

**READING AND COMPOSING SKILLS
PRE-TEST A
ANSWER RATIONALES**

1. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: UNDERSTANDING DIRECT STATEMENTS

This question asks you to *understand direct statements* about the effects of changing telephone area codes. After explaining that many more area codes are now necessary to accommodate new technologies, the author comments that these area codes have meant a “psychological dislocation” for many people because old, familiar numbers are now becoming lost among the new, unfamiliar ones. The passage states that “Most disconcerting of all is that people feel as if they have lost their sense of place—without ever moving or changing jobs.” (C), which states that changes in telephone area codes have “disturbed people’s sense of identification and belonging,” is therefore the correct answer. The passage discusses an increased demand for new codes, but not increased efficiencies resulting from them (A). It does not say that people are moving around the country more (B) or becoming more geographically aware (D); if anything, they’re becoming more confused.

2. Correct Response: B

Skill Tested: UNDERSTANDING DIRECT STATEMENTS

This question asks you to *understand something directly stated* in the passage. The passage states explicitly that new technologies “created a terrific demand for new phone numbers to accommodate faxes, cell phones, beepers, and dedicated modem lines.” Therefore, the best explanation for why more telephone area codes were needed is (B): “new kinds of communication devices require area codes.” The passage never mentions the fact that the population is growing rapidly (A); that neighborhoods prefer to have distinctive identities (C); or that area codes need to match regional zip codes (D), making these responses incorrect.

3. Correct Response: D

Skill Tested: RECOGNIZING PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

This question asks you to *recognize purpose and strategy* by asking why the author included the historical reference “partitioned like Gaul.” The quotation refers directly to ancient Gaul, part of the Roman Empire roughly equivalent to modern France and the Low Countries; Gaul (as Julius Caesar noted) was divided into three parts (the root word for “partition”). The reference in the passage, therefore, is used to suggest a previously unified culture that has since become fractured. (D), which states that the author included the reference in order to “emphasize the scope of the changes involved in assigning new area codes,” is thus the correct answer. (A) is wrong because the author is describing recent developments, not the “antiquity” (ancient quality) of the telephone system. The author is trying to be informative on the subject of area codes, not “literary and artistic” (B). Since the passage never refers to technological innovations as “improvements,” (C) is also incorrect.

4. Correct Response: B

Skill Tested: UNDERSTANDING DIRECT STATEMENTS

This question asks you to *understand something directly stated* in the passage. After discussing the fact that the towns along Highway 49 in California were built from the gold discovered by early regional miners, the passage goes on to say that building remains show the importance of the Chinese in early settlements of California—the Chinese not only “contributed as laborers in the mines” but also “sold the necessities of life . . . in buildings they constructed of stone and mortar.” Therefore, (B) is correct: according to the passage, the Chinese did indeed make a significant contribution to the settling of California’s Gold Country. The passage never says whether or not miners chose to settle permanently in California after the Gold Rush or had to spend “most” of their money on the necessities of life, making (A) and (D) incorrect. The author also never offers an opinion as to whether or not the early miners should be officially commended by the state, making (C) an inappropriate response.

5. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: REASONING FROM THE TEXT

This question asks you to *reason from the text* by understanding the impact of the stores built and maintained by the Chinese. The passage states that the Chinese sold “necessities of life” such as food, clothing, and medicine in buildings they had constructed themselves. Calling the products that these stores sold “necessities” implies that they helped to sustain the early settlements: therefore (C) is the correct response. (A) is incorrect because nothing in the passage implies that the early miners were more interested in building towns than in finding gold. Although the passage says that some of the towns have “exotic” names, it does not imply that the Chinese chose those names or were trying to attract settlers to the region: therefore (B) is incorrect. (D) is wrong because the passage never mentions or compares amounts of money made by selling supplies and mining for gold.

6. Correct Response: D

Skill Tested: RECOGNIZING PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

This question asks you to *recognize the main purpose* of the passage—what the author is trying to accomplish by writing it. Because the whole passage is meant to show the many “different forms” of sweeteners used in medieval cooking, (D) is the best answer: the “several types” of sweeteners discussed are the “many types...and forms” of sugar as well as the different kinds of honey. (A) is incorrect: the passage says that sweeteners are “like spices” in that both “came in different forms,” but it does not compare sweeteners and spices in terms of popularity. Similarly, it does not say that “honey was more popular than sugar” (B) or that “sugar was rarely available” (C); the passage says only that sugar was sometimes scarce or expensive. In any case, none of the incorrect choices raises a subject that is treated in the passage as a whole, and so none could state its *purpose*.

