

Section 5: Writing Skills

Writing Skills Question 1

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by changing the improperly subordinated clause (“which she also edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*”) into a prepositional phrase (“in addition to editing the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*”).

Choice (A) produces a subordination error. The relative pronoun “which” has no role to play in the clause that it introduces. It is neither the subject nor the direct object of the verb “edited.”

Choice (B) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“Lydia Child authored widely circulated anti-slavery pamphlets” and “she also edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (C) produces a coordination error. The conjunction “plus” improperly coordinates expressions of unequal grammatical status: an independent clause (“Lydia Child authored widely circulated anti-slavery pamphlets”) and a participial phrase (“having edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*”).

Choice (E) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“Lydia Child authored widely circulated anti-slavery pamphlets” and “besides she was editor of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 2

Choice (A) is correct. It provides a gerund phrase (“making a connection with an audience”) to serve as subject of the sentence’s main verb (“is”).

Choice (B) produces a sentence fragment. The sentence contains no independent clause, consisting merely of two dependent clauses: “Whether an artist works through photography, painting, or dance” and “while connecting with an audience is paramount.”

Choice (C) produces a sentence fragment. The substitution of a prepositional phrase (“by connecting with an audience”) for the gerund phrase of the original leaves the main clause without a noun phrase that can serve as its subject.

Choice (D) produces subject-verb disagreement. The plural verb “connect” does not agree with the singular antecedent (“the art”) of its relative pronoun subject (“which”).

Choice (E) produces improper coordination. The conjunction “and” improperly coordinates two expressions of unequal grammatical status: a dependent clause (“Whether an artist works through photography, painting, or dance”) and an independent clause (“to make a connection with an audience is paramount”).

Writing Skills Question 3

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by making the subject of the sentence the pronoun “I,” which refers to a person and can therefore be logically modified by the phrase “Of all the people playing roles in the musical.”

Choice (A) produces a dangling modifier. The sentence’s subject, the pronoun “mine,” refers not to a person but to a person’s role in a musical and therefore cannot logically be modified by the prepositional phrase “Of all the people playing roles in the musical.” The sentence illogically suggests that the writer’s part in the musical is one of the people playing roles in the musical.

Choice (B) produces a dangling modifier. The sentence’s subject, “the smallest part,” refers not to a person but to a person’s part in the musical and therefore cannot logically be modified by the prepositional phrase “Of all the people playing roles in the musical.” The sentence illogically suggests that the smallest part in the musical is one of the people playing roles in the musical.

Choice (C) produces a dangling modifier. The sentence’s subject, the pronoun “mine,” refers not to a person but to a person’s role in a musical and therefore cannot logically be modified by the prepositional phrase “Of all the people playing roles in the musical.” The sentence illogically suggests that the writer’s part in the musical is one of the people playing roles in the musical.

Choice (D) produces logical disagreement. The use of the plural possessive “theirs” after “a part” illogically suggests that all the people playing roles in the musical have a single part.

Writing Skills Question 4

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing the plural verb phrase “are . . . repeated” for the plural subject “mistakes.”

Choice (A) produces subject-verb disagreement. The singular verb phrase “is . . . repeated” does not agree with the plural subject “mistakes.”

Choice (B) produces subject-verb disagreement. The singular verb “is” does not agree with the plural subject “mistakes.” Moreover, the use of the active voice (“to repeat”) is inappropriate before the phrase “by one’s children,” which is properly used only with a passive construction.

Choice (C) produces subject-verb disagreement. The singular verb “is” does not agree with the plural subject “mistakes.” Moreover, “not a necessity to be repeated” is an unidiomatic variant of “not necessarily repeated.”

Choice (E) produces an idiom error. The expression “are not necessary to be repeated” is an unidiomatic variant of “are not necessarily repeated.”

Writing Skills Question 5

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by inserting after “and” an adjectival phrase (“even exhilarating”) that continues the pattern of parallel adjectives (“awesome, intense . . .”) begun earlier in the sentence.

