



Chapter 13
English
Practice Test 1



ACT ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for each underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage or the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and blacken the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The Man Behind Lassie

Many people are not familiar with the canine star Pal, an American collie, but they have probably heard of the dog he portrayed. Lassie, a beloved character who first appeared in a short story by Eric Knight, was Pal’s role for 11 years. While Pal’s talent landed him many projects—six movies, two TV pilots, and a national tour, among others—the significant care and instruction provided by the dog’s trainer, Rudd Weatherwax; warrant

recognition. 2

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. Weatherwax, warrant
C. Weatherwax; who warrants
D. Weatherwax, who warrants

2. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Another important figure was Fred Wilcox, the director who cast Pal in the first Lassie movie.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- F. Yes, because it clarifies who cast Pal in the “movies” in the preceding sentence.
- G. Yes, because it ends the paragraph in a way that sets up the next paragraph.
- H. No, because it distracts from the paragraph’s goal of setting up the main idea of the essay.
- J. No, because it distracts from the paragraph’s focus on dogs that have starred in movies.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



In 1940, Weatherwax was working as an animal trainer when a friend brought him a young collie for training.

Weatherwax trained the dog regularly, guiding him through basic obedience, a training program ³ often used for dogs. [A]

A dog's basic obedience skills include sitting on cue, staying until called, and walk next to its trainer. [B] When Pal had mastered the basics, ⁴ Weatherwax began training him for the entertainment business. He wanted to ensure that Pal would

behave calmly on a bustling movie set. 5

[C] While playing the role of Lassie on set, Pal performed complicated stunts with ease. [D] Weatherwax's unfailing ⁶ compassion and professional attitude ensured a safe working environment.

Before the stunts, Weatherwax was at Pal's side, speaking to him calmly. For instance, ⁷ at each set, Weatherwax was

constantly off camera, observantly ⁸ any indications of danger or risk. Additionally, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) observed Pal perform stunts, watching for any

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. regularly; guiding
C. regularly. Guiding
D. regularly, he guided

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. to walk
H. walking
J. they walk

5. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following accurate information:

that included many people talking and walking, frequent interaction with child actors, and unusual elements, such as fire.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it gives details about Weatherwax's training program for Pal.
B. Yes, because it specifies some of the challenges Pal could face on the movie set.
C. No, because it shows that Pal was a particularly unpleasant dog.
D. No, because it demonstrates that Weatherwax's training had a minimal effect on Pal's behavior.

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. unfailing, compassion
H. unfailing compassion,
J. unfailing, compassion,

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. Thus, at
C. At
D. On the other hand, at

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. observant of
H. observantly of
J. observation of

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



dangers that were visible to them.

9

People of which saw Weatherwax work with Pal were

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impressed by the clear love he had for the dog. □

Pal and Weatherwax helped secure Lassie's extraordinary legacy. Lassie, for example, is one of only three animals with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. After Weatherwax retired, his animal training work was carried on by not only his

family members but his employee, Carol Riggins too. Pal passed away in 1958 at the age of 18. A picture taken shortly before his death, showing Pal with his paw resting

on Weatherwax's arm, his eyes gazed at Weatherwax's face,

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captures the loving relationship that can develop between dog and man.

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9. A. NO CHANGE
 B. visible to it while the dog was performing.
 C. that became evident while observing him perform.
 D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
10. F. NO CHANGE
 G. of whom
 H. who
 J. whom
11. The writer wants to divide this paragraph into two in order to separate the general information about Pal's training from the information about Pal and Weatherwax on set. The best place to begin the new paragraph would be at:
 A. Point A.
 B. Point B.
 C. Point C.
 D. Point D.
12. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 F. For example, Lassie
 G. Therefore, Lassie
 H. To give an example, Lassie
 J. Lassie, for instance,
13. A. NO CHANGE
 B. but, his employee Carol Riggins,
 C. but, his employee, Carol Riggins
 D. but his employee, Carol Riggins,
14. F. NO CHANGE
 G. gazing
 H. would gaze
 J. gaze
15. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one most effectively concludes the sentence and the essay by reinforcing the essay's main point?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. is in black and white and accessible through the Los Angeles Public Library.
 C. is a commemoration of one of the most famous canine actors in history.
 D. reveals the deep connection between Pal and Rudd Weatherwax.

