkward)
- D. and he died
- E. and then dying

would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and then dying at age 63." (Improper sentence structure)

ANSWER: D**Explanation:**

The instructions indicate that a compound sentence is needed. The new sentence reads: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and he died at age 63."

A. would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and who then died at age 63." (Awkward)

B. would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and will have died at age 63." (Not intended meaning)

C. would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and he then did die at age 63." (Awkward)

E. would lead to: "Leighton Rees was a factory worker who became the world's first professional darts champion, and then dying at age 63." (Improper sentence structure)

QUESTION NO: 3

Harry Angstrom is the protagonist of which of the following works?

- A. Rabbit Run
- B. Raise High the Roof-Beam, Carpenters
- C. Lonesome Dove
- D. The Housebreaker of Shady Hill
- E. A Love Story

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom is the protagonist Rabbit Run and a number of John Updike novels.

QUESTION NO: 4

Nature, the gentlest mother,
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest, –
Her admonition mild
In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,

Restraining rampant squirrel Or too impetuous bird.
How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon, –
Her household, her assembly; And when the sun goes down
Her voice among the aisles
Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket, The most unworthy flower.
When all the children sleep
She turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,
With infinite affection
And infiniter care,
Her golden finger on her lip, Wills silence everywhere.

The word “child” in line 2 probably refers to

- A. the author’s child
- B. all children
- C. the squirrel in line 7
- D. all living things
- E. the elements

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Line 1 establishes that the poem is speaking of the natural world and living things in general. Nature’s children are all living things.

QUESTION NO: 5

- (1) Education long been viewed as a tool for solving social problems.
- (2) Many people consider a school to be responsible for taking young people from diverse backgrounds and turning them into law-abiding citizens.
- (3) An important question arises.

- (4) If education is the answer to social problems, how can schools themselves be a social problem?
- (5) According to many critics, the answer is that schools are not performing their job good enough.
- (6) The above notion is tied to the belief that there is a serious problem with America's education system.
- (7) According to noted scholars, schooling in the United States lacks one essential ingredient for success.
- (8) This key factor is the involvement of the community.
- (9) Many are familiar with the old African proverb: "It takes a whole village to raise a single child."
- (10) Hence, one is surprised that education in America survives at all without it.
- (11) Education is considered a cure for societal problems, schools are often blamed for those same problems.
- (12) Yet the roots of failure start not in the classrooms but in the broader fabric of society; the workplace, city streets, and the home.
- (13) This was made evident by dramatic changes in American society over the last few decades. (14) First, economic growth has come at a tremendous cost to the nation's most disadvantaged citizens.
- (15) Second, the number of people who vote has declined.
- (16) Finally, there has been a noticeable rise in single parent homes, and there has been a noticeable rise in homes in which both parents have entered the workforce.

Which of the following is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 11 reproduced below?

Education is considered a cure for societal problems, schools are often blamed for those same problems.

A. (No change)

features a comma splice, making for a long run-on sentence. Both sides of the comma are independent clauses that could stand alone as separate sentences. Look for an answer choice that fixes this problem with either a semicolon in place of the comma or the addition of a conjunction. The splice remains in B, which changes the sentence from present tense to past tense. C replaces the comma with a semicolon, but it also incorrectly removes the verb from the second part of the sentence. D is awkward and breaks the logic of the sentence. The best choice is E, which inserts the conjunction "and" to make a complete sentence.

B. societal problems, schools were

C. societal problems; schools

D. societal problems, such as schools being

E. societal problems, and schools are

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

The original sentence

A. features a comma splice, making for a long run-on sentence. Both sides of the comma are independent clauses that could stand alone as separate sentences. Look for an answer choice that fixes this problem with either a semicolon in place of the comma or the addition of a conjunction. The splice remains in B, which changes the sentence from present tense to past

tense. C replaces the comma with a semicolon, but it also incorrectly removes the verb from the second part of the sentence. D is awkward and breaks the logic of the sentence. The best choice is E, which inserts the conjunction “and” to make a complete sentence.

QUESTION NO: 6

What literary device does Mark Twain use to attack slavery and religion in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?

- A. Sarcasm
- B. Metonymy
- C. Simile
- D. Metaphor
- E. Foreshadowing

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

Twain uses sarcasm to great effect in *Huckleberry Finn* to criticize slavery and religion.

QUESTION NO: 7

Select the correct error. No sentence contains more than one error. If No Error exists, then select option no error.

