

# The Redesigned SAT®

## Writing and Language Sample Sets

### *Information for users of assistive technology*

The document(s) that accompany these instructions are designed to be accessible to individuals who use screen readers, text readers, or other assistive technology. You may wish to consult the manual or help system of your application software to learn how best to take advantage of the following features implemented in this document.

#### **Headings**

Some questions include passages or other material that you may find it useful to return to or skip past. To assist in this kind of navigation, the test documents use headings as follows.

Heading level 3: section titles

Heading level 4: directions for a group of questions or references to material on which one or more questions will be based (for example, “Question 3 is based on the following text:”)

Heading level 5: question numbers, which directly precede the associated questions

Heading level 6: indications of skippable content (For example, you may prefer to skip some sections of this script, such as those that provide figure descriptions or possible answers in context for questions that involve revision. This content is identified at the beginning by the phrase “**Begin skippable content**” and at the end by the phrase “**End skippable content.**” These phrases are formatted as level-6 headings.)

## **Links**

This document includes hyperlinked material. There are two ways to follow a link. One is to move the flashing text cursor, or caret, into the hyperlinked text and press the Enter key; the other is to place the mouse cursor, or pointer, over the hyperlinked text and press Ctrl+left-click (that is, press and release the left button on the mouse while holding down the Ctrl key on the keyboard). Some application software includes commands for listing links in a document. In JAWS, for example, pressing Insert+F5 provides a list of links. After following a link in Microsoft Word®, you can return to your previous location by pressing Alt+left arrow.

## **Text attributes**

Boldfacing and underlining are used in this document for emphasis and in defined heading styles. Italic type is not used as an emphasis indicator in this document but is used in defined heading styles as well as where standard typographic conventions require them, such as book titles and mathematical variables. Adjust the settings of your screen reader or other application software if you wish to be notified of text attribute changes. Except where stated otherwise, this formatting is not critical to the meaning of the test material.

## **Text and graphics size**

The styles used in this document result in text that is moderately enlarged. To enlarge text further in Microsoft Word, the following is recommended, in order of preference:

1. Adjust the styles to meet your needs. You can adjust both font size and typeface if desired.
2. Manually adjust the font size or typeface as desired.
3. Use Microsoft Word’s zoom function. This is the easiest way to enlarge any figures, but note that some screen readers will not read text that has moved off screen as a result of zooming.

## **Pronunciation**

Some changes to the text have been made to improve the way screen readers pronounce the text where doing so would not inappropriately change test content. For example, we have inserted spaces between the letters of initialisms to ensure that the individual letters are spoken separately. However, please note that pronunciation errors may remain. If unsure of a word, use the spelling or character-by-character navigation function of your application software to resolve any uncertainties.

## **Punctuation**

Where punctuation or symbols are critical to the meaning of test material, we either convert the symbol or punctuation mark to words (for example, “it apostrophe s” or “it s apostrophe”) or else include a statement advising you to take note of punctuation for a particular question or portion of a question.

## **Figures**

This document may include figures, which appear on screen. Following each figure on screen is text describing that figure. Readers using visual presentations of the figures may choose to skip parts of the text describing the figure that begin with “**Begin skippable figure description**” and end with “**End skippable figure description.**”

Your application software may speak unhelpful information when you arrive at the figures, such as the figure’s size. If your application software offers a method of configuring speech for graphics, you may wish to use that to prevent it from speaking the unwanted information.

# Writing and Language

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.

A pair of brackets containing an uppercase *Q* and a number — for example, [Q1] — indicates that a question refers to that location in the passage or the following underlined portion of the passage. The number in brackets is the number of the question that is related to the indicated part of the passage. The bracketed element is hyperlinked to the associated question, and the question heading is hyperlinked to the related location or portion of the passage. There are two ways to follow a link. One is to move the flashing text cursor, or caret, into the hyperlinked text and press the Enter key; the other is to place the mouse cursor, or pointer, over the hyperlinked text and press Ctrl+left-click (that is, press and release the left button on the mouse while holding down the Ctrl key on the keyboard).

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.

In questions that ask you to consider potential revisions, the list of answer choices is followed by a presentation of each revision in context. The set of revisions is surrounded by “**Begin skippable content**” and “**End skippable content**” labels formatted as level-6 headings. If a question includes a “NO CHANGE” option, the beginning of the skippable content will present the relevant context of the passage in its original form with the original underlined text. After that, the same context will be repeated with the underlined portion replaced by each revision to be considered.