Choice (A) produces a parallelism error. The independent clause “it can be exhilarating” disrupts the pattern of parallel adjectives (“awesome, intense . . .”) begun earlier in the sentence.

Choice (C) produces faulty coordination. The adverb “also” is improperly used instead of the conjunction “and” to link the last in a series of parallel adjectives (“awesome, intense, . . . exhilarating”).

Choice (D) produces a sentence fragment. The use of a participle (“being”) instead of a finite verb (“is”) leaves the sentence without the main verb it needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (E) produces a parallelism error. The independent clause “it can exhilarate one” disrupts the pattern of parallel adjectives (“awesome, intense . . .”) begun earlier in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 6

Choice (A) is correct. Two infinitive phrases (“to follow the dictates of their own minds” and “to speak openly and honestly about themselves”) are appropriately coordinated with the conjunction “and.”

Choice (B) produces an idiom error. The participial phrase “following the dictates of their own minds” improperly complements the verb “challenged,” which requires an infinitive phrase (“to follow the dictates of their own minds”) as complement.

Choice (C) produces logical disagreement. The singular noun phrase “each one” is logically inconsistent with the plural noun phrase “their own minds” used later in the sentence. The sentence illogically suggests that each member of the audience has not one mind but several minds.

Choice (D) produces an idiom error. The participial phrase “followed the dictates of their own minds” improperly complements the verb “challenged,” which requires an infinitive phrase (“to follow the dictates of their own minds”) as complement.

Choice (E) produces an idiom error. An independent clause (“they should follow the dictates of their own minds”) is improperly used instead of an infinitive phrase (“to follow the dictates of their own minds”) to complement the verb “challenged.”

Writing Skills Question 7

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a noun phrase (“Encouraging young children to perform public service along with their parents”) to serve as subject of the sentence.

Choice (A) produces a sentence fragment. A prepositional phrase (“By encouraging young children to perform public service along with their parents”) appears where a noun phrase is needed to serve as subject for the sentence’s main verb phrase (“might enhance”).

Choice (C) produces a sentence fragment. A dependent clause (“If young children are encouraged to perform public service along with their parents”) appears where a noun phrase is needed to serve as subject for the sentence’s main verb phrase (“might enhance”).

Choice (D) produces an illogical sentence. The use of “Young children” as the subject of the predicate “might enhance the children’s sense of belonging” illogically suggests that it is the children themselves (rather than the encouragement of others) that enhances the children’s sense of belonging.

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. A dependent clause (“Because they encourage young children to perform public service along with their parents”) appears where a noun phrase is needed to serve as subject for the sentence’s main verb (“might enhance”).

Writing Skills Question 8

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by replacing the improperly subordinated relative clause (“which he became its second-youngest recipient”) with a participial phrase (“becoming its second-youngest recipient”) that logically modifies the subject (“Thurgood Marshall”) of the main clause.

Choice (A) produces a subordination error. The relative pronoun “which” has no role to play in the clause that it introduces. It is neither the subject nor the subject complement of the verb “became.”

Choice (B) produces redundancy. The possessive pronoun “its” needlessly and confusingly duplicates information conveyed through the relative pronoun construction (“of which”) used earlier in the sentence.

Choice (C) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“In 1946 Thurgood Marshall won the NAACP’s top award, the Spingarn Medal” and “he was its second-youngest recipient”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (D) produces an idiom error. The preposition “for” is unidiomatically used (instead of “of”) to complement the noun “recipient.”

Writing Skills Question 9

Choice (A) is correct. It provides a finite verb (“wrote”) for the sentence’s subject (“Jean-Paul Sartre”) and an idiomatic prepositional complement (“of”) for the verb.

Choice (B) produces a sentence fragment. A present participle (“writing”) appears in place of the finite verb (“wrote”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (C) produces a sentence fragment. A past participle (“written”) is used instead of the finite verb (“wrote”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (D) produces redundancy. The pronoun “he” is unnecessary because the verb that it precedes (“wrote”) already has a subject in “Jean-Paul Sartre” back at the beginning of the sentence.

