

SAMs Level A - Form 1 - Language: Paragraph Development

Sample Question A

Choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

_____. Johnny Carson was from Nebraska. Stephen Douglas was a Nebraskan. The leader Black Elk also lived in Nebraska.

- A Have you heard of Stephen Douglas?
- B Many famous people come from Nebraska.
- C Many entertainers have had humble childhoods.
- D Black Elk had a vision that the Sioux would become strong again.

Sample Question B

Choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence.

When mixing cement, you must add the right amount of water.

- A The Romans invented cement. It's cheap and durable.
- B Cement is used for sidewalks, foundations, and walls. Modern cities are built on cement.
- C If you add too much water, the cement will run. If you don't add enough, it won't form correctly.
- D Most cement is made from limestone and clay. Once water is added, the mixture will take almost any shape.

Sample Question C

Choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph.

1. Little Carrie has been getting into a lot of trouble lately. 2. She bit someone at daycare last month. 3. She draws the most wonderful pictures. 4. And yesterday she ate an entire tube of toothpaste.

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

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For Numbers 1 through 12, read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

1. _____ . There are wide differences in the severity and duration of its various forms. Adult-onset diabetes is seen in people over thirty. Juvenile diabetes occurs in children and teenagers. Gestational diabetes afflicts certain pregnant women.
 - A Some types of diabetes are temporary.
 - B Diabetes can be treated with diet, pills, or insulin.
 - C Juvenile diabetes is generally the most serious type.
 - D People speak of diabetes as if it were a single disease, but there are several types.
2. Honey can be a dangerous food for some people. It contains small amounts of poisonous botulism toxins. Most healthy people can easily handle the trace poisons found in honey. _____ .
 - F For example, honey can cause problems for babies, the elderly, and people with serious health problems.
 - G In addition, these poisons can cause problems for babies, the elderly, and people with serious health problems.
 - H These poisons may, however, cause problems for babies, the elderly, and people with serious health problems.
 - J Besides, babies, the elderly, and people with serious health problems may have problems with these poisons.
3. Airplanes use air pressure to keep them aloft. As an airplane gathers speed on the runway, large amounts of air are forced past the wings. The teardrop shape of the wing forces more of the air to build up below the wing than above it. This creates more air pressure below. _____ .
 - A It's this difference in air pressure that lifts the wing up into the air.
 - B The secret of an airplane's flight is the teardrop shape of the craft's wings.
 - C To land, the pilot points the wings downward, creating downward pressure on the wings.
 - D A plane flying on a level path may experience turbulence when gusts of wind create unexpected variances in air pressure.
4. Throughout the years, diet books have offered many unsuccessful promises to lose weight and keep it off. In the 1970s and 1980s, most diet books urged people to count calories, but very few people had long-term success on these diets. In the 1990s, diet books usually focused on limiting fat intake. When people on fat-free diets still remained overweight, diet books began to promise that avoiding carbohydrates would lead to lifelong thinness. _____ .
 - F After all, dieters still struggle to keep off the weight they initially lose.
 - G Nevertheless, dieters still struggle to keep off the weight they initially lose.
 - H In other words, dieters still struggle to keep off the weight they initially lose.
 - J Also, dieters still struggle to keep off the weight they initially lose.