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PASSAGE II

British Fossils

[1]

In the early 1810s, Mary Anning began collecting fossils with her brother in her hometown of Lyme Regis on the southern coast of Great Britain. Anning's samples, some of the world's earliest recorded fossils, number into the hundreds and represent many interesting species. During the Triassic

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and Jurassic periods, the area near Lyme Regis was obscured by a shallow sea. Cliffs began to form as shale and limestone

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fragments had sunk in the water, settled in layers on the seafloor. [A] Today, the cliffs still contain numerous samples of aquatic prehistoric life. Anning's discoveries

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that us see today represent unique species; however, when she first collected them, many thought that they were hoaxes or existing species.

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16. The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following:

at least three previously undiscovered species.

Should the writer make this revision?

- F. Yes, because it provides a specific detail that reveals the significance of Anning's discoveries.
 G. Yes, because it explains why there are so many fossils in Lyme Regis.
 H. No, because it reiterates a detail stated earlier in the paragraph.
 J. No, because it does not indicate the names of the species preserved by Anning's fossils.
17. A. NO CHANGE
 B. covered
 C. buried
 D. shrouded
18. F. NO CHANGE
 G. fragments sank
 H. fragments, have been sinking
 J. fragments, sinking
19. A. NO CHANGE
 B. as we see them
 C. as they are seen by we
 D. as we see it

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



[2]

Fossils are remains of ancient life and can contain organic²⁰ remains or records of organisms' activities. Examples include fossilized bones, teeth, footprints, feces, and eggshells.

[B] During the creation of a fossil, calcite, a slowly hardening, stable compound that creates fossils, forms²¹ around remains to preserve their shape and structure.

Not tolerating²² rough handling due to their fragility, paleontologists must use extreme care and precise tools when working with the remains. Today's paleontologists and

geobiologists has used²³ advanced tools to get a close look at the

ancient remains. One of these tools provide²⁴ scientists with a glimpse into the life of a fossilized organism through electron microscopy. All of this information

does a really good job when it comes to determining whether a²⁵ fossil is from an extinct or existing species.

20. F. NO CHANGE
G. life, and
H. life; and
J. life. And

21. A. NO CHANGE
B. stable compound that slowly hardens over a long time,
C. stable, slowly hardening compound that forms over a long time,
D. stable compound that slowly hardens,

22. F. NO CHANGE
G. Since they don't tolerate
H. Because fossils are not tolerant of
J. Intolerant of

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. uses
C. use
D. is using

24. F. NO CHANGE
G. provides
H. have provided
J. are providing

25. A. NO CHANGE
B. works pretty well with
C. is really good for
D. is especially helpful for

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



[3]

Age analysis of Lyme Regis’s cliffs, combined with information gained from early fossil analysis done on samples taken from them, suggested that some were actually from extinct species. [C] Although many people thought that Anning’s fossils were created by modern engineering, scientific analysis of the samples proved that they contained fossils of organisms that lived only a few years ago. [D] Her discoveries helped build a strong case for evolution and extinction.

When anatomist Georges Cuvier learned of Anning’s claims, he stated, “Why has not anyone seen that fossils alone gave birth to a theory about the formation of the earth?”

26. F. NO CHANGE
G. fossils
H. Anning’s fossils
J. they
27. Which choice draws the most specific contrast between the assumed age of Anning’s fossils and the actual age of the fossils she uncovered?
A. NO CHANGE
B. not that many
C. millions of
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
28. F. NO CHANGE
G. anatomist, Georges Cuvier,
H. anatomist, Georges Cuvier
J. anatomist Georges Cuvier,

Questions 29 and 30 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

29. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:
- Fossils are made from a wide variety of natural processes involving mineral crystallization.
- If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:
- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
C. Point C in Paragraph 3.
D. Point D in Paragraph 3.
30. Suppose the writer’s primary purpose had been to provide a short account of the life of an important paleontologist. Would this essay accomplish this purpose?
F. Yes, because it states that Anning was the one to prove that organisms can go extinct.
G. Yes, because it outlines one paleontologist’s contribution to the theories of evolution and extinction.
H. No, because it provides details about other paleontologists in addition to Anning.
J. No, because it centers on how a few fossil discoveries altered a long-established scientific viewpoint.