7. Correct Response: A
Skill Tested: REASONING FROM THE TEXT

This question asks you to *reason from the text* by drawing an inference from what is explicitly stated. The passage states that “when sugar was too scarce or expensive, honey...was substituted.” It’s reasonable to conclude from this that “honey was often cheaper than sugar” (A); otherwise, there wouldn’t be much reason to substitute it. (B) is incorrect because the passage implies that sugar was, if anything, more expensive—or “valued”—than honey. (C) is incorrect because while sugar was imported, honey was local in that it came “from domestic hives.” The passage implies that medieval cooks used both sweeteners and spices, but not that they often combined them in the same dishes (D).

8. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: FINDING MEANING IN CONTEXT

This question asks you to *find meaning in context* by using the surrounding parts of the passage to determine the meaning of an unfamiliar phrase—“in default of.” The first part of the sentence with this phrase says that “sugar and honey alternated in popular favor”: sometimes one was more popular than the other and therefore likely to be used “in place of” it. Hence (C) best conveys the meaning of the suggestion to use honey “in default of” sugar. (A) is overstated: honey was only sometimes preferable—for example, when sugar was scarce or expensive. (B) tends to contradict the passage: when sugar was scarce, honey was always available as a substitute. (D) is not supported by the passage. The passage says that some recipes called for plain honey and some for clarified (“heated and liquefied”) honey, but not that honey was used in place of sugar because it was liquid: honey was used when it was more popular, more affordable, or more available than sugar.

9. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT IDEAS

This question asks you to *understand the main idea* in a passage about what determines the popularity of businesspeople. The first sentence says that attitudes toward business and the people who control it “vary with the economic situation.” Therefore (C), which states that the popularity of businesspeople is determined by the economic conditions of the time, is the correct answer. (A) is incorrect: Bishop Lawrence equates wealth and morality, but the author does not necessarily agree, or say that wealthy people are popular because they are moral. The author mentions the bishop’s view only as an example of how businesspeople are more highly regarded in times of prosperity. Because the passage never mentions the public behavior of businesspeople in any context, (B) is incorrect. Although the passage implies that Bishop William Lawrence was influential, it presents his opinion of rich businesspeople as a reflection of the times, not as a cause of popular opinion (D).

10. Correct Response: A

Skill Tested: RECOGNIZING PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

This question asks you to *recognize the main purpose* of the passage. The first sentence argues that attitudes toward business vary with the economic situation of the times. The passage goes on to give two examples: the first of a prosperous time in which business leaders were well regarded, and the second of an economically depressed time in which the children of successful businesspeople felt guilty about the wealth of their parents. The main purpose of the passage can therefore be stated accurately as “describe the way that attitudes toward businesspeople can change,” making (A) the correct answer. Because the passage simply explains attitudes toward businesspeople rather than criticize the public for adopting those attitudes, (B) is wrong. (C) is incorrect: although the passage describes attitudes of people toward business leaders during hard times, it never mentions the business practices of those leaders. Since the passage never proposes a role for business leaders to adopt during economic recessions or even suggests how they should act, (D) cannot be considered the main purpose of the passage.

11. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT IDEAS

This question asks you to *identify important ideas* by recognizing the overall point of the passage. In the first sentence, the writer suggests that Western civilization is seen as the sum of “events and human inventions” occurring over the past 3,000 years. The long second sentence calls such inventions “the works that we point to most often as proof that we are making some kind of progress.” (C), the best choice, brings these ideas together to express the overall point. The writer doesn’t say that Western civilization “reached its peak in ancient Greece” (A), and in fact spends much time discussing the “progress” made since then. Nowhere does the writer claim that Western civilization values or relies on its inventions too much (B), or that it was the first civilization to create detailed records of its achievements (D).

12. Correct Response: D

Skill Tested: RECOGNIZING PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

This question asks you to *recognize the author’s purpose* in calling some inventions “mixed blessings.” The word “mixed” suggests that the so-called “blessings” are not purely blessings, or good things—that is, some bad results are mixed in with the good. (D), the best choice, expresses this idea clearly. The writer does not say whether these inventions are or are not more recent (A), more expensive (B), or more commonly available (C) than others.

13. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: FINDING MEANING IN CONTEXT

This question, like the other gliff questions, asks you to *find meaning in context* by choosing the word that can most logically be substituted for the underlined nonsense word. The words in the answer choices may already be familiar to you; you need to see how the context (the words and relationships in the rest of the sentence) makes one of the choices fit into the sentence best. The first part of this sentence indicates that the word to substitute for gliff must refer to something “unexpected”—that is, Harry’s response should logically be the opposite of what one might expect of most people when confronted with a burning building. Since most people would probably react to a burning building with fear, “courage” (the opposite of fear) makes (D) the best response. The word “courage” also explains how Harry could set fear aside and rush into the building. In choices (A) and (C), “scruples” and “criticism” do not describe ways in which people react to a burning building or explain why Harry rushed into one. Although one might certainly react to a burning building with “hesitation” (B), hesitation does not describe the actions of someone rushing into a burning building.

14. Correct Response: B
Skill Tested: FINDING MEANING IN CONTEXT

The first part of the sentence indicates that Nikki Giovanni describes “problems and joys” in her poems; the second part implies that these problems and joys are special—that they come specifically from being a modern African American woman. Since the word “unique” means “belonging only to,” (B) is the best answer, providing a logical connection between the two parts of the sentence. In (A), “harmful” suggests only the “problems” and not the “joys.” In (C), “pleasurable” suggests only the “joys” and not the “problems.” In (D), “indifferent” suggests a lack of emotional response—neither problems nor joys.

15. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: FINDING MEANING IN CONTEXT

In the part of the sentence before the gliff, we are told that Elena attended her nephew’s violin recital; in the second part, we learn that she felt a lack of interest in the performance. Because Elena should be supportive, it is logical to assume that she would want to hide her lack of interest. Therefore, the best answer is that she was careful not to “reveal” her attitude (D), since to hide something means not to reveal it. It would be illogical to say that Elena did not “require” (demand), “exert” (put forth), or “resign” (give up) her lack of interest in the performance; therefore (A), (B), and (C) are incorrect.

16. Correct Response: B
Skill Tested: FINDING MEANING IN CONTEXT

The sentence describes a causal relationship: the proper combination of diet and exercise will have a particular effect on one’s health. Since “proper” means “good and appropriate,” this effect should be a positive one. Therefore “beneficial” (B), which means “producing a good result,” is the best word to substitute for gliff. Because “superficial” in (A) would mean having little or no effect and “subordinate” in (C) would mean something of lesser importance, neither would be a logical answer choice. Although “natural” (D) has some positive connotations, it does not make sense to say that proper diet and exercise are *natural* to one’s health. In fact, many people find them unnatural and difficult compared to lying on the couch and eating junk food.

17. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: REASONING FROM THE TEXT

In this question, the first sentence states a fact: the fire in the laboratory caused extensive damage. The second sentence explains that an experiment scheduled to be finished in two weeks will now take several months to complete, implying that the delay is a direct result of the fire mentioned in the first sentence. (C), then, best explains the relationship between the sentences: the second “states a consequence” of the first. The second sentence does not indicate a cause (A), as it would if it said what started the fire. It does not present an example (B), as it would if it described some of the damage done by the fire. It also does not merely restate information (D), since it provides a new fact rather than repeating what has already been stated.

18. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

This question asks you to understand the way the idea in the first sentence is *developed and supported* by the second. The first sentence claims that athletes can also be good students. The second sentence discusses John and Theresa, both star athletes who have earned above-average grades. (D), therefore, is the best answer: because John and Theresa are athletes and also good students, they serve as an “example” to support the claim in the first sentence. John and Theresa’s good academic record does not contradict the first sentence (A), as it would tend to do if they were athletes and poor students. The second sentence does not draw a conclusion (B) because we can’t infer anything about John and Teresa from the first sentence: sentence one could still be true even if John and Teresa were terrible students. It also does not make a comparison (C), as it would if the second sentence stated that musicians are better students than athletes are.

19. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: REASONING FROM THE TEXT

This question asks you to recognize a difference between Jim and Frank. Jim always orders the same dish, whereas Frank never orders the same dish twice. Because Frank wants to experiment, have different experiences, and try new things, he has a greater spirit of adventure in eating than Jim, who explores no further than the *tostada grande*. Thus (D) is the best choice. The sentences do not say which of the friends enjoys eating out more (A) or has the greater passion for Mexican food (B); we know that Jim likes one Mexican dish but hear nothing about whether Frank likes Mexican food. (C) is wrong because the sentences say nothing about either man’s “confidence,” or about “public places” aside from restaurants.

20. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: REASONING FROM THE TEXT

Choice (D) is best: the second sentence “points out a contrast” by identifying a difference between tulips in the sun and tulips in the shade. To serve as an example (A), the second sentence would have to mention a particular tulip that fit the description in sentence 1. To make an exception (B), the second sentence would have to mention a particular tulip that did not fit the general rule—a tulip in the full sun that bloomed after early April. To provide a contradictory point of view (C), the second sentence would have to show that the writer disagreed with the statement made in the first.

21. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: SENTENCE CONTROL AND CLARITY

This question, like other “Construction Shift” questions, asks you to rephrase a statement by using a different grammatical construction to say the same thing. Having a variety of constructions that you can use comfortably and appropriately will give you power and flexibility as a writer. You should answer the “Construction Shift” questions by finding the choice that allows you to complete the underlined portion grammatically: that is, you should imagine how you could use each choice to finish the sentence. In the following explanations, we will use brackets to indicate [the imagined part].

To emphasize the contrast between people’s fear of spiders and the fact that most spiders are actually beneficial, the rewritten sentence starts with the word “Even.” The adjective “most” in the rewritten sentence is the primary clue that the initial phrase of the rewritten sentence should concern spiders (which were modified by “most” in the original sentence), rather than the people who fear spiders (not modified in the original sentence). (C) is therefore the best answer choice. (B) is the only other answer choice concerning spiders, but the adjective “beneficial” before the noun “spiders” makes it inappropriate—the original sentence states that most spiders are beneficial, not that most “beneficial spiders” have additional characteristics. (A) concerns the fear of spiders rather than spiders themselves, and (D) concerns people who fear the spiders; neither should be modified by “most” in the rewritten sentence.

22. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND IDIOM

In general, a phrase at the beginning of a sentence grammatically modifies the nearest noun, the subject of the sentence. For the modification to be logical in this rewritten sentence, the next words after the underlined phrase must name something that that is “routinely tested for seepage” (for leaks). As the original sentence states, that thing would be “lined landfills”; hence (D) is correct. Choices (A), (B), and (C) are wrong because wastes, disposal, and—we hope—you are not routinely tested for seepage.

23. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: SENTENCE CONTROL AND CLARITY

Forms of *to be* such as *is* and *are* can serve as “linking verbs,” which function like equal signs in math. The main statement in the original sentence could be represented as “a chain of volcanic islands = part of Alaska.” Since the rewritten sentence must express the same idea, it must say that “Part of Alaska = a chain of volcanic islands.” (C), the best choice, uses “is” as a linking verb to state this idea. (A) uses “is” but does not follow it with something that can be “part of Alaska”: “...is more than [a thousand miles into the Bering Sea].” A nonlinking verb would be needed here: “Part of Alaska [extends more than a thousand miles...].” (B) and (D) do not use a linking verb and so cannot say what is “part of Alaska.”

24. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: SENTENCE CONTROL AND CLARITY

The original sentence establishes the sequence of events: first the delegates debated party platform issues; then they chose their candidate. This is logically the same as saying that they chose their candidate after debating the issues. (C) is therefore the best choice for completing the rewrite. (A) and (B) confuse the sequence of events by saying in effect that the delegates chose their candidate first. (D) gets the sequence right but omits information from the original: it leaves no way to say that the issues concerned the party platform.

25. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: SENTENCE CONTROL AND CLARITY

Sometimes, as here, subordination can express the logical relation between ideas more precisely than coordination. Although the original sentence is not wrong, the coordinating conjunction “and” simply presents a sequence of events; it doesn’t show that the first event allowed the second one to happen. (C), the best choice, clarifies this logical relationship: “Completing my major was not difficult once my college [advisor and I planned my course load].” (A) produces a run-on sentence (“...was not difficult consequently my college advisor....”) and also suggest that the planning took place after (as a consequence of) completing the major. (B) and (D) leave no good way to say who is making the plans, and “planned” in (D) seems illogically to modify “Completing my major” rather than “my course load.”

26. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND IDIOM

In English, it is often “idiomatic”—a standard pattern—for one infinitive (the “to--“ form of a verb) to follow another: for example, “to try to see” or “to work to improve.” (D) is the best choice because it uses this idiom properly: “adults and even children had to work hard to make a living.” (A) is incorrect because the phrase “for them” is unnecessary: the sense of who is making a living is clear without it. If you want to repeat the information for emphasis, you would need a *reflexive pronoun*: “to make a living for *themselves*.” (B) is an unnecessarily wordy construction. (C) is unidiomatic: the correct idiom after the infinitive “to work” is “to make a living,” not “for making their living.”

