

Benchmark Practice Test 3rd Nine Weeks

1. _____ Buster was a **puny** dog. He could not even scare the cat that lived next door.

What is the dictionary meaning of the word **puny** in the sentence above?

- A. heavy or overweight
- B. noisy or loud
- C. large in actions or words
- D. undersized or small

2. _____ Mark was sick of receiving a dozen annoying emails with jokes from Sally every day. He dashed off a sloppy reply letting her know that he wasn't allowed to receive silly emails at school.

What does the word **sick** suggest Mark was feeling as it is used in the first sentence of this story?

- A. nauseous
- B. full
- C. bored
- D. fed up with

An awestruck crowd watched as the bright, colorful swirls of fireworks lit up the night sky with childlike glee.

3. _____ What is the misplaced modifier in this sentence?

- A. bright, colorful
- B. awestruck
- C. with childlike glee
- D. of fireworks

4. _____ Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?

Because **there/their/they're** dogs were well-behaved, Diane and Lucy were allowed to bring them to the party.

- A. there
- B. theyre
- C. their**
- D. they're

5. _____ Which sentence below uses **affect** correctly?

- A. Some people think the **affect** will be minimal.
- B You must always consider the **affect** on your running.
- C What **affect** does stretching have on your time?
- D. A lack of serious practice can negatively affect performance.**

Use the following information to answer question # 6.

1. Berge, Z. L., & T. Clark *Virtual Schools: Planning for Success*. New York, NY. Teachers College Press. 2005.
2. Bransford, J. D., A. L. Brown, & R.R. Cocking *How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience and School*. Washington, DC. National Academy of Sciences. 2003.
3. Cavalluzzo, L. *Organizational Models for Online Education*. Alexandria, VA. CNA Corporation. 2004. www.cna.org/documents/P&P109.pdf
4. Elbaum, B., C. McIntyre, & A. Smith. *Essential Elements: Prepare, Design, and Teach Your Online Course*. Madison, WI. Atwood Publishing. 2002.

6. _____ Where was the book *Virtual Schools: Planning for Success* published?

- A. Madison, WI
- B. Washington, DC
- C. New York, NY**
- D. Alexandria, VA

He had not been able to come up with anything good. Devan was nervous about his essay.

7. _____ What is the BEST way to combine the information in the two sentences?
- A. He had not been able to come up with anything good, but Devan was nervous about his essay.
 - B. He had not been able to come up with anything good, or Devan was nervous about his essay.
 - C. Devan was nervous about his essay; he had not been able to come up with anything good.
 - D. Devan was nervous about his essay, yet he had not been able to come up with anything good.

8. _____ Which sentence BEST combines the two sentences below?

The autumn ball was cancelled. The students were devastated.

- A. The autumn, ball, was cancelled and the students were devastated.
- B. The autumn ball was cancelled, because the students were devastated.
- C. The autumn ball was cancelled the students were devastated.
- D. The autumn ball was cancelled, and the students were devastated.

Using your knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and word roots, answer the question.

Using the **periscope**, we could see everything on all sides of the ship.

9. _____ What does the prefix **peri-** mean in the word **periscope**?
- A. center
 - B. half
 - C. around
 - D. far

The stars shine _____ in the country than in the city.

10. _____ Which word or phrase **best** completes the sentence above?

- A. radiantliest
- B. most radiantly
- C. more radiantly
- D. radiantlier

Luis' part time job of mowing lawns was _____ than his brother's pool-cleaning business.

11. _____ Which word or phrase **best** completes the sentence above?

- A. most profitable
- B. profitabler
- C. more profitable
- D. profitablest

Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word below. Then, answer the question.

Paleontologists have developed several ways to study life from the prehistoric ages. As a result are able to study fossilized remains of plants, insects, and animals.

12. _____ Which of these would a paleontologist most likely study?

- A. extinct reptiles
- B. how plants use sunlight
- C. the songs of grasshoppers
- D. planetary movements

Read the following and then answer the question.

1) Henry has to do the laundry. (2) Henry must also start dinner. (3) Henry was grounded for a whole week for not doing chores. (4) He learned his lesson. (5) He ended up missing his soccer game.

