

Level M - 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 10, read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

1. First, fill all cracks and holes with patching compound. _____. Next, paint the trim with a brush. Finally, use a roller to paint the rest of the wall.
 - A Then wash the walls to remove dirt and dust.
 - B Wash the paint off your tools and hands with warm water.
 - C Let the paint dry at least an hour before you put on a second coat.
 - D Before you buy the paint, make sure the color looks good with your furniture.
2. _____. Mostly I smell the dark, rich soil covered with moist leaves. Sometimes fruit trees add a sweet smell. I wish I could save these odors in a bottle and take them with me.
 - F Don't you love dogwood trees?
 - G Hemlock trees are very common.
 - H I love all the smells in these woods.
 - J Odors bring back all kinds of memories.
3. _____. Workers had to be very careful. One mistake on the job could cost them a finger or even their lives. Now safety standards are required in most companies.
 - A In the past, companies had few safety standards.
 - B Life can be hard for people who are disabled.
 - C Safety is the most important part of the job.
 - D I have a habit of working too quickly and carelessly.
4. My career plans are set. Right now I'm studying auto mechanics at a technical school. _____. In time, I hope to buy my own garage.
 - F Then I plan to retire early, at age sixty.
 - G After I graduate, I'll work as an auto mechanic.
 - H Then I decided to become an auto mechanic.
 - J After I've worked for ten or twenty years, I'll buy my own garage.
5. _____. She had a recycling center built. The streets are cleaner since she has been in office. Recently, she has attracted new businesses to our city. We are excited because many new jobs will be available to us.
 - A Helen Rodriguez is an excellent mayor.
 - B Helen Rodriguez has been my friend for years.
 - C Helen Rodriguez cares about our education.
 - D Helen Rodriguez may not have done well in school.
6. First, cut raw vegetables into bite-sized pieces. Then heat a bit of oil in a frying pan. Fry the vegetables for five minutes. _____.
 - F Then wash the raw vegetables well.
 - G Finally, serve the vegetables hot with rice.
 - H Buy lots of green peppers and carrots.
 - J Remove the seeds and stems from your vegetables.

7. When I bought this carpet, it looked great in the store. In our living room, it always seemed to be dirty. Every little spill showed up. _____. Now most spills come right up.
- A I think we should buy a new carpet.
 - B I have white carpeting in the living room.
 - C I don't worry when my kids eat on the carpet.
 - D Then I treated the carpet with a stain-resistant solution.

8. _____. That woman was Edith Bolling Galt Wilson. While Woodrow Wilson was president, he became partially paralyzed. To protect him during his illness, Mrs. Wilson assumed many of his responsibilities. In a sense, she was our nation's leader at that time.
- F Some historians believe that we already have had our first female president.
 - G Woodrow Wilson was the 28th president of the United States of America.
 - H Many people suffer temporary paralysis, usually because of a stroke.
 - J The president's responsibilities are defined by the Constitution and by tradition.

9. _____. Squirrels and sparrows are common in cities. Pigeons do better in cities than anywhere else. Even deer are seen in some city neighborhoods.
- A Different animals thrive in the city.
 - B Most animals cannot survive in a city.
 - C Raccoons like living near people and their garbage.
 - D Bushes and flowers make better homes for wildlife than plain lawns do.

10. The elm tree on Orange Street in Boston was a host of many protests. In 1765, for example, Sam Adams and other Bostonian patriots used it to protest the Stamp Act of 1765. _____. Since then, the elm tree on Orange Street became known as the Liberty Tree.
- F Boston and elm trees stood for rebellion against British rule.
 - G Similar protests were staged near elm trees all over the country.
 - H All elm trees have become the symbol of freedom and liberty.
 - J Because of their protest, King George dissolved the Stamp Act.

For Numbers 11 through 15, choose the answer the best develops the topic sentence.

11. Many words in the English language have meanings easy to match with their history.
- A For example, the name *America* comes from Amerigo Vespucci, the first person to recognize the country.
 - B Some words still have the same spellings. Over time, they have taken on different meanings.
 - C The history of the English language is easily traced by using a complete dictionary.
 - D All the words in the English language have a foreign origin.
12. If you have been laid off, try learning a new trade or skill by going back to school.
- F Going back to school can be fun. You may be able to meet new people there.
 - G It seems new layoffs are announced every day. We all are a little scared.
 - H There are many places to work, but it can be hard to find a job you like.
 - J When you learn a new trade or skill, you will qualify for more jobs.
13. Both cotton diapers and disposable diapers have advantages.
- A Child-rearing practices have changed a lot over time. One hundred years ago, a child was often expected to help support her family, even before reaching her teens.
 - B Cotton diapers don't take up space in landfills. Disposable diapers are easier to use, and they don't pollute our waters with chlorine bleach.
 - C It's best to wash cotton diapers in very hot water with borax to make them sweet smelling. You may also want to add bleach to the wash to keep diapers white.
 - D Most children wear diapers until they are two or three. You may hear stories of children who were potty-trained before their first birthday, but that is not common.

14. Mexicans often see the history of their homeland in the form of large murals painted on the walls of buildings.
- F Among the artists that made this possible were Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Their murals depicted historical events in Mexico.
 - G Some mural painters in Italy use fresco to express their opinions about history. Others use mosaic, stained glass, or baked enamel.
 - H You can visit the library to learn about historic events in Mexico.
 - J You can try your hand at creating a wall-sized mural. Cover a wall with large sheets of newsprint and paint your pictures on it.
15. Walking is inexpensive exercise, but you will need some basic gear.
- A We learn to walk early in life. But people soon take walking for granted.
 - B Regular exercise decreases your risk of getting heart disease and diabetes. It gives you energy and helps you lose weight.
 - C Good walking shoes are a must. Ask a knowledgeable salesperson to help you pick them out. Walkers also need bright clothing so they will be visible to motorists.
 - D When you choose a gym, make sure you understand exactly what equipment you will be allowed to use. Ask the staff to fully explain all charges, and look at a schedule of classes.

For Numbers 16 through 20, read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph.

16. 1. The polar bear eats a balanced diet.
2. It often eats eggs, plants, and small mammals.
3. The elephant is a vegetarian.
4. The polar bear's favorite food consists of small ringed seals.

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

17. 1. Sam moved to a new town and needed a new library card.
2. He went to the library and filled out the application.
3. Some libraries provide free use of the Internet.
4. After he received his card, he picked out a book to bring home with him.

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

18. 1. You probably think that nursery rhymes are only for children.
2. My childhood favorite was "Hey Diddle, Diddle."
3. Most nursery rhymes were actually written to pass along news and gossip about royalty.
4. Nursery rhymes were very popular during the Middle Ages.

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

19. 1. Gardening is rewarding in many ways.
2. It can also be dangerous.
3. Tending a garden is peaceful and relaxing.
4. A beautiful garden is a joy to see.

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

20. 1. A company needs money to grow.
2. Some companies have offices in more than one country.
3. It issues stocks that people can buy.
4. By buying the stock, people give the company the money it needs to grow.

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