Punctuation is essential to some questions in this test, so we suggest that you either activate the punctuation-reading function of your application software or utilize the character-by-character capabilities of your application software.

# ***Sample Writing and Language Set 1***

**Program or exam:** SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10

**Passage content:** Careers

**Text complexity:** Lower

**Questions 1 through 11 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.**

## **Passage**

### **A Life in Traffic**

A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. [Q1] To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated. When any one of these changes [Q2] occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or [Q3] they design new ones. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, [Q4] but some are employed in rural areas. Say, for example, a large factory is built on the outskirts of a small town. Traffic to and from that location would increase at the beginning and end of work shifts. The transportation [Q5] planner's job, might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the

new factory. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the [\[Q6\] current road as it is designed at this time](#) can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.

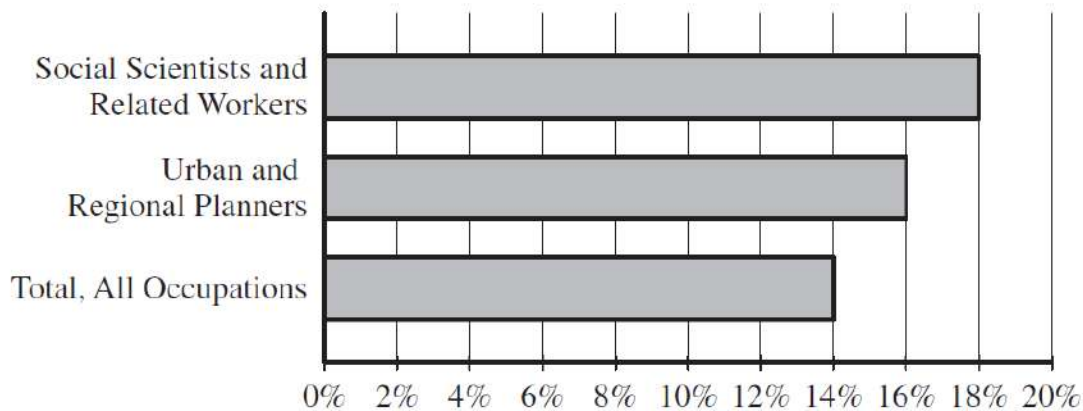
Transportation planners work closely with a number of community stakeholders, such as government officials and other interested organizations and individuals. [\[Q7\] Next](#), representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more. [\[Q8\] According to the American Heart Association, walking provides numerous benefits related to health and well-being.](#) Members of the Chamber of Commerce might share suggestions about designing transportation and parking facilities to support local businesses.

[\[Q9\] People who pursue careers in transportation planning](#) have a wide variety of educational backgrounds. A two-year degree in transportation technology may be sufficient for some entry-level jobs in the field. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor's degree; majors of transportation planners are [\[Q10\] varied, including](#) fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics management. For many positions in the field, a master's degree is required.

Transportation planners perform critical work within the broader field of urban and regional planning. As of 2010, there were approximately 40,300 urban and regional planners employed in the United States. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, [\[Q11\] projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.](#) Population growth and concerns about environmental sustainability are expected to spur the need for transportation planning professionals.



Urban and Regional Planners  
Percent Increase in Employment, Projected 2010–2020



Adapted from *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program*. "All occupations" includes all occupations in the United States economy.

**Begin skippable figure description.**

The preceding figure presents a bar graph titled "Urban and Regional Planners: Percent Increase in Employment, Projected 2010 to 2020."

The horizontal axis at the bottom of the figure has eleven tick marks labeled zero percent to twenty percent, in increments of two percentage points, from left to right. Gridlines extend upward from all of the tick marks.

The vertical axis at the left of the figure is labeled with three occupational categories, and a bar extends to the right from each of the three labels. The highest bar is labeled "Social Scientists and Related Workers," and it extends to the gridline marked eighteen percent. The middle bar is labeled "Urban and Regional Planners," and it extends to the gridline marked sixteen percent. The lowest bar is labeled "Total, All Occupations," and it extends to the gridline marked fourteen percent.

A caption below the figure states: “Adapted from *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections Program*. ‘All occupations’ includes all occupations in the United States economy.”