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PASSAGE III

The First Trains in Manhattan

On April 20, 1871, Manhattan’s first successful mass transit train, the *Ninth Avenue Elevated*, began operation between Dey Street and 29th Street³¹

in Manhattan.³² The steam-powered locomotive,

ironically,³³ ran on a raised platform above the street. New Yorkers had long relied on horse-drawn carriages, cable cars, or walking to commute. The *Ninth Avenue* train was faster than any of these methods by a considerable amount, so it quickly gained popularity.

Underground subway trains are now considered to be a staple of New York City transit.³⁴ The Gilbert Elevated Railway’s *Sixth Avenue Elevated*³⁴ train began operating in 1878, followed by the *Second Avenue Elevated* train later that year.

Transit lines in Manhattan extended through many of the downtown,³⁵ but some of the uptown neighborhoods.

31. A. NO CHANGE
 B. on the trip to
 C. and also
 D. to
32. F. NO CHANGE
 G. signifying the initial ride of a train used for mass transit.
 H. in the 1870s.
 J. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
33. Which choice most strongly reinforces the information in the rest of the sentence?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. known as an “elevated train” or “el,”
 C. as reported by journalists,
 D. during that time,
34. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best introduces the topic of the paragraph?
 F. NO CHANGE
 G. It is now possible to travel among four out of the five boroughs in New York City via train.
 H. By the end of the decade, elevated trains ran throughout Manhattan.
 J. Upper Manhattan contained mostly rural land until the late 19th century.
35. A. NO CHANGE
 B. downtown and
 C. downtown and,
 D. downtown, and

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



The train system thus offered a mobility unparalleled in public³⁶ transportation in New York City at the time.

Reduced travel time made it feasible for more people to travel from suburban communities, to workplaces, in³⁷ Manhattan. For instance, the trip from Yonkers, just north of Manhattan, to the New York Stock Exchange took most of

the day: by horse-drawn carriage³⁸ elevated trains reduced the

length of the trip noticeably.³⁹ Real estate development skyrocketed, as people decided to settle in more rural areas surrounding Manhattan and commute to work by way of an elevated train.

During its⁴⁰ golden age, the elevated train system carried millions of people. However, it was not without its flaws. Though the system allowed people to travel quickly through Manhattan—an island with an area of approximately 23 square miles⁴¹ the trains were loud and deposited debris on the streets, buildings, and passersby beneath the tracks.

Difficult to operate in the snow and ice, the elevated train⁴² was hazardous and unreliable during New York City's cold winters.

36. F. NO CHANGE
G. unparalleled on
H. unparalleled with
J. that unparalleled

37. A. NO CHANGE
B. communities to workplaces,
C. communities, to workplaces
D. communities to workplaces

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. day by horse-drawn carriage;
H. day, by horse-drawn carriage,
J. day by horse-drawn carriage,

39. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one best completes the contrast set up in the first part of the sentence?
A. NO CHANGE
B. with regard to time.
C. in Manhattan.
D. to an hour or less.

40. F. NO CHANGE
G. it's
H. their
J. its'

41. A. NO CHANGE
B. miles;
C. miles—
D. miles,

42. F. NO CHANGE
G. riding an elevated train
H. elevated train transit as a whole
J. an elevated train ride

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By the turn of the twentieth century, an electric underground subway system had risen in popularity, and it was overtaken by the elevated train as the city's most convenient form of transit.

As the subway did not construct debris and was not affected by weather, it gradually replaced many of the elevated trains in Manhattan. However, elevated trains continue their legacy today in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx.

43. A. NO CHANGE
 B. overtaken by
 C. overtaken for use by
 D. overtaking
44. F. NO CHANGE
 G. manufacture
 H. build
 J. produce

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to provide an in-depth comparison of steam-powered elevated trains and electric subway cars that ran in Manhattan in the 1800s. Would this essay accomplish this purpose?
- A. Yes, because the essay discusses the utility, design, and price of both types of trains in Manhattan.
 B. Yes, because the essay shows how electric subway cars were cleaner and less affected by winter weather than elevated trains were.
 C. No, because although the essay provides information about electric subway cars, it centers on the development and operation of steam-powered elevated trains in Manhattan.
 D. No, because the essay centers on the ways in which electric subway cars caused elevated trains to decline in popularity in Manhattan.