27. Correct Response: B
Skill Tested: GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND IDIOM

This question asks you to combine clauses logically and grammatically. In (B), the best choice, the subordinating conjunction “where” introduces a clause that describes what happened (according to legend) in the place called Olema. (A) is confusing because it uses both a coordinating conjunction (“and”) and a subordinating conjunction (“where”) to introduce the clause, but a clause can’t be coordinate (“independent”) and subordinate (“dependent”) at the same time: an independent clause can stand alone as a sentence (like this clause after the colon), whereas a dependent clause cannot (like this clause after the comma). Dropping either of the two conjunctions would make (A) grammatical, but less precisely phrased than (B). Choice (C) results a comma splice because a comma alone cannot join independent clauses; a semicolon or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction would be needed here. (D) illogically suggests that the events of the first clause (i.e., that the earthquake epicenter was in Olema) are part of the legend, along with the cow.

28. Correct Response: D
Skill Tested: GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND IDIOM

In question 27, the subordinating conjunction “where” referred to the place of action; here in (D), the best choice, “once” refers precisely to the time of the action of the main clause by indicating *when* Robbins began work on her novel. (A) is wordy and indirect in that it never mentions Robbins—only “Robbins’ autobiography.” The other choices are also wordy and awkward. (B) uses a whole subordinate clause (“After...”) rather than a noun as subject for the verb “is”; putting a comma after “autobiography” and dropping “is when” would make (B) correct. Dropping “this is when” would make (C) correct.

29. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: SENTENCE CONTROL AND CLARITY

(C), the best choice, uses the coordinating conjunction “but” after the comma to join independent clauses in a way that suggests something unexpected: if “consumers bought more gifts last holiday season,” you would expect them to have spent more money, “but they spent less money.” In (A), “and” (another coordinating conjunction) joins the clauses grammatically but fails to suggest the unexpected result; also, the passive “less money was spent” does not specify who spent it. (B) confuses the meaning by saying in effect that less money was available for spending. (D) also doesn’t say who spent the money, and the present perfect “has been spent” is the wrong tense for past events: “has been spent” refers to a period of time running from the past up to the present.

30. Correct Response: C
Skill Tested: GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND IDIOM

Initial phrases such as “Living on the edge of the cliff” grammatically modify the nearest noun and sentence subject, as in (C), the best choice: that is, “the native population of birds” is said to be “living on the edge of the cliff.” (A) introduces the needless and wordy “was where,” and the plural verb “were” does not agree with the singular noun “population.” (B) lacks the comma after “cliff” that is needed to set off the initial phrase, the plural “were” is incorrect, and the introduction of “that” creates a fragment by turning the independent clause of the sentence into a dependent clause. (D) also creates a fragment by putting the subordinating conjunction “where” before the independent clause; dropping “where” would make (D) correct, and identical to (C).

31. Correct Response: B
Skill Tested: IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT IDEAS

The second sentence states that the comedy style of the 1930s is gone, and the final sentence says that comedy will never again be as vibrant and exciting as it was in Groucho’s day. The controlling sentence that opens the passage must therefore provide an introduction both to the idea of the 1930s as a heyday of comedy and to Groucho Marx’s place in that heyday. (B), which states that the death of Groucho Marx reminded many of a “bygone era,” best fulfills this requirement. Although (A) mentions the death of Groucho Marx, it does so in the context of the deaths of the other Marx brothers, who are never mentioned in the passage that follows—thus (A) is less appropriate than (B). Because the passage never discusses Groucho’s “varied career” (C) or “television reruns” (D), both are incorrect choices.

32. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT IDEAS

The passage describes how calcium salts follow a circular path of changes, or a “cycle” that brings them back to the beginning point—“the sea from which they came.” Each sentence identifies one stage in the cycle; the topic sentence should make a statement about the cycle as a whole. (C), the best choice, presents such a controlling idea for the rest of the passage, which shows “the way in which an element in nature is recycled over time.” (A) is misdirected because the passage mentions “vast quantities of calcium salts” but doesn’t say “how many different kinds of salts” there are. The passage says nothing about calcium in the human body (B), nor does it show that “the world’s supplies of some resources are being exhausted” (D); on the contrary, calcium salts are not being exhausted but recycled.