Before Henry's mother comes home.

13. _____ What is the best way to add the dependent clause above to sentence 1?

- A. Before Henry's mother comes home, he has to do the laundry.
- B. Before Henry has to do the laundry his mother comes home.
- C. Henry has to Before Henry's mother comes home do the laundry.
- D. Henry has before Henry's mother comes home to do the laundry.

Max was a stubborn dog. He would not listen if I told him not to misbehave. I was getting tired of his tantrums, but at the same time, I loved Max. He was stubborn all right, but he was a great guard dog. I've never had to worry about leaving the house locked up. Max took care of the house when I was away. Nobody dared trespass because they knew how ferocious he was. Max loved animal crackers, and he would listen to me at the drop of a hat when I offered the crackers to him.

14. _____ The phrase at the drop of a hat means Max

- A. was fond of playing with hats.
- B. listened when his owner dropped a hat.
- C. was willing to do something immediately.
- D. loved dropping the hat and picking it up.

Teachers are some of the greatest people in the world who care about students.

15. _____ Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the sentence above?

- A. Caring about students teachers are some of the greatest people in the world.
- B. Teachers who care about students are some of the greatest people in the world.
- C. Who care about students teachers are some of the greatest people in the world.
- D. Teachers are some of the greatest people in the world, who care about students.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is Harper Lee's first and only published book. But as the saying goes, "If you do something right the first time, you need to do it only once." The 1960 tale has become a timeless classic. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was made into a film. It won several Academy Awards. The novel was even adapted to play form. Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a U.S. civilian can receive. Other recipients include César Chávez and Walt Disney.

16. _____ Which of these **plagiarizes** the passage shown above?

- A. Lee joined award winners like César Chávez and Walt Disney in receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom (Pagona 32).
- B. Harper Lee has published only one novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but the book has become widely popular (Pagona 32).
- C. The story of *To Kill a Mockingbird* can be experienced in a variety of different ways, such as in movie form or play form (Pagona 32).
- D. Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a U.S. civilian can receive (Pagona 32).

1) Every four years, the best soccer players in the world gather to decide which country has the soccer team in the world. Each time, a different country hosts the tournament, in which 32 countries compete.

(2) The players take a break from playing with their regular team so that they can represent their country in the tournament. Winning the World Cup is considered the greatest accomplishment that a soccer player can achieve, so the players always give their maximum effort.

(3) Waving their nation's flag and cheering as loud as possible, fans all across the world make long trips to watch the games. It is a spectacle like no other in sports.

17. _____ Which of the following sentences would best **introduce** paragraph 2?

- A. Not every country qualifies to play in the World Cup, but the host country always plays.
- B. Only the best players in the world have a chance to play in the World Cup.
- C. The World Cup is far better than the other worldwide sporting event, the Olympics.
- D. Sometimes, the quality of play at the World Cup is disappointing.

Use the following letter to answer questions 18 – 20.

<p>The Shoe Box Company 16 Gulf Air Street Miami, FL</p> <p>[Part C] In the April issue of Shoes for everyone mail- order catalog, you advertised a pair of black suede shoes that were item # 47558. The purchase price for the shoes was \$35.95 and \$5.95 for shipping and handling. I have enclosed a check for \$45.90 for the black suede shoes. Thank you for your prompt response, and I look forward to receiving the shoes.</p>	<p>[Part A] Macon, GA 30076 [Part B]</p> <p>[Part D] Thomas Smith Thomas Smith</p>
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18. _____ What is the purpose of this letter?
A. The Shoe Box Company is ordering a pair of shoes.
B. The Shoe Box Company is sending Thomas a letter.
C. Thomas is writing to return a pair of shoes.
D. Thomas is writing to order a pair of black suede shoes.
19. _____ What would best fit in part A?
A. The street address of Thomas Smith
B. The date that Thomas was writing the letter
C. Sincerely
D. The street address of The Shoe Box Company
20. _____ How did Thomas find out about the shoes?
A. He saw them online.
B. He saw them on an advertisement on television.
C. His sister told him about them.
D. He saw them in the mail-order catalog.