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PASSAGE IV

Communicating with Chimps

[1] It enables us to watch movies, follow breaking news on television, and learn new concepts remotely. [2] In academia, actions recorded on video can be used as data to inform the work of animal behaviorists. [3] Video recording technology is often used to capture and preserve important actions. ⁴⁶

One of the main forms of communication used by chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists is visual communication. This type of communication is difficult to study. ⁴⁷

Technology-averse scientists essentially process data from direct observation, causing them to rely only on their memories to form conclusions. ⁴⁸

Video technology enables scientists to take a detour around sole reliance on memory, allowing them to re-watch videos containing visual gestures as many times as necessary. ⁴⁹

Regardless, video technology is useful to the study of visual communication. ⁵⁰

46. Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
- F. NO CHANGE
 G. 3, 2, 1
 H. 3, 1, 2
 J. 1, 3, 2
47. A. NO CHANGE
 B. chimpanzees according to animal behaviorists, is
 C. chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists is,
 D. chimpanzees, according to animal behaviorists, is
48. F. NO CHANGE
 G. scientists, essentially processing
 H. scientists who are essentially processing
 J. scientists, who essentially process
49. A. NO CHANGE
 B. bypass
 C. work their way around
 D. cut
50. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Likewise,
 H. Therefore,
 J. However,

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Raphaela Heesen and a team of animal behaviorists recently analyzed videos of chimpanzees and made a groundbreaking discovery about chimpanzee communication. Heesen's team⁵¹ traveled to the Budongo Forest Reserve in Uganda to study chimpanzees in their natural habitat. They recorded thousands of instances of gestures being used by wild chimpanzees. Video technology enabled the team to watch the gestures repeatedly, scrutinizing them in the greatest detail possible. As a result, the scientists were able to begin sketching out connections among a number of instances.⁵²

Analyzing the results, only 58 unique gestures stood out to the team, meaning many gestures were repeated.⁵³

The team then turned to a surprising discipline modern linguistics.⁵⁴

Two rules from this field was used to explain the patterns in chimpanzee gestures: Zipf's law of abbreviation and Menzerath's law.⁵⁵

In fact, Zipf's law states that frequently used words are relatively short.⁵⁶ Menzerath's law says that long linguistic

51. A. NO CHANGE
 B. revolutionary, groundbreaking discovery about
 C. discovery that, incredibly, broke new ground about
 D. groundbreaking discovery that revolutionized the study of
52. F. NO CHANGE
 G. drawing
 H. doodling
 J. making representations of
53. A. NO CHANGE
 B. the number of gestures identified by the team is only 58,
 C. the 58 unique gestures were identified by the team,
 D. the team identified only 58 unique gestures,
54. F. NO CHANGE
 G. discipline;
 H. discipline; which is
 J. discipline:
55. A. NO CHANGE
 B. is
 C. were
 D. has been
56. F. NO CHANGE
 G. For instance,
 H. For one thing,
 J. DELETE the underlined portion.

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structures are typically broken. 57

57. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following accurate information:

into smaller units during speech

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it clarifies how the linguistic structures are being broken.
- B. Yes, because it reinforces the writer's statement that Menzerath's law is a language rule.
- C. No, because it implies that Menzerath's law is more complex than Zipf's law is.
- D. No, because it provides specific information that is not consistent with the rest of the essay.

The trends of recorded gestures told scientists that these laws may be reliably applied to chimpanzee communication. This

58. F. NO CHANGE
 G. with
 H. by
 J. in

finding is important to animal behaviorists it suggests that chimpanzees use a pattern-based system to communicate.

59. A. NO CHANGE
 B. behaviorists;
 C. behaviorists; for
 D. behaviorists,

Heesen and her team now hope to expand their work. Since the

study of animal behavior often depends on visual gestures, video recording technology may help to deliver insight into communication across the animal kingdom.

60. F. NO CHANGE
 G. gestures as
 H. gestures, with
 J. gestures that

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PASSAGE V

A Trailblazing Author

[1] When science fiction literature, entering the mainstream in the 1950s, readers were captivated by space operas and tales of technological wonders.