***End skippable figure description.***

**Question 1. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

Which choice best maintains the sentence pattern already established in the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE (To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated.)
- B. Coordinating stoplight timing can help alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
- C. Stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
- D. In a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams.

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated. When any one of these changes occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

- B. A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. Coordinating stoplight timing can help alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area. When any one of these changes occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.
- C. A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. Stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area. When any one of these changes occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.
- D. A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. In a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams. When any one of these changes occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 1.)**

**Question 2. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (occur, it is)
- B. occur, they are
- C. occurs, they are
- D. occurs, it is

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. When any one of these changes occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.
- B. When any one of these changes occur, they are likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.
- C. When any one of these changes occurs, they are likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.
- D. When any one of these changes occurs, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 2.)**

**Question 3. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (they design)
- B. to design
- C. designing
- D. design

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or they design new ones.
- B. The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or to design new ones.
- C. The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or designing new ones.
- D. The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or design new ones.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 3.)**

**Question 4. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

Which choice results in the most effective transition to the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE (but some are employed in rural areas.)
- B. where job opportunities are more plentiful.
- C. and the majority are employed by government agencies.
- D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, but some are employed in rural areas.
- B. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, where job opportunities are more plentiful.
- C. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, and the majority are employed by government agencies.
- D. Most transportation planners work in or near cities.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 4.)**

**Question 5. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (planner’s job,)
- B. planner’s job
- C. planners job,
- D. planners job

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. The transportation planner’s job, might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory.
- B. The transportation planner’s job might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory.
- C. The transportation planners job, might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory.
- D. The transportation planners job might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 5.)**

**Question 6. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (current road as it is designed at this time)
- B. current design of the road right now
- C. road as it is now currently designed
- D. current design of the road

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the current road as it is designed at this time can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.
- B. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the current design of the road right now can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.
- C. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the road as it is now currently designed can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.
- D. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the current design of the road can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.

***End skippable content.***



**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 6.)**

**[Question 7.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (Next,)
- B. For instance,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. Similarly,

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. Next, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more.
- B. For instance, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more.
- C. Furthermore, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more.
- D. Similarly, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 7.)**

**[Question 8.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

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

- A. Kept, because it provides supporting evidence about the benefits of walking.
- B. Kept, because it provides an additional example of a community stakeholder with whom transportation planners work.
- C. Deleted, because it blurs the paragraph’s focus on the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.
- D. Deleted, because it doesn’t provide specific examples of what the numerous benefits of walking are.

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 8.)**

**[Question 9.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (People who pursue careers in transportation planning)
- B. People, who pursue careers in transportation planning,
- C. People who pursue careers, in transportation planning,
- D. People who pursue careers in transportation planning,

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. People who pursue careers in transportation planning have a wide variety of educational backgrounds.
- B. People, who pursue careers in transportation planning, have a wide variety of educational backgrounds.
- C. People who pursue careers, in transportation planning, have a wide variety of educational backgrounds.
- D. People who pursue careers in transportation planning, have a wide variety of educational backgrounds.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 9.)**

**[Question 10.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (varied, including)
- B. varied, and including
- C. varied and which include
- D. varied, which include

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor’s degree; majors of transportation planners are varied, including fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics management.
  
- B. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor’s degree; majors of transportation planners are varied, and including fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics management.
  
- C. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor’s degree; majors of transportation planners are varied and which include fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics management.
  
- D. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor’s degree; majors of transportation planners are varied, which include fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics management.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 10.)**

**Question 11. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

Which choice completes the sentence with accurate data based on the graph ([follow link](#))?

- A. NO CHANGE (projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.)
- B. warning, however, that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.
- C. predicting that employment of urban and regional planners will increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- D. indicating that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.
- B. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, warning, however, that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.
- C. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, predicting that employment of urban and regional planners will increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- D. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, indicating that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

*End skippable content.*

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 11.)**

# ***Sample Writing and Language Set 1***

## ***Answer Explanations***

The following are explanations of answers to questions 1 through 11 of sample Writing and Language Set 1. The heading of each explanation is hyperlinked to the actual question. In addition, each explanation is followed by two hyperlinks: one to the question explained and one to the next question.

There are two ways to follow a link. One is to move the flashing text cursor, or caret, into the hyperlinked text and press the Enter key; the other is to place the mouse cursor, or pointer, over the hyperlinked text and press Ctrl+left-click (that is, press and release the left button on the mouse while holding down the Ctrl key on the keyboard). After following a link in Microsoft Word, you can return to your previous location (for example, the answer explanation) by pressing Alt+left arrow.