33. Correct Response: B

Skill Tested: ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE

This question asks you to identify the sentence that provides the most *coherent* bridge between the first and second parts of the passage. The first sentence introduces the idea that shaking hands is an old custom worldwide, and the next sentence describes that custom’s formal significance in feudal times. The second part of the passage provides examples from all over world regarding different customs of shaking hands; all of these examples are written in the present tense to show that they are current rather than historical customs. The missing sentence should, therefore, provide a bridge from past formal customs of shaking hands to more informal customs of handshaking today. (B) is the most appropriate choice: it signals the transition from past to present by beginning with the word “Today,” and it says that today’s customs are less formal than the feudal ones mentioned in the previous sentence. (A) discusses the role of vassals in feudal times but provides no connection to the discussion of contemporary handshaking customs that follows. By stating that handshaking is not the only common way of greeting someone, (C) would be a more appropriate transition into a discussion of forms of greeting other than handshaking. (D), which says that there are numerous theories about the origin of handshaking, would be an appropriate transitional sentence into a discussion describing these different theories in greater detail.

34. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE

The opening sentence identifies the first written messages as pictographs that represented concrete, familiar objects. The last sentence discusses the move from pictographs to ideograms. To make a coherent passage, the missing sentence should explain why this move took place. (C), the best answer, provides such an explanation: “pictographs could not convey much that was important in life,” and so a new kind of writing, ideograms, developed to express emotions, values, and abstract ideas. (A), (B), and (D) do not lead as coherently into the last sentence because they do not suggest any need for writing to evolve beyond pictographs into a more expressive form.

35. Correct Response: A

Skill Tested: IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT IDEAS

The controlling idea in a passage does not always come first. This question asks you to identify the sentence that provides the best concluding summary of the ideas expressed in the preceding sentences. Each of the first three sentences puts forth an example of a movie director who made a commercially successful movie at a relatively young age. The final sentence, therefore, should formulate a conclusion regarding young directors and box-office hit movies. (A), which suggests that young directors without much experience can make commercially successful movies, is the best answer. Neither (B), (C), or (D) merge the paired ideas of youth and commercially successful directors; therefore, none is an appropriate concluding sentence for this passage.

36. Correct Response: A

Skill Tested: ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE

The line of discussion in this passage is *chronological*, or time-based, as the sentences trace the history of folk songs from centuries long ago to “the latter half of the twentieth century.” Changes in lifestyle during those times have “nearly eradicated” (that is, “wiped out”) the traditions that created and preserved folk songs. The logical and chronological development of the passage calls for a final sentence about the survival of the folk song today. Choice (A) best completes the passage. (B) reverses chronology by returning to the subject of folk songs “in generations past.” (C) is overly broad, commenting on “music” in general but not folk songs. (D) pertains to folk songs, but not their history or current status; that is, it does not complete the passage logically or chronologically.

37. Correct Response: A

Skill Tested: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The topic sentence asserts that surprisingly few injuries have been caused by roller coasters. (A) supports the topic sentence by providing a reason why this is so: a passenger-restraint system protects the riders. (B) and (C) do not provide any further information about the safety of roller coasters and are thus incorrect. (D) seems to contradict the topic sentence: if roller coasters are indeed safe, then it would be illogical for insurance companies to charge higher premiums to amusement parks that offer them.

38. Correct Response: C

Skill Tested: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The topic sentence puts forth the idea that many people soon regret buying a house. (C) best supports that idea by offering a general truth as the reason: often after we buy something (a house, for example), we realize the true responsibilities that come with ownership. The other options offer very limited support at most. (A) would support the topic *only* for those people who experienced regret after realizing that their new house was in a bad location: for all other people, the mere statement that real estate values depend on location does not explain post-purchase regret. Similarly, (B), which states that home repairs of the electric system are usually the most difficult, would support the topic sentence *only* for those attempting (and failing) to repair their home electrical systems. (D) would pertain *only* to those homeowners who suffered the consequences of underinsuring their houses against fire. Even so, they should not regret buying a house; they should regret not insuring it proper insurance.

- 39. Correct Response: A**
Skill Tested: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The sentence that best supports the topic statement will show how César Chávez helped migrant farm workers. (A) does so by giving an example of an organization through which Chávez “assisted migrant workers.” (B) establishes only that Chávez family members were themselves migrant workers, and (C) indicates what Chávez earned as one; neither speaks of how he helped others. While (D) is no doubt true, it too provides no information showing that Chávez worked on behalf of migrant farm workers.

- 40. Correct Response: A**
Skill Tested: DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The topic statement mentions the “special training” Dr. Woo needed to design biomedical machines. (A) provides the best development and support of that statement by specifying what her special training was. (B), (C), and (D) make true statements about biomedical machines or doctors, but none discusses Dr. Woo and her special training.