[2] Wanting entertainment but tiring of predictability, readers looked for science fiction stories that explored new territory.

[3] Their imaginations were no longer captured by formulaic stories of rocket ships and aliens.

[4] By the 1960s, though, readers' interest was

waning. 64

An aspiring writer, Octavia Butler, was ready to give readers something new. A lifelong reader of science fiction, Butler attended multiple writing programs if she wanted more

literary experience. Thrilled with her strong writing and impressive world-building, author Harlan Ellison became her writing mentor and supported her journey. In less than two years, she sold her first story.

61. A. NO CHANGE
 B. literature entered
 C. literature that entered
 D. literature, which entered

62. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Despite wanting entertainment, readers tired
 H. Though readers wanted entertainment, they tired
 J. Wanting entertainment, but they tired

63. A. NO CHANGE
 B. reader's interest was
 C. reader's interests were
 D. readers' interests were

64. Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
 F. NO CHANGE
 G. 1, 4, 2, 3
 H. 1, 2, 4, 3
 J. 1, 4, 3, 2

65. A. NO CHANGE
 B. because
 C. provided that
 D. assuming

66. F. NO CHANGE
 G. A thrilling writer
 H. Thrilling him
 J. After thrilling him

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Butler broadened the scope of science fiction. She wrote not only about aliens, but also included political and social structures, marginalized groups, and radical transformations.⁶⁷ She created stories to more accurately

67. A. NO CHANGE
 B. also about
 C. was also inclusive of
 D. DELETE the underlined portion.

consider the world as she experienced it. Her imaginative

68. F. NO CHANGE
 G. enhance
 H. redirect
 J. reflect

worlds took readers on fantastical journeys that after them, the real world would never seem the same. Other science fiction authors were impressed by her extensive world-building.⁶⁹

69. A. NO CHANGE
 B. journeys, which after,
 C. journeys, which, after them,
 D. journeys, after which

Fellow writers nominated her work for prestigious awards, like

70. F. NO CHANGE
 G. awards; like
 H. awards; like,
 J. awards, like,

the Nebula and Hugo awards.⁷¹

71. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, this paragraph would primarily lose:
- A. a detail about the impressive accomplishments of Butler.
 B. an indication of readers' impressions of Butler's work.
 C. a suggestion that Butler's work belonged in a different genre.
 D. an explanation of how Butler's success made the Nebula and Hugo awards more popular.

Beyond the achievements of her writing, Butler created space for a greater diversity of writers to enter the realm of science fiction. For decades, science fiction consisted of a white, and male group of

72. F. NO CHANGE
 G. white—and male
 H. white (and male),
 J. white—and male—

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



writers. ⁷³ Butler, an African American woman, provided an example for generations of emerging writers, showing them that a career in science fiction was possible. Recognition of her impact goes beyond the writing community. In 1995,

for instance, Butler received a MacArthur Fellowship, colloquially known as a “genius grant.” ⁷⁴ To date, she is the only science fiction writer to receive one. In regards to her work, Butler said, “I wrote myself in, since I’m me and I’m here and I’m writing. I can write my own stories and I can write myself in.”

73. Given that all the following statements are true, which one provides the most effective transition between the preceding sentence and the rest of the paragraph?
- A. Many of these writers were responsible for the popularity of science fiction.
 - B. Before Butler, science fiction stories were about white, male characters.
 - C. Women writers, especially women of color, were vastly underrepresented in the field.
 - D. Butler’s first novel, *Patternmaster*, features a group of humans with telepathic powers.
74. F. NO CHANGE
G. likewise,
H. furthermore,
J. however,

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

75. Suppose the writer’s main purpose had been to explain the significance of a science fiction author’s career. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?
- A. Yes, because it examines how Butler’s innovative subjects and expansive world-building affected science fiction literature.
 - B. Yes, because it details how the commitment to become a writer changed Butler’s personal character and career goals.
 - C. No, because it states that, after a few years of success, novels like Butler’s no longer interested readers.
 - D. No, because it discusses how Butler stopped writing short stories to focus on more literary science fiction novels.

END OF TEST 1
STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.