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. The insertion of the relative pronoun “who” encloses the verb “wrote” in a subordinate clause, leaving the main clause without the finite verb it needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Writing Skills Question 10

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the wordiness of the original by eliminating the redundant modifying clause “that disagrees with it.”

Choice (A) produces redundancy. The modifying clause “that disagrees with it” unnecessarily duplicates information conveyed by the adjective “opposite.”

Choice (B) produces redundancy. The modifying clause “that disagrees” unnecessarily duplicates information conveyed by the adjective “opposite.”

Choice (C) produces vagueness. It is unclear what place the adverb “there” refers to.

Choice (E) produces an idiom error. The preposition “For” is improperly used (instead of “With” or “About”) to complement the verb “disagree.”

Writing Skills Question 11

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by substituting the conjunction “though” for the prepositional phrase “in spite of it” to create an appropriate modifying phrase (“though a work of fiction”) for the sentence’s subject.

Choice (A) produces a modification error. The pronoun “it” is improperly used instead of the possessive “its” to modify the gerund “being.”

Choice (B) produces improper subordination. A participle (“being”) appears in place of the finite verb (“is”) that is needed in a grammatically complete relative clause.

Choice (C) produces a diction error. The nonstandard phrase “irregardless of” is used instead of “despite.”

Choice (E) produces a modification error. The pronoun “it” is improperly used instead of the possessive “its” to modify the gerund “being.”

Writing Skills Question 12

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by converting the second independent clause into a dependent clause (“whose first project was the development of a satellite-based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa”) properly subordinated to the noun phrase “the Jemison Group.”

Choice (A) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“Dr. Mae Jemison, astronaut and physician, founded the Jemison Group” and “its first project was to develop a satellite-based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (C) produces improper subordination. The elaborate noun phrase that begins the sentence (“Dr. Mae Jemison, astronaut and physician, founding the Jemison Group”) has no clear grammatical relationship to the independent clause (“its first project was to develop a satellite-based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa”) that it precedes.

Choice (D) produces a sentence fragment. The insertion of the relative pronoun “which” encloses the verb “had” in a subordinate clause, leaving the main clause without the finite verb it needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. The insertion of the relative pronoun “who” before “founded” and of the relative pronoun “whose” before “was” encloses those verbs in subordinate clauses, leaving the apparent subject of the main clause (“Mae Jemison”) without the finite verb it needs in order to form a grammatically complete sentence.

Writing Skills Question 13

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by replacing the participial phrases with a single finite verb phrase “hopes to convert them later for tourists to use”) and thereby forms a grammatically complete sentence.

Choice (A) produces a sentence fragment. The resulting expression is a mere noun phrase (“The government”) modified by two different participial phrases (“currently building extensive facilities to accommodate the upcoming international sporting event” and “hoping to convert them later to be used by tourists”); it lacks the main verb it needs in order to form a grammatically complete sentence.

Choice (B) produces a sentence fragment. The resulting expression is a mere noun phrase (“The government”) modified by a long participial phrase (“currently building extensive facilities to accommodate the upcoming international sporting event, in hopes

of converting them later to be used by tourists”) without the main verb it needs in order to form a grammatically complete sentence.

Choice (D) produces a sentence fragment. The resulting expression is a mere noun phrase (“The government”) modified by two different participial phrases (“currently building extensive facilities to accommodate the upcoming international sporting event” and “hoping they can be converted for tourist use later”) without the main verb it needs in order to form a grammatically complete sentence.

Choice (E) produces improper subordination. The noun phrase and participial modifier that begin the sentence (“The government, currently building extensive facilities to accommodate the upcoming international sporting event”) have no grammatical relation to the independent clause that follows the second comma (“the hope is that tourists use them later as converted”).