(1) It was the (2) worse storm (3) that the inhabitants of the island (4) could remember.

- A. It
- B. worse
- C. that
- D. could
- E. no error

ANSWER: B**QUESTION NO: 8**

Between the prototypes, Mr. Kwon, the project manager, suggested that the developers concentrate on the largest of the two. No error

- A. between

- B. suggested
- C. developers concentrate
- D. largest of
- E. No error

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

When comparing two items, the correct word for comparison ends with the suffix “-er.” When comparing three or more items, the correct word for comparison ends with “-est.” This sentence ends with the words “the two,” so D should be “larger of.” A is used correctly as there are only two prototypes. The verb “suggested” in B agrees with the subject “Mr. Kwon.” “Developers” in D is the object of the dependent clause beginning with “that,” and “concentrate” is the corresponding verb.

QUESTION NO: 9

Nature, the gentlest mother,
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest, –
Her admonition mild
In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel Or too impetuous bird.
How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon, –
Her household, her assembly; And when the sun goes down
Her voice among the aisles Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket,
The most unworthy flower.
When all the children sleep
She turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,
With infinite affection

And infiniter care,

Her golden finger on her lip, Wills silence everywhere.

“Her golden finger on her lip” (line 24) is an example of

- A. rhyme
- B. ellipsis
- C. alliteration
- D. personification
- E. metonymy

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Personification is when a natural phenomenon is expressed in human terms. In this case the sun setting over the horizon is represented as Mother Nature’s “golden finger on her lip.”

QUESTION NO: 10

The object of the research activities has been to stimulate thinking about subjects of constitutional concern from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.

- A. The object of the research activities has been
- B. The object of the research activities have been
- C. The research activities’ object are
- D. The object of the research activities was as follows:
- E. The object of the research activities being

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The subject of the sentence is “object,” which is singular. B and C use plural verbs, so they are incorrect. D uses a singular verb, but the colon structure in this sentence is very awkward. With the use of “being,” E does not form a complete sentence. A, on the other hand, forms the best sentence of all the choices.

QUESTION NO: 11

Which Toni Morrison novel tells of Milkman Dead’s search for identity?

- A. The Color Purple
- B. Song of Solomon
- C. Beloved
- D. Black Boy
- E. Another Country

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The Song of Solomon tells of Milkman Dead's search for identity.

QUESTION NO: 12

In which of the following novels does the protagonist Tyrone Slothrop undergo physiological conditioning to be able to detect things others cannot?

- A. Gravity's Rainbow
- B. The Crucible
- C. Nobody Knows My Name
- D. I Am Joaquin
- E. Pictures of Fidelman

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The protagonist of Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow is subjected to psychological conditioning as an infant that gives him the ability to detect incoming German V-rockets.

QUESTION NO: 13

Most people who take acting lessons have little appreciation for the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress.

Begin with "Few people".

- A. appreciate
- B. appreciating
would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons are appreciating the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Awkward)

C. hardly appreciating

would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons are hardly appreciating the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Awkward; changes intended meaning)

D. lack the appreciation

would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons lack the appreciation for the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Changes intended meaning)

E. have to appreciate

would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons have to appreciate the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Changes intended meaning)

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

Changing "most" to "few" requires you to alter the sentence in the following manner: "Few people who take acting lessons appreciate the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress."

B. would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons are appreciating the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Awkward)

C. would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons are hardly appreciating the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Awkward; changes intended meaning)

D. would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons lack the appreciation for the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Changes intended meaning)

E. would lead to: "Few people who take acting lessons have to appreciate the sacrifices required to become a professional actor or actress." (Changes intended meaning)

QUESTION NO: 14

Censorship by which of the following helped to determine the content of early American literature?

A. Protestants**B. Catholics****C. Unitarians****D. Evangelicals****E. Agnostics****ANSWER: A****Explanation:**

The Protestant clergy exerted great influence over the cultural life of early America. Written works could not be easily published without the approval of the religious establishment. Further, certain subjects were considered off-limits.

QUESTION NO: 15

In which novel are African-American boys cruelly tormented in the “Battle Royal”?

- A. Invisible Man
- B. Wise Blood
- C. The Dean’s December
- D. The Tenants
- E. The End of the Road

ANSWER: A**Explanation:**

The protagonist of the Invisible Man describes a boxing match (called the “Battle Royal”) between blindfolded young African-American boys staged by whites for their own entertainment.