Rune stood at the booth, silently aiming for the target. He was on his 10th try and his last dollar. He desperately wanted that baseball mitt. He drew back his arm, squinted his eyes, and threw the ball directly at the hole in the center of the board. It went straight in the hole! *I did it!* Rune exclaimed to himself. On the outside, the boy remained calm. He did not even smile when the carnival worker handed him the baseball glove.

21. _____ This passage is meant to
A. influence readers not to waste money on carnival games.
B. inform readers on how they can win a baseball glove.
C. express ideas about how hard it is to win a carnival game.
D. entertain readers with a narrative story about a boy.

When I turned four, my life changed. I learned how to read and began to learn about different cultures. I loved reading about other parts of the world. In different countries, the people had different traditions and ways of looking at things. My love for different cultures made me want to become an archaeologist. After many years of digging and traveling, I finally became one. As an archaeologist, I could always find new and interesting facts about people.

22. _____ What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
- A. to tell about his or her personal journey of becoming an archaeologist
 - B. to persuade the reader to learn about new and interesting ways of life
 - C. to inform parents that children can learn how to read at a very young age
 - D. to describe step-by-step how to learn about other cultures and traditions

Icing a cake you have just baked is fun and easy to do. First, the cake has to be completely cool. Then, all of the extra crumbs on the cake need to be brushed away. Next, the cake has to be placed on a flat surface with wax paper surrounding its base to catch frosting that drips. With the cake set, spread about half a cup of frosting evenly with a flat metal utensil. Continue to spread the remaining frosting on the cake. Finally, when the frosting has been evenly spread, sugar flowers and decorative piping can be added.

23. _____ The purpose of the passage is to
- A. describe how to ice a freshly baked cake.
 - B. persuade people to ice their own cakes.
 - C. entertain with a story about icing a cake.
 - D. inform about how hard it is to ice a cake

The greatest movie ever made is about to find its way to you! If you want action, adventure, and romance, *Swordplay* has it all. It has something for everyone. Men will love the adventure scenes, and women will swoon over the romance. Get ready! *Swordplay* is coming to a theater near you on November 25th this year. Be one of the first people to see *Swordplay*!

24. _____ The purpose of the passage is to
- A. narrate about watching the greatest movie ever.
 - B. describe how everyone will love seeing the movie.
 - C. inform the reader about adventure and romance.
 - D. persuade people to go and watch a new movie.

The boys focused their attention on the clock's pendulem as it swung back and forth with precision.

25. _____ Which of the underlined words above is spelled incorrectly?
- A. attention
 - B. pendulem
 - C. precision
 - D. focused

Edward I, nicknamed "Longshanks" due to his great height and stature, was perhaps the most successful of the medieval monarchs. The first twenty years of his reign marked a high point of cooperation between crown and community. In these years, Edward made great strides in reforming government, consolidating territory, and defining foreign policy. He possessed the strength his father lacked and reasserted royal prerogative. Edward fathered many children as well: sixteen by Eleanor of Castille before her death in 1290, and three more by Margaret.

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26. _____ Replace the word reign with a synonym.
- A. Bridle
 - B. precipitation
 - C. exile
 - D. Rule

The leaves scattered across the street like they were playing a game of tag. (2) The wind had just the slightest bite of winter's first chill. (3) The wind calmly came in spurts. (4) Duncan raced down the street on his bicycle and his little sister tried hard to keep up.

(5) Today was the day that mr. carpenter visited the school. (6) He always amazed Duncan with his wild science experiments. (7) What Duncan did not know was that this day would be different. (8) He was not going to just watch Mr. Carpenter's science show. (9) He was going to be a part of it.

27. _____ What change should be made in sentence 4?
- A. Change **raced** to **racing**.
 - B. Capitalize **sister**.
 - C. Add a comma after **street**.
 - D. Add a comma after **bicycle**.

Dawn

Birds tweet cheerfully
A rooster salutes
The rising sun beckons the dawn
The aches and dreads of yesterday
Are gone
Adventure calls expectantly
Arise quickly!
Do not delay!
Today will be a wonderful day

28. _____ What best describes the tone throughout the poem?