Writing Skills Question 14

Choice (C) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by creating well-coordinated participial phrases (“practicing them thoroughly and keeping notes in case of memory lapses”) that logically modify the subject (“he”) of the clause they follow.

Choice (A) produces a lack of parallelism. An infinitive (“to labor”) is improperly coordinated with a finite verb (“practiced”) and present participle (“keeping”).

Choice (B) produces improper coordination. A semicolon improperly joins two well-coordinated clauses (“Winston Churchill was famous for his speeches, but he had to labor over them in advance”) and a poorly coordinated infinitive phrase and finite verb phrase (“to practice them thoroughly as well as kept notes in case of memory lapses”).

Choice (D) produces a tense error. The shift from simple past constructions (“was . . . had . . .”) to a past progressive construction (“was practicing”) is awkward and confusing.

Choice (E) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“he had to labor over them in advance” and “he practiced them thoroughly, keeping notes in case of memory lapses”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 15

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by placing the temporal clause “when it burned to the ground” immediately after a noun phrase referring to a point in time (“295 B.C.”).

Choice (A) produces a misplaced modifier. A clause referring to a point in time (“when it burned to the ground”) is inappropriately placed immediately after a noun phrase referring to a location (“the coast of Egypt”).

Choice (B) produces improper subordination. A participle (“having”) appears in place of the finite verb (“have”) needed for a grammatically complete relative clause.

Choice (C) produces a sentence fragment. A participle (“thriving”) appears in place of the finite verb (“thrived”) that the main clause needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (D) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“The vast Library of Alexandria, whose ruins have never been recovered on the coast of Egypt” and “it thrived from 295 B.C. until the fourth century A.D., when it burned to the ground”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Writing Skills Question 16

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a “that” clause (“that he has devoted himself to furthering their cause”) to indicate a result of the action described in the main clause (“Herrera wants so much to see improvements in the lives of the workers”).

Choice (A) produces an idiom error. A participial phrase (“having devoted himself, therefore, to furthering their cause”) appears in place of the “that” clause necessitated by the use of “so much” in the sentence’s main clause (“Herrera wants so much to see improvements in the lives of the workers”).

Choice (C) produces an idiom error. A participial phrase (“thus devoting himself to furthering their cause”) appears in place of the “that” clause necessitated by the use of “so much” in the sentence’s main clause (“Herrera wants so much to see improvements in the lives of the workers”).

Choice (D) produces redundancy. It unnecessarily and confusingly repeats the adverb “so” found earlier in the sentence.

Choice (E) produces a pronoun error. The relative pronoun “which” has no clear antecedent in the sentence.

Writing Skills Question 17

Choice (E) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing the finite verb phrase (“was abandoned”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (A) produces a sentence fragment. A participle (“abandoned”) appears in place of the finite verb phrase (“was abandoned”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (B) produces a sentence fragment. A participial construction (“having been abandoned”) appears in place of the finite verb phrase (“was abandoned”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (C) produces a tense error. The use of a present perfect verb phrase (“has been abandoned”) in the sentence’s main clause is logically inconsistent with the use of the simple past (“was rediscovered”) in a subordinate clause introduced by “until.”

Choice (D) produces improper coordination. A semicolon inappropriately joins an independent clause (“The sacred Peruvian site of Machu Picchu was abandoned by the Inca”) and participial phrase (“then reclaimed by the jungle”).

Writing Skills Question 18

Choice (B) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing a plural verb phrase (“have rendered”) to agree with the sentence’s plural subject (“Overfishing and water pollution”).

Choice (A) produces subject-verb disagreement. The singular verb phrase “has rendered” does not agree with the plural subject “Overfishing and water pollution.”

Choice (C) produces a sentence fragment. A participle (“rendering”) appears in place of the finite verb (“have rendered”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Choice (D) produces subject-verb disagreement. The singular verb “renders” does not agree with the plural subject “Overfishing and water pollution.”

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. An infinitive (“to render”) appears in place of the finite verb phrase (“have rendered”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Writing Skills Question 19

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by providing the main clause with a subject (“the chili pepper”) that is logically modified by the phrase “Not actually a member of the genus *Piper*.”