**Explanation for [Question 1](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Relevant words in context; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Language use

**Objective (focus):** Students must revise text to ensure consistency of style within a series of sentences.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because it most closely maintains the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences, which begin with a noun and passive verb phrase (“A subway system is expanded,” “A bike-sharing program is adopted”).

Choice A is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with an infinitive phrase.

Choice B is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with a gerund.

Choice D is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it shifts the placement of a modifying prepositional phrase, “in a congested downtown area,” from the end of the sentence to the beginning of the sentence.

**Link back to [Question 1](#).**

**Link back to [Question 2](#).**



## **Explanation for [Question 2](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of usage

**Objective (focus):** Students must maintain grammatical agreement between pronoun and antecedent and between subject and verb.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** D

Choice D is the best answer because it maintains agreement between pronoun (“it”) and antecedent (“any one”) and between subject (“any one”) and verb (“occurs”).

Choice A is not the best answer because the plural verb “occur” does not agree with the singular subject “any one.”

Choice B is not the best answer because the plural verb “occur” does not agree with the singular subject “any one” and because the plural pronoun “they” does not agree with the singular antecedent “any one.”

Choice C is not the best answer because the plural pronoun “they” does not agree with the singular antecedent “any one.”

**Link back to [Question 2](#).**

**Link back to [Question 3](#).**

**Explanation for [Question 3](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Sentence structure

**Objective (focus):** Students must maintain parallel structure.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because “designing” maintains parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice A is not the best answer because “they design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice B is not the best answer because “to design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

Choice D is not the best answer because “design” does not maintain parallelism with “evaluating,” “assessing,” and “improving.”

**Link back to [Question 3](#).**

**Link back to [Question 4](#).**

**Explanation for [Question 4](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Expression of ideas

**Skill:** Organization

**Objective (focus):** Students must determine the most effective transition between ideas.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** A

Choice A is the best answer because it effectively signals the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area and asked to consider the effects of building a new factory “on the outskirts of a small town.”

Choice B is not the best answer because noting that job opportunities are more plentiful in cities does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Choice C is not the best answer because noting that most transportation planners work for government agencies does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Choice D is not the best answer because the proposed deletion would create a jarring shift from the statement “Most transportation planners work in or near cities” to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Link back to [Question 4](#).

Link back to [Question 5](#).

## Explanation for [Question 5](#). (Follow link back to original question.)

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of punctuation

**Objective (focus):** Students must recognize and correct inappropriate uses of possessive nouns and pronouns as well as differentiate between possessive and plural forms. Students will recognize and correct cases in which unnecessary punctuation appears in a sentence.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** B

Choice B is the best answer because it correctly uses an apostrophe to indicate the possessive and doesn't introduce any unnecessary punctuation.

Choice A is not the best answer because, while it correctly indicates the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job," it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word "job."

Choice C is not the best answer because it doesn't indicate the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job," and it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word "job."

Choice D is not the best answer because it doesn't indicate the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job."

Link back to [Question 5](#).

Link back to [Question 6](#).

**Explanation for [Question 6](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Relevant words in context; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Effective language use

**Objective (focus):** Students must improve the economy of expression.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** D

Choice D is the best answer because it offers a clear and concise wording without redundancy.

Choice A is not the best answer because “current” is redundant with “at this time.”

Choice B is not the best answer because “current” is redundant with “right now.”

Choice C is not the best answer because “now” is redundant with “currently.”

Link back to [Question 6](#).

Link back to [Question 7](#).

**Explanation for [Question 7](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Expression of ideas

**Skill:** Organization

**Objective (focus):** Students must determine the most logical transitional word or phrase.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** B

Choice B is the best answer because the transitional phrase “For instance” logically indicates that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence. “Representatives from the local public health department” is an example of the kinds of people with whom transportation planners work.