- A. amused
- B. disappointed
- C. hopeful
- D. mocking

29. _____ My father introduced me to sports when I was just a child. Teamwork was the lesson he most wanted me to learn. _____, when I became a father myself, I tried to teach my children the same lesson.

Which word or words **best** fit the blank?

- A. Although
- B. However
- C. For example
- D. Afterward

30. _____ Schuster, William. *Animals of the Wetland*. Vintage Press, 2001.

Why are the words Animals of the Wetland italicized in this bibliography?

- A. It is the publisher.
- B. It is an encyclopedia.
- C. Article titles are italicized.
- D. It is a book title.

2003.

31. _____ According to this bibliographic entry, what is the article author's first name?

- A. Beverly
- B. Hearst
- C. Jones
- D. Linda

Phyllis decided to drink, after trying to go to sleep, some warm milk.

32. _____ In the sentence above, the modifying phrase is "after trying to go to sleep."

How should the sentence be revised so that it is clearer?

- A. After trying to go to sleep, Phyllis decided to drink some warm milk.
- B. Phyllis decided to drink some warm milk trying to go to sleep after.
- C. Phyllis decided, after trying to go to sleep, to drink some warm milk.
- D. After Phyllis was trying to go to sleep, warm milk was what she drank.

Maya Angelou is a mother and grandmother. Maya Angelou is one of the nation's preeminent literary figures.

33. _____ What is the BEST way to combine the information in the two sentences?

- A. Maya Angelou is one of the nation's preeminent mothers and grandmothers.
- B. Maya Angelou, one of the nation's preeminent literary figures, is a mother and a grandmother.
- C. Maya Angelou is a mother, grandmother, is one of the nation's preeminent literary figures.
- D. Maya Angelou is a mother and grandmother of one of the nation's preeminent literary figures.

Travis is writing an essay over the advancement of the polio vaccine

in the 1950s. Before the vaccine, people were vulnerable to a disease that could cause paralysis. The development of the vaccine helped save many lives.

34. _____ Which of the following would be the **best** source for Travis to use for his paper?

- A. an autobiography of the scientist who developed the polio vaccine
- B. a paper written by a person who survived the disease in the 1950s
- C. a map of diseases around the world
- D. a recent issue of a scientific magazine

(1) Although termites are pests in our homes, they are helpful in the rain forest. (2) As termites eat, they help recycle dead wood. (3) Their nests be taller than four feet. (4) By chewing up old wood, the termites help turn wood into food for fungi, bacteria, and small animals. (5) Without termites and other insects, dead trees and other plants would pile up to smother the rain forest.

35. _____ Which of the following sentences least supports the main idea?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 4
- D. sentence 3

36. _____ Which is the **best** way to combine the following sentences

to make a compound sentence?

Yoda's barks mean she is hungry. Bear just whines.

- A. Yoda's barks mean she is hungry, Bear's barks mean he is whining.
- B. Yoda's barks mean she is hungry, or Bear's barks mean he is whining.
- C. Yoda's barks mean she is hungry, but Bear just whines.
- D. Yoda's barks mean she is hungry: Bear just whines.

37. _____ In the sentence below, which is the adverb clause?

The band, which was very good, played my favorite song before I arrived.

- A. which was very good
- B. very good
- C. my favorite song
- D. before I arrived

38. _____ Which word or words BEST fills in the blank in the sentence below?

At the mall, we spent an hour in the _____ store I had ever seen.

- A. largest
- B. larger
- C. more large
- D. more larger

39. _____ Which word belongs in the blank?

Margaret said she was hungry, but I was much _____ than she.

- A. Most hungry
- B. Hungriest
- C. Hungry
- D. Hungrier

Entry Word: **pound**

Function: *noun*

Definition: a place where animals are kept

Synonyms: enclosure, camp, shelter

Function: *verb*

Definition: to beat or strike heavily

Synonyms: hit, strike, hammer

Near Antonyms: aid, give up, assist

Function: *noun*

Definition: a unit of weight

Synonyms: pint, troy

Antonyms: None

40. _____ What could you use as a synonym for the word **pound** in the following sentence?

When Jake went to volunteer at the local **pound**, he was surprised to see that the animals were treated well.

- A. shelter
- B. strike
- C. assist
- D. aid