Choice (A) produces a dangling modifier. The modifying phrase “Not actually a member of the genus *Piper*” does not logically modify the subject (“Christopher Columbus”) of the clause it precedes. The sentence illogically suggests that Christopher Columbus was not actually a member of the genus *Piper*.

Choice (B) produces a comma splice. Two independent clauses (“The chili pepper is not a member of the genus *Piper*” and “Christopher Columbus gave it that name while believing that he had found the plant that produces black pepper”) are improperly joined by only a comma.

Choice (C) produces improper coordination. An independent clause (“and it was not actually a member of the genus *Piper*”) is improperly placed between the indirect object (“the chili pepper”) and direct object (“that name”) of another independent clause.

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. A participle (“named”) appears in place of the finite verb phrase (“was named”) that the sentence needs in order to be grammatically complete.

Writing Skills Question 20

Choice (D) is correct. It avoids the error of the original by substituting “there was” for “it prompted” and thereby eliminating both the vague pronoun “it” and the redundant verb “prompted.”

Choice (A) produces a pronoun error. The pronoun “it” has no logical antecedent in the sentence. Moreover, the verb “prompted” is redundant in that it duplicates the meaning conveyed by the conjunction “Because” in the preceding clause.

Choice (B) produces a pronoun error. The pronoun “they” has no logical antecedent in the sentence. The noun phrase “stained-glass windows” is not a logical antecedent: it was the destruction of the windows, not the windows themselves, that prompted the widespread removal.

Choice (C) produces improper coordination. A semicolon inappropriately joins a dependent clause (“Because the stained-glass windows of the cathedral in Reims, France, were destroyed during the First World War”) and an independent clause (“then there was widespread removal of stained-glass windows from churches throughout France during the Second World War”).

Choice (E) produces a sentence fragment. The sentence has no independent clause; it consists merely of a subordinate clause (“Because the stained-glass windows of the cathedral in Reims, France, were destroyed during the First World War”) and an unattached participial phrase (“prompting widespread removal of stained-glass windows from churches throughout France during the Second World War”).

Writing Skills Question 21

The error occurs at (C). The expression “and also” is improperly used (instead of “but also”) as a correlative of “not only.”

There is no error at (A). The singular verb “acts” agrees with the singular subject (“The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy”), and the preposition “as” is idiomatically used to complement this verb.

There is no error at (B). The gerund “establishing” is an appropriate object of the preposition “in.”

There is no error at (D). The conjunction “both” is properly used with its correlative “and” to coordinate two noun phrases (“trade alliances” and “treaties”).

Corrected sentence:

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy acts as a single nation not only in establishing domestic policies **but also** in making both trade alliances and treaties.

Writing Skills Question 22

The error occurs at (D). The gerund “being” is unnecessary and confusing before the gerund “working,” which is in itself sufficient for the gerund phrase.

There is no error at (A). The auxiliary “may” is properly combined with the base form “seem” to form an appropriate verb phrase.

There is no error at (B). The singular verb “appears” agrees with its singular subject “her private writing.”

There is no error at (C). The conjunction “as” appropriately introduces an adverbial phrase beginning with the preposition “in.”

Corrected sentence:

Although her public writing may seem pompous, her private writing appears relaxed and eloquent, as in the letters to her husband concerning her **working** abroad.

Writing Skills Question 23

The correct answer is (E). There is no error in the sentence.

There is no error at (A). The adverb “now” properly modifies the participle “worn,” which itself properly modifies “The ribbon shirt.”

There is no error at (B). The preposition “throughout” properly introduces a prepositional phrase to complement the participle “worn.”

There is no error at (C). The singular verb phrase “is based” agrees with its singular subject “The ribbon shirt.”

There is no error at (D). The participial phrase “imported by settlers” is appropriately placed immediately after the noun phrase (“a style”) that it modifies.