Choice A is not the best answer because the transitional word “Next” indicates sequence, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because the transitional word “Furthermore” indicates addition, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because the transitional word “Similarly” indicates comparison or likeness, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

**Link back to [Question 7](#).**

**Link back to [Question 8](#).**

**Explanation for [Question 8](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Command of evidence; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Development

**Objective (focus):** Students must delete information that blurs the focus of the paragraph and weakens cohesion.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because it identifies the best reason the underlined sentence should not be kept. At this point in the passage and paragraph, a general statement about the benefits of walking only serves to interrupt the discussion of the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice A is not the best answer because the underlined sentence should not be kept. Although the sentence could theoretically provide supporting evidence about the benefits of walking, the passage has not made a claim that needs to be supported in this way, and including such a statement only serves to interrupt the discussion of the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice B is not the best answer because the underlined sentence should not be kept. Although the American Heart Association could theoretically be an example of “other interested organizations” that transportation planners work with, the sentence does not suggest this is the case. Instead, the association is merely the source for the general statement about the benefits of walking, a statement that only serves to interrupt the discussion of the actual community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

Choice D is not the best answer because although the underlined sentence should be deleted, it is not because the sentence lacks specific examples of the numerous benefits of walking. Adding such examples would only serve to blur the focus of the paragraph further with general factual information, as the paragraph’s main purpose is to discuss the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.

**Link back to [Question 8](#).**

**Link back to [Question 9](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 9](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of punctuation

**Objective (focus):** Students must distinguish between restrictive or essential and nonrestrictive or nonessential sentence elements and avoid unneeded punctuation.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** A

Choice A is the best answer because “who pursue careers in transportation planning” is, in context, a restrictive clause that should not be set off with punctuation. “Who pursue careers in transportation planning” is essential information defining who the “people” are.

Choice B is not the best answer because it incorrectly sets off the restrictive clause “who pursue careers in transportation planning” with commas as though the clause were nonrestrictive, or not essential to defining who the “people” are.



Choice C is not the best answer because it incorrectly sets off the essential sentence element “in transportation planning” with commas as though the phrase were not essential to the meaning of the sentence. “In transportation planning” is essential information defining what the “careers” are.

Choice D is not the best answer because it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word “planning,” incorrectly setting off the subject of the sentence (“people who pursue careers in transportation planning”) from the predicate (“have a wide variety of educational backgrounds”).

**Link back to [Question 9](#).**

**Link back to [Question 10](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 10](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Sentence structure

**Objective (focus):** Students must recognize and correct problems in coordination and subordination in sentences.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** A

Choice A is the best answer because it uses a comma to effectively subordinate the list of varied fields in which transportation planners major.

Choice B is not the best answer because the comma and coordinating conjunction “and” result in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because the coordinating conjunction “and” along with the subordinating conjunction “which” result in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because it is unclear from this construction to what exactly the subordinating conjunction “which” refers.

**Link back to [Question 10](#).**

**Link back to [Question 11](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 11](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Command of evidence; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Development

**Objective (focus):** Students must evaluate text based on data presented graphically.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because it completes the sentence with an accurate interpretation of data in the graph. The graph displays projections of how much growth in employment there is expected to be between 2010 and 2020 for “social scientists and related workers,” for “urban and regional planners,” and in “all occupations” in the U.S. economy. According to the graph, the employment of urban and regional planners is expected to increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Choice A is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.

Choice B is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.

Choice D is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

**Link back to [Question 11](#).**

**This is the end of Writing and Language Sample Set 1 Answer Explanations. Go on to the next page to begin Writing and Language Sample Set 2.**

# ***Sample Writing and Language Set 2***

## **Passage**

**Program or exam:** SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10

**Passage content:** Humanities

**Text complexity:** Medium

## **Questions 12 through 22 are based on the following passage.**

### **Dong Kingman: Painter of Cities**

A 1954 documentary about renowned watercolor painter Dong Kingman shows the artist sitting on a stool on Mott Street in New York City’s Chinatown. A crowd of admiring spectators [Q12] watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor [Q13] box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel. Each stroke of the brush and dab of the sponge transforms thinly sketched outlines into buildings, shop signs, and streetlamps. The street scene Kingman begins composing in this short film is very much in keeping with the urban landscapes for which he is best known.

Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. The name Kingman was selected for its two [Q14] parts, “king” and “man”;

Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to [\[Q15\]](#) paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, [\[Q16\]](#) vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [\[Q17\]](#)

[\[Q18\]](#) His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire [\[Q19\]](#) hydrant, an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and [\[Q20\]](#) delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park. To art critics and fans alike, these city scenes represent the innovative spirit of twentieth-century urban Modernism.