5. The guidelines for safe food handling have changed over the years. _____. That's because trichinosis, a deadly disease carried by undercooked pork, is much less common today than in past years. On the other hand, because illness caused by tainted chicken is on the rise, experts are advising Americans to be especially careful when handling poultry.
- A So experts have lowered the suggested minimum temperature for determining that cooked pork is safe to eat.
 - B Nevertheless, experts have lowered the suggested minimum temperature for determining that cooked pork is safe to eat.
 - C For instance, experts have lowered the suggested minimum temperature for determining that cooked pork is safe to eat.
 - D However, experts have lowered the suggested minimum temperature for determining that cooked pork is safe to eat.
6. Lightning occurs when there is a large difference between the electrical charges of a cloud and something nearby. Like two oppositely charged magnets, the areas are attracted to each other. _____. The lightning bolt lasts only a split second until the charges in the areas it connects are equal.
- F A bolt of electricity develops to connect the two areas.
 - G Then we hear a shock wave that we experience as thunder.
 - H However, lightning and thunder usually occur during a storm.
 - J Consequently, it's possible to estimate where the lightning hit by counting the number of seconds between the flash and the sound of thunder.
7. People often think how much fun it would be to have all of their friends over for a party, but in reality, throwing a party requires money and effort. The hostess of a party must be certain that she doesn't invite too many people or upset her neighbors. The hostess must also make sure that there will be enough food and refreshments throughout the evening. _____. If a hostess fails to prepare adequately, she may end up having a very bad time at her own party.
- A The fact is, most parties last too long.
 - B Finally, she must choose the activities and entertainment for the evening.
 - C Parties have been popular all throughout history.
 - D Usually people attend more parties when they are younger and single.
8. _____. The recycling center accepts hazardous household waste, such as motor oil, as long as it is properly contained. The city hosts hazardous waste collection days on the 15th of every month. In addition, most gas stations will dispose of your used motor oil along with their own. Please take the time to use one of these facilities. We all will be safer if oil is kept out of the regular garbage.
- F Changing the oil in a car can be a messy job.
 - G The recycling center has served this community for over twenty years.
 - H City government is committed to keeping this town clean and safe.
 - J There are several places in town where you can safely dispose of used motor oil.

9. _____. In the spring, you can cook and eat cattail shoots and stalks in the same way you would prepare asparagus. The green flower spikes can be eaten like corn-on-the-cob, and cattail pollen makes a protein-rich flour. In winter, you can add raw cattail sprouts to salads or boil them like potatoes.

- A A surprising variety of foods can be made from wild cattails.
- B North American Indians used a wide variety of wild plants as food.
- C When I was a child, I loved cattails because I could use the stalks as swords.
- D You would be surprised to discover how much food actually grows in the forest in winter.

10. Contrary to popular belief, Christopher Columbus was not the first person to believe that the world was round. In Columbus's time, scientists realized that the world was round, and they had an excellent estimate of its circumference. Columbus set out to prove that the westward route to India was much shorter than scientists had estimated.

_____. He found the Americas where he expected India to be. For this reason, he would never admit that the new world was, in fact, an unknown continent.

- F In addition, Columbus proved that his own theory was wrong.
- G In fact, Columbus proved that his own theory was wrong.
- H Similarly, Columbus proved that his own theory was wrong.
- J For example, Columbus proved that his own theory was wrong.

11. Route 66 played an important part in much of U.S. history. During the Great Depression, Route 66 was the main highway taken by migrants fleeing the Great Dust Bowl. _____. In the '50s and '60s, paid vacations became commonplace in the United States, and people spent part of them on Route 66, traveling to places like the Grand Canyon.

- A Route 66 was originally pieced together from a number of disconnected state and local roads.
- B The first automobiles, produced just after the turn of the century, completely changed Western life.
- C In the economic boom following the Great Depression, Americans took Route 66 to jobs in West Coast armament factories.
- D The Interstate Highway system brought an end to the era of Route 66; people preferred the faster interstates.

12. _____. In 2000, 4,739 pedestrians were killed by cars. According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, almost one-third of these pedestrians were intoxicated. That's nearly 1,500 deaths linked to walking while under the influence of alcohol. It sounds crazy, but if we could reduce the numbers of drunk walkers, maybe we could save some lives.

- F Perhaps there should be a law against walking while drunk.
- G Alcohol abuse has become a major problem in the United States.
- H Automobile accidents are the leading cause of death in people aged 18 through 34.
- J Doctors in emergency rooms usually treat the victims of auto accidents.

For Numbers 13 through 16, choose the answer the best develops the topic sentence.