Correct sentence:

The ribbon shirt, now worn throughout the southwestern United States on special occasions, is based on a style imported by settlers and adapted by the Osage Nation in the early 1900s.

Writing Skills Question 24

The error occurs at (C). The use of the present perfect verb phrase “has earned” is inconsistent with the use of simple past verbs (“persisted” and “went”) in the preceding and succeeding clauses.

There is no error at (A). The participle “Ignoring” begins a phrase that logically modifies the sentence’s subject, “Donna Shirley.”

There is no error at (B). The conjunction “that” is idiomatically used to introduce a content clause after the verb “argued.”

There is no error at (D). The infinitive “to design” is idiomatically used to complement the verb phrase “went on.”

Corrected sentence:

Ignoring an academic advisor who in 1958 argued that women could not be engineers, Donna Shirley persisted in her studies, **earned** a master’s degree in aerospace engineering, and went on to design the Sojourner spacecraft.

Writing Skills Question 25

The error occurs at (B). The auxiliary verb “had” is improperly inserted before the past-tense form “rose,” which requires no auxiliary.

There is no error at (A). The preposition “for” idiomatically complements the participle “Praised,” which introduces a phrase that logically modifies the sentence’s subject, “Bessie Smith.”

There is no error at (C). The preposition “as” is idiomatically used to complement the expression “rose to fame.”

There is no error at (D). The adjective “premier” properly modifies the noun phrase “blues singer.”

Corrected sentence:

Praised for her powerful voice and soulful interpretations, Bessie Smith **rose** to fame in the 1920s as America’s premier blues singer.

Writing Skills Question 26

The error occurs at (D). The pronoun “it” has no clear antecedent in the sentence. As a singular pronoun it cannot refer to the plural subject, “Aerobic activities.”

There is no error at (A). The plural verb “are” agrees with its plural subject, “Aerobic activities.”

There is no error at (B). The adverb “undoubtedly” properly modifies the adjective “beneficial.”

There is no error at (C). The preposition “to” is idiomatically used to complement the adjective “beneficial.”

Corrected sentence:

Aerobic activities such as jogging or riding a bike are undoubtedly beneficial to health; even so, many people find **them** boring.

Writing Skills Question 27

The correct answer is (E). There is no error in the sentence.

There is no error at (A). The adverb “fascinatingly” properly modifies the adjective “intricate.”

There is no error at (B). The preposition “of” is idiomatically used to complement the noun “web.”

There is no error at (C). The auxiliary verb “may” and the base form “conceal” combine to form an appropriate verb phrase.

There is no error at (D). The adjective “immense” properly modifies the noun “ocean.”

Correct sentence:

A fascinatingly intricate web of cracks and faults on the icy surface of Jupiter’s moon, Europa, may conceal an immense ocean.

Writing Skills Question 28

The error occurs at (D). Supermarket sections of today are illogically compared with a point in time (denoted by “years ago”) rather than with supermarket sections that existed at that point in time.

There is no error at (A). The verb “have” is appropriately used with the second-person pronoun “you” (whether construed as singular or plural).

There is no error at (B). The infinitive “to meet” is idiomatically used to complement the verb phrase “are trying.”

There is no error at (C). The adverb “however” properly modifies the adjective “frivolous,” and the resulting adverbial phrase “however frivolous” is appropriately embedded in the noun phrase it modifies (“the demands . . . of consumers”).

Corrected sentence:

If you have any doubts that merchants are trying hard to meet the demands, however frivolous, of consumers, you should compare the cereal and juice sections of a supermarket today **with those of years ago**.

Writing Skills Question 29

The error occurs at (D). The present-tense verb “writes” in the “when” clause is logically inconsistent with the past-tense verb “served” in the main clause.

There is no error at (A). The possessive pronoun “Her” clearly refers to “Leigh Brackett” and properly modifies the noun “experience.”

There is no error at (B). The prepositional phrase “in writing mysteries and science fiction” idiomatically complements the noun “experience.”