During his career, Kingman exhibited his work [\[Q21\]](#) internationally. He garnered much acclaim. In 1936, a critic described one of Kingman’s solo exhibits as “twenty of the freshest, most satisfying watercolors that have been seen hereabouts in many a day.” [\[Q22\]](#)

**[Question 12.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (watched)
- B. had watched
- C. would watch
- D. watches

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. A crowd of admiring spectators watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- B. A crowd of admiring spectators had watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- C. A crowd of admiring spectators would watch as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- D. A crowd of admiring spectators watches as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 12.)**

**Question 13. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (box, from just a few primary colors,)
- B. box. From just a few primary colors,
- C. box from just a few primary colors,
- D. box, from just a few primary colors

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. A crowd of admiring spectators watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- B. A crowd of admiring spectators watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box. From just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- C. A crowd of admiring spectators watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.
- D. A crowd of admiring spectators watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor box, from just a few primary colors Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 13.)**

**[Question 14.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (parts, “king” and “man”);
- B. parts: “king” and “man,”
- C. parts “king” and “man”;
- D. parts; “king” and “man”

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.”
- B. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts: “king” and “man,” Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.”
- C. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.”
- D. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts; “king” and “man” Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.”

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 14.)**



**Question 15. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (paintings by Chinese landscape artists)
- B. Chinese landscape artists
- C. painters of Chinese landscapes
- D. artists

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art.
- B. As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art.
- C. As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to painters of Chinese landscapes dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art.
- D. As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 15.)**

**Question 16. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (vacated)
- B. evacuated
- C. departed
- D. retired

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.
- B. Kingman, however, evacuated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.
- C. Kingman, however, departed from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.
- D. Kingman, however, retired from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.

***End skippable content.***

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 16.)**

**Question 17 refers to the order of sentences in paragraph 2, which is repeated below with sentence numbering for your reference.**

Paragraph 2

[1] Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. [2] In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” [3] His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. [4] The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. [5] The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” [6] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. [7] Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [Q17]

**Question 17. (Each reference to a sentence in the question and answer choices is a link back to that sentence in the paragraph above.)**

To make this paragraph most logical, [sentence 3](#) should be placed

- A. where it is now. ([link to result of answer choice A](#))
- B. [before sentence 1.](#) ([link to result of answer choice B](#))
- C. [after sentence 1.](#) ([link to result of answer choice C](#))
- D. [after sentence 4.](#) ([link to result of answer choice D](#))

The following skippable content presents the results of placing sentence 3 in the position suggested in each answer choice.

***Begin skippable content.***

A. Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.

B. His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.

C. Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.

D. Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. The name Kingman was selected for its two parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 17.)**

**Question 18. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A. Kingman is considered a pioneer of the California Style school of painting.
- B. Although cities were his main subject, Kingman did occasionally paint natural landscapes.
- C. In his urban landscapes, Kingman captures the vibrancy of crowded cities.
- D. In 1929 Kingman moved to Oakland, California, where he attended the Fox Art School.

**Answer Explanation. (Follow link to explanation of question 18.)**

**Question 19. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

- A. NO CHANGE (hydrant,)
- B. hydrant—
- C. hydrant:
- D. hydrant

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant, an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.
- B. His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant—an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.
- C. His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant: an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.
- D. His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 19.)**

**Question 20. (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

The writer wants to complete the sentence with a third example of a detail Kingman uses to create his majestic city skylines. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. NO CHANGE (delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park.)
- B. exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs.
- C. other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes.
- D. enormous ships docking at busy urban ports.

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park.
- B. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs.
- C. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes.



D. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and enormous ships docking at busy urban ports.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 20.)**

**[Question 21.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

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

- A. internationally, and Kingman also garnered
- B. internationally; from exhibiting, he garnered
- C. internationally but garnered
- D. internationally, garnering

Answer choices in context.

***Begin skippable content.***

- A. During his career, Kingman exhibited his work internationally, and Kingman also garnered much acclaim.
- B. During his career, Kingman exhibited his work internationally; from exhibiting, he garnered much acclaim.
- C. During his career, Kingman exhibited his work internationally but garnered much acclaim.
- D. During his career, Kingman exhibited his work internationally, garnering much acclaim.

***End skippable content.***

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 21.)**

**[Question 22.](#) (Follow link back to location in passage.)**

The writer wants to conclude the passage with a sentence that emphasizes an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work. Which choice would best accomplish this goal?