13. As an American citizen, you need to be informed about the responsibilities you have to your country.
- A You have the right of free speech. You have freedom of religion. If you are accused of a crime, you have the right to a speedy trial before a jury of your peers.
 - B Political parties have the responsibility to help you understand issues before the government. They should give you choices of strong candidates who will represent you.
 - C There are many opportunities for citizens to become involved in local government. You might be concerned about hazardous waste cleanup or pesticide spraying.
 - D Two of your major responsibilities are voting and paying your taxes. You must also serve on a jury if called to do so, and you must abide by the laws of our country.
14. While it may seem like a joyous event, going to college can actually cause stress within a family.
- F Last year, fifty-six percent of high school seniors went on to college, an increase of two percent over the year before.
 - G Students often find it difficult even to choose a college, parents worry about the bills, and many younger siblings don't want to say good-bye to their older brothers or sisters.
 - H Many college students have to take out federal loans to help pay their costs.
 - J The term *family* can mean different things to different people, depending on who lives where and how close people are to various relatives.
15. Certain hobbies can make getting life insurance difficult.
- A Life insurance is a good idea for people with families. It helps ensure that the family's standard of living will not change drastically if a wage earner dies.
 - B Hobbies help people live balanced lives, make new friends, and give a sense of accomplishment.
 - C The two basic kinds of life insurance are term and whole-life. Term insurance is inexpensive coverage for a limited time. For long-term investment, you need whole-life insurance.
 - D Most insurance companies are reluctant to insure people involved in high-speed hobbies, such as motorcycling and automobile racing, or activities that involve falling, such as skydiving and bungee jumping.
16. There are several tricks for keeping your clothes free of wrinkles when you travel.
- F Travel can be stressful and occasionally dangerous. That's why good preparation is important.
 - G Ironing was once a daily chore. The invention of polyester, rayon, and other synthetic fabrics changed that.
 - H If you are bringing a suit, wear it on the road to avoid having to squeeze it into a suitcase. In addition, try folding your clothes along the seams, where creases will be less noticeable.
 - J In recent years, wrinkled fabrics have become popular. The crinkle shirt is a good example. Manufacturers instruct customers to wad up the wet garment and tie it in a knot to dry.

For Numbers 17 through 20, read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph.

17. 1. For years, the major American television networks have been behind the times, continuing to produce programs for separate demographic groups. 2. As a result, the casts of most shows were overwhelmingly white, while a few others had overwhelmingly black or Hispanic casts. 3. More recently, the highest rated shows have been those with integrated casts, sort of like the United States itself, and the networks are planning to produce more multicultural programs. 4. Most nations in the world have populations with a variety of cultures, religions, and races.

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

18. 1. Many radio listeners wonder why they keep hearing the same songs over and over again, even on different types of stations. 2. Radio was invented in the early 1900s and was the most popular form of entertainment during the 1930s and 1940s. 3. Very often, one company owns several stations in a city. 4. Companies purchase the rights to play a song and then play it on all of their stations, which is why you often hear the same song on the pop station, the R&B station, and the light rock station.

- F sentence 1
- G sentence 2
- H sentence 3
- J sentence 4

19. 1. Skiers control their movement by digging the edges of their skis into the snow. 2. The edges of the skis are curved so that it is easy to make turns. 3. For thousands of years, skis have been made by splitting wood. 4. When skiers lean on a particular ski, they increase the ski's curvature to make a tighter turn than the ski would make naturally.

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

20. 1. Since 1990, the number of daycare centers in the United States has more than doubled, but not all of them are properly certified. 2. After childbirth, many women wish to return to their professions, especially when they have gained a certain position or status within a company. 3. Other women wish they didn't have to return to work, but feel they have no choice because they need the income. 4. When they return to work, mothers are often faced with the difficult question of childcare.

- F sentence 1
- G sentence 2
- H sentence 3
- J sentence 4