There is no error at (C). The adverb “well” is appropriately placed after the direct object (“Leigh Brackett”) of the verb it modifies (“served”).

Corrected sentence:

Her experience in writing mysteries and science fiction served Leigh Brackett well when she **wrote** screenplays for movies such as *The Big Sleep* and *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Writing Skills Question 30

The error occurs at (A). The adjective “smooth” is improperly used (instead of the adverb “smoothly”) to modify the verb phrase “were going.”

There is no error at (B). The past-tense verb “brought,” appropriately modified by the adverb “about,” is consistent with the past-tense verb “thought” in the preceding “when” clause.

There is no error at (C). The prepositional phrase “in priorities” is idiomatically used to complement the noun “changes.”

There is no error at (D). The noun “attention” is properly modified by the participle “increased” and idiomatically complemented by a phrase beginning with the preposition “to.”

Corrected sentence:

Just when the staff thought things were going **smoothly** at the newspaper, a crisis erupted that brought about changes in priorities, including increased attention to sensational news.

Writing Skills Question 31

The error occurs at (D). The participle “including” is improperly used (instead of the conjunction “as”) as a correlative of “such.”

There is no error at (A). The adjective “renowned” properly modifies the noun phrase “British mountaineer.”

There is no error at (B). The adjective “past” properly modifies the possessive noun “century’s.”

There is no error at (C). The participle “profiling” begins a phrase that logically modifies the sentence’s subject (“Chris Bonington”).

Corrected sentence:

In his new book, *Quest for Adventure*, the renowned British mountaineer Chris Bonington examines the past century’s most remarkable expeditions, profiling such explorers **as** Neil Armstrong, Thor Heyerdahl, and Maurice Herzog.

Writing Skills Question 32

The correct answer is (E). There is no error in the sentence.

There is no error at (A). The phrase “such as” is properly used to introduce an example.

There is no error at (B). The possessive relative pronoun “whose” has a logical antecedent in “Bobby Rydell” and properly modifies the noun “hit.”

There is no error at (C). The infinitive construction “to have inspired” is idiomatically used to complement the verb phrase “is believed.”

There is no error at (D). The adverb “largely” properly modifies the verb phrase “had been . . . eclipsed,” whose past perfect construction is motivated by the adverbial phrase “By 1966.”

Correct sentence:

By 1966, American pop stars such as Bobby Rydell, whose hit “Forget Him” is believed to have inspired the Beatles’ song “She Loves You,” had been largely eclipsed by British musical groups.

Writing Skills Question 33

The error occurs at (D). The pronoun “it” has no logical antecedent in the sentence. As a singular pronoun, it cannot refer to the plural noun “crops” or the plural noun phrase “citrus fruits.”

There is no error at (A). The plural verb “grow” agrees with the plural antecedent (“Farmers”) of its subject, the relative pronoun “who.”

There is no error at (B). The adverb “unseasonably” properly modifies the adjective “cold.”

There is no error at (C). The adverb “potentially” properly modifies the adjective “killing,” which in turn properly modifies the noun “frost.”

Corrected sentence:

Farmers who grow citrus fruits know that in unseasonably cold weather they must protect their crops from potentially killing frost by providing **them** with extra sources of heat.

Writing Skills Question 34

The correct answer is (E). There is no error in the sentence.

There is no error at (A). The plural verb “were” agrees with the plural subject “The opponents of the bill,” and the adjective “few” provides an appropriate subject complement.

There is no error at (B). The adverb “enough” is idiomatically placed after the adjective it modifies, “influential.”

There is no error at (C). The singular possessive pronoun “its” has a logical antecedent in the singular noun phrase “the bill” and provides an appropriate subject for the gerund phrase it modifies.

There is no error at (D). Modified by the pronoun “its,” the passive gerund phrase “being passed” provides an appropriate object for the verb “prevent.”

Correct sentence:

The opponents of the bill were few but influential enough to prevent its being passed in the House.