- A. Although Kingman’s work might not be as famous as that of some other watercolor painters, such as Georgia O’Keeffe and Edward Hopper, it is well regarded by many people.
- B. Since Kingman’s death in 2000, museums across the United States and in China have continued to ensure that his now-iconic landscapes remain available for the public to enjoy.
- C. The urban landscapes depicted in Kingman’s body of work are a testament to aptness of the name chosen for Kingman when he was just a boy.
- D. Kingman’s work was but one example of a long-lasting tradition refreshed by an innovative artist with a new perspective.

**[Answer Explanation.](#) (Follow link to explanation of question 22.)**

# ***Sample Writing and Language Set 2***

## ***Answer Explanations***

The following are explanations of answers to questions 12 through 22 of sample Writing and Language Set 2. The heading of each explanation is hyperlinked to the actual question. In addition, each explanation is followed by two hyperlinks: one to the question explained and one to the next question.

There are two ways to follow a link. One is to move the flashing text cursor, or caret, into the hyperlinked text and press the Enter key; the other is to place the mouse cursor, or pointer, over the hyperlinked text and press Ctrl+left-click (that is, press and release the left button on the mouse while holding down the Ctrl key on the keyboard). After following a link in Microsoft Word, you can return to your previous location (for example, the answer explanation) by pressing Alt+left arrow.

**Explanation for [Question 12](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Sentence structure

**Objective (focus):** Students must recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and mood.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** D

Choice D is the best answer because the simple present tense verb “watches” is consistent with the tense of the verbs in the rest of the sentence and paragraph.

Choice A is not the best answer because “watched” creates an inappropriate shift to the past tense.

Choice B is not the best answer because “had watched” creates an inappropriate shift to the past perfect tense.

Choice C is not the best answer because “would watch” creates an inappropriate shift that suggests a habitual aspect (other verbs in the sentence and paragraph, however, indicate that a specific instance is being narrated).

**Link back to [Question 12](#).**

**Link back to [Question 13](#).**

**Explanation for [Question 13](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Sentence structure

**Objective (focus):** Students must create two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** B

Choice B is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

Choice A is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase “from just a few primary colors” modifies.

Choice C is not the best answer because it results in a run-on sentence as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase “from just a few primary colors” modifies.

Choice D is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice.

**Link back to [Question 13](#).**

**Link back to [Question 14](#).**

## **Explanation for [Question 14](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of punctuation

**Objective (focus):** Students must both signal a strong within-sentence break and set off nonessential elements of the sentence.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** B

Choice B is the best answer because the colon after “parts” effectively signals that what follows in the sentence further defines what the “two parts” of Kingman’s name are and because the comma after “man” properly indicates that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice A is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase. Moreover, the comma after “parts” is arguably a weak form of punctuation to be signaling the strong break in the sentence indicated here.

Choice C is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase and because the absence of a comma after “parts” fails to indicate that “two parts” and “‘king’ and ‘man’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice D is not the best answer because the semicolon after “parts” incorrectly joins an independent clause and phrases and because the absence of a comma after “man” fails to indicate that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Link back to [Question 14](#).

Link back to [Question 15](#).

**Explanation for [Question 15](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of usage

**Objective (focus):** Students must ensure that like terms are being compared.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** A

Choice A is the best answer because it creates a comparison between like terms: “works” by Kingman and “paintings by Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice B is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice C is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “painters of Chinese landscapes.”

Choice D is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “artists.”

Link back to [Question 15](#).

Link back to [Question 16](#).

**Explanation for [Question 16](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Relevant words in context; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Effective language use

**Objective (focus):** Students must determine the most contextually appropriate word.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because “departed” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways.

Choice A is not the best answer because while “vacated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was vacating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice B is not the best answer because while “evacuated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was evacuating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice D is not the best answer because while “retired” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was retiring from a tradition in a number of ways.

**Link back to [Question 16](#).**

**Link back to [Question 17](#).**



**Explanation for [Question 17](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Expression of ideas

**Skill:** Organization

**Objective (focus):** Students must improve the cohesion of a paragraph.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 1 makes the paragraph most cohesive. Sentence 3 refers to Kingman’s “interest” being “so keen,” a callback to sentence 1, which says that “Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age.”

Choice A is not the best answer because leaving sentence 3 where it is now creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Keeping sentence 3 in its current location disrupts the link between sentence 2 (which describes the concept of “school names” in Hong Kong) and sentence 4 (which reveals that Dong Kingman was the school name of Dong Moy Shu).

Choice B is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 before sentence 1 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 at the beginning of the paragraph would offer a poor introduction to the paragraph, in large part because sentence 3 builds directly on a point made in sentence 1.

Choice D is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 4 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 after sentence 4 would disrupt the link between sentence 4 (which mentions that Dong Moy Shu was given

the school name Dong Kingman) and sentence 5 (which explains what the two parts comprising the name Kingman mean in Cantonese).

**Link back to [Question 17](#).**

**Link back to [Question 18](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 18](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Command of evidence; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Development

**Objective (focus):** Students must determine which sentence best signals the main topic of a paragraph.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** C

Choice C is the best answer because it clearly establishes the main topic of the paragraph: Kingman’s urban landscapes.

Choice A is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman’s painting style and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

Choice B is not the best answer because it would suggest that the main topic of the paragraph is the natural landscapes Kingman occasionally painted, which is incorrect given the focus of the rest of the sentences in the paragraph.

Choice D is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman’s life and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

Link back to [Question 18](#).

Link back to [Question 19](#).

## Explanation for [Question 19](#). (Follow link back to original question.)

**Subscore:** Standard English conventions

**Skill:** Conventions of punctuation

**Objective (focus):** Students must effectively separate items in a series.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Key:** A

Choice A is the best answer because a comma after the word “hydrant” separates the phrase “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” from the phrase “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.” A comma is also consistent with the punctuation choice made to separate the first two phrases in the asyndetic series following the colon in the sentence.

Choice B is not the best answer because a dash is not a conventional choice for punctuating items in a series.

Choice C is not the best answer because although a colon can be used to introduce a series, it is not a conventional choice for separating items within a series.

Choice D is not the best answer because it fuses together two items in the series. Separating the phrases “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” and “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway” requires punctuation and/or a coordinating conjunction.

Link back to [Question 19](#).

Link back to [Question 20](#).

## Explanation for [Question 20](#). (Follow link back to original question.)

**Subscore:** Command of evidence; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Development

**Objective (focus):** Students must revise supporting information to accomplish a particular writing goal.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** D

Choice D is the best answer because the phrase “enormous ships docking at busy urban ports” effectively continues the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”) conveying the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman.

Choice A is not the best answer because the phrase “delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

Choice B is not the best answer because the phrase “exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

Choice C is not the best answer because the phrase “other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes” is too vague and general to constitute a third example that conveys a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

**Link back to [Question 20](#).**

**Link back to [Question 21](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 21](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Relevant words in context; expression of ideas

**Skill:** Effective language use

**Objective (focus):** Students must combine sentences effectively.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Key:** D

Choice D is the best answer because it combines the sentences logically and efficiently, with the original second sentence becoming a participial phrase describing Kingman.

Choice A is not the best answer because it creates a wordy and awkward construction and because it fails to link the acclaim Kingman received with the exhibition of his work.

Choice B is not the best answer because it creates a repetitive and awkward construction.

Choice C is not the best answer because “but” suggests contrast or exception, neither of which makes sense in the context of the sentence.

**Link back to [Question 21](#).**

**Link back to [Question 22](#).**

### **Explanation for [Question 22](#). (Follow link back to original question.)**

**Subscore:** Expression of ideas

**Skill:** Organization

**Objective (focus):** Students must determine the most effective ending of a text given a particular writing goal.

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Key:** B

Choice B is the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that emphasizes the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work by indicating that museums continue to make Kingman’s iconic paintings accessible to the public.

Choice A is not the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that acknowledges that other painters’ work is more famous than Kingman’s (which downplays, rather than emphasizes, the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work) and offers only a general assertion that Kingman’s work is “well regarded by many people.”

Choice C is not the best answer because instead of referring to the enduring legacy of Kingman’s work, it concludes the passage with a sentence that recalls a detail the passage provides about Kingman’s early life.

Choice D is not the best answer because it concludes the passage with a sentence that is too vague and general to emphasize effectively an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work. It is not clear what the idea of refreshing a long-lasting tradition is intended to mean or how (or even whether) this represents an enduring legacy. Moreover, referring to Kingman’s work as “but one example” downplays the significance of any potential legacy that might be suggested.

**Link back to [Question 22](#).**

**This is the end of Writing and Language Sample Set 2  
Answer Explanations.**