Writing Skills Question 35

Choice (B) is correct. The imperative sentence “Consider shy people” appropriately directs the reader’s attention to a topic that will be the focus of the essay.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because there is nothing in sentence 1 to which the phrase “this example” can refer.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because there is nothing in sentence 1 to which the pronoun “it” can refer.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because it makes confusing reference to future time (“will be”) and because it misleadingly suggests the essay will concern people who have overcome shyness (“people who were once shy”).

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it is a sentence fragment, not a grammatically complete sentence.

Writing Skills Question 36

Choice (E) is correct. It is consistent with the other sentences in the paragraph in its use of the generalizing present tense (“misinterpret . . . do not know”), introducing the topic of shy people’s behavior without suggesting that such behavior had previously been mentioned.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because there is nothing in the sentence or previous sentences to which the phrase “this manner” can refer.

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because it confusingly uses the past tense (“misjudged . . . did not know”) in the midst of an essay written in the generalizing present tense and because it awkwardly shifts from plural (“shy people’s”) to singular (“the person”).

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because there is nothing in the sentence or previous sentences to which the phrase “this manner” can refer.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because it shifts needlessly into a second-person construction (“you are”) that is inconsistent with the third-person construction used in the sentences immediately before and after it.

Writing Skills Question 37

Choice (B) is correct. It uses the generalizing present tense (“do . . . label”) to pose a question that the rest of the paragraph addresses.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because it poses a question about the future (“will . . . be often labeled”) that is not addressed in the course of the paragraph. The paragraph is concerned with how people generally react to Uncle Roger, not with how they will react to him in the future.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it poses a question about the future (“Will . . . always be labeled”) that is not addressed in the course of the paragraph. The paragraph is concerned with how people generally react to Uncle Roger, not with how they will react to him in the future.

Choice (D) is unsatisfactory because it does not pose a question and therefore does not motivate the reply given in sentence 7 (“The answer is simple”) and the rest of the paragraph.

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it does not pose a question and therefore does not motivate the reply given in sentence 7 (“The answer is simple”) and the rest of the paragraph.

Writing Skills Question 38

Choice (D) is correct. It consistently maintains a personal construction throughout (“People . . . are offended . . . they think . . .”) and properly uses the conjunction “because” to express a logical cause-and-effect relationship.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because it shifts awkwardly from a personal construction (“People . . . are offended”) to an impersonal construction (“their thought is that . . .”).

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because it contains a pronoun error. The reflexive pronoun “themselves” appears where the nonreflexive pronoun “them” should be.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it confuses cause and effect. The use of “therefore” in the second clause implies that people think Uncle Roger looks down on them because they are offended, but it is clear from the context that the reverse is true: people are offended because they think Uncle Roger looks down on them.

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it shifts awkwardly from a personal construction (“People . . . are offended”) to an impersonal construction (“their thinking is that . . .”) and from the present tense (“meet”) to the past tense (“looked”).

Writing Skills Question 39

Choice (D) is correct. It continues the line of thought begun in sentence 11, appropriately using the inferential adverb “therefore” to point out a natural consequence of Uncle Roger’s reluctance to talk about himself.

Choice (A) is unsatisfactory because it supplies irrelevant information. The fact that the writer and Uncle Roger have had long talks does not support, illustrate, or follow from the observation in sentence 11 that Uncle Roger is reluctant to talk about himself.

Choice (B) is unsatisfactory because it supplies irrelevant information. The fact that Uncle Roger attended college after the Second World War has no immediate relevance to sentence 11 or the rest of the essay.

Choice (C) is unsatisfactory because it is not entirely relevant to the topic of the preceding sentence. The observation that the writer’s mother is outgoing does not support, illustrate, or follow from the observation in sentence 11 that Uncle Roger is reluctant to talk about himself.

Choice (E) is unsatisfactory because it confusingly directs the reader’s attention away from the focal point of sentence 11 (Uncle Roger’s reluctance to talk about himself) to the broad, tangential topic of misunderstood people.