



Chapter 15
English Practice
Test 2



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

What You See Isn't What You Get

[1]

Two first-year students stand, looking uncertainly at what appears to be a pleasant seating area just ahead. There are two tables: one is occupied by a young woman, but the other is empty.

Nevertheless, no one else seems to be considering walking in.

1

That's because the seating area is actually a life-size painting on the wall of one of the campus buildings.

2

[2]

A life-size seating area that's only a painting? [A] That's John Pugh's specialty: large-scale public art that is available for anyone to see. He employs the trompe l'oeil, or “trick of the eye,” style. His paintings are strikingly realistic, having carefully included shadows and reflections, making his paintings appear to be three-dimensional, as well as numerous details. [B] The café scene includes not only the young woman and also a statue, a framed piece of art, and a small cat,

5

- Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 - However,
 - Therefore,
 - Still,
 - And yet,
- NO CHANGE
 - painting, on the wall,
 - painting, on the wall
 - painting; on the wall
- NO CHANGE
 - large-scale public art
 - public art for everyone
 - art that is public and freely available
- NO CHANGE
 - always including a variety of
 - due to Pugh's inclusion of
 - being careful to include
- NO CHANGE
 - nor
 - or
 - but

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peering around a corner. 6

[3]

In another of his paintings, a wave looms across the entire front of a building. [C] The painting is immense, the wave looks like it's about to crash, and three children appears

to stand directly in its path. Being life-size and incredibly life-like, a group of firefighters ran over to save the "children" shortly before the piece was completed. When the men got close enough to realize it was only a painting, they had a good laugh. [D] Most people, like the firefighters, are just impressed by Pugh's skill.

[4]

Pugh believes that by creating public art, he can communicate with a larger audience than if his art were in a gallery. Many of his pieces, including the café scene described above, use the existing architecture. One of his other pieces

created the illusion that part of a building's wall has collapsed, revealing an ancient Egyptian storeroom in the middle of Los Gatos, California. Like the café scene, the Egyptian scene includes a human figure. In this case, however, the woman is not part of the scene. Instead, she appears to be a passer-by,

6. If the writer were to delete the question "A life-size seating area that's only a painting?" from this paragraph, the essay would primarily lose:

- F. an acknowledgement that Pugh's work might seem unusual to some.
- G. a statement of the writer's central thesis for the remainder of the essay.
- H. an argumentative and persuasive tone.
- J. nothing, because the question simply confuses the main idea.

7. A. NO CHANGE

- B. appeared
- C. appear
- D. was appearing

8. F. NO CHANGE

- G. Stopping their truck in the middle of traffic,
- H. Appearing young enough to be swept away,
- J. Like so many of Pugh's other works,

9. Given that all the choices are true, which one best conveys the theory behind Pugh's method as discussed in the remainder of the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Pugh prefers incorporating his work into the pre-existing environment to simply adding his art without regard for its surroundings.
- C. Drawing his inspiration from many different cultures, Pugh enjoys startling the viewer by placing objects in an unexpected context.
- D. The firefighters may not have been upset at Pugh's trick but they were certainly startled, just like so many other people who see Pugh's work.

10. F. NO CHANGE

- G. is creating
- H. creates
- J. creating

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



peering into the revealed room. Cities around the world have commissioned works from Pugh. It is Pugh's ability to create an apparent mystery in the middle of everyday life that makes his work speak to so much people. After all, who doesn't appreciate being tricked once in a while?

11. A. NO CHANGE
 B. (Do NOT begin new paragraph) Surprisingly, cities
 C. (Begin new paragraph) Cities
 D. (Begin new paragraph) Surprisingly, cities
12. E. NO CHANGE
 G. more
 H. most
 J. many

Questions 13 and 14 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

13. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:
- No one seems to mind being fooled by Pugh's paintings.
- If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:
- A. Point A in Paragraph 2.
 B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
 C. Point C in Paragraph 3.
 D. Point D in Paragraph 3.
14. Suppose the writer's goal had been to write a passage exploring some of the current trends in the art community. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- F. Yes, because it looks at a variety of styles popular among muralists throughout the Los Angeles area.
 G. Yes, because it considers some of the reasons for Pugh's preference for large-scale public art.
 H. No, because it only explores Pugh's artistic vision without considering the broader context of the art world.
 J. No, because it details a number of incidents in which people have been confused by Pugh's artwork.

PASSAGE II

Leaving the Nest

My mother flew out with me and stayed for a few days, to make the transition easier for me. We went shopping and bought odds and ends for my dorm room—pillows, small decorative items, even a few pots and pans—to make it feel more like home. It felt more like a vacation than anything else.

15. A. NO CHANGE
 B. pans; to
 C. pans: to
 D. pans. To

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Then suddenly her brief stay was over. Her plane was leaving for San Juan, and I realized I wasn't going with her. She was going home, but I already was home. This strange new city was my home now. Sitting on my bed in the dorm room that remained half-empty, it hit me. ¹⁶ I had just turned ¹⁶ eighteen. I was about to start college in a new place, with a new language, a new culture. I had just said my first real farewell to a mother whom I had never before been away from for more than a weekend. ¹⁷ I had to learn how to live on my own, with *mi* ¹⁷

familia so many miles away and me all by myself. ¹⁸

During high school, I had fantasized about moving to the United States someday. I was born in a sleepy, rural village in southern Puerto Rico. My high school class had fifty people in it, and the small town where I grow up was a very close-knit ¹⁹ community. I had spent hours imagining what it would be like to be surrounded not by a few dozen people but by a few million.

Living in such a small town, I was used to knowing everyone and having everyone know me. ²⁰ The very first ²⁰

16. F. NO CHANGE
 G. As I sat on the bed in my half-empty dorm room,
 H. Nervously looking around the half-empty dorm room,
 J. Looking around the half-empty dorm room from my bed,
17. Which of the following choices is most logically supported by the first part of the sentence?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. who had always done my laundry, prepared my meals, and kissed me goodnight.
 C. whom I hoped was having a pleasant flight back to San Juan and then on to our village.
 D. who had herself spent some years living in the United States in her twenties, before I was born.
18. F. NO CHANGE
 G. and no one with me.
 H. not with me any more.
 J. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
19. A. NO CHANGE
 B. grew
 C. grown
 D. growth
20. Given that all the choices are true, which provides the best transition to the topic discussed in the rest of the paragraph?
 F. NO CHANGE
 G. The idea of being surrounded by so many people, and being able to meet and talk with any of them seemed like a dream come true.
 H. When the time came to apply to colleges, I picked several, all in major metropolitan areas in the continental United States.
 J. I had considered applying to colleges in San Juan but decided that it was still too close to home, too familiar, too easy.

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acceptance received by me was from this school, located in the middle of a city with millions of inhabitants. My parents

were so proud that I get this opportunity to see the world outside of our village. They had spent enough time outside

of Puerto Rico in the United States to know that the English language was not the only thing that was different. We celebrated the weekend before I left, inviting all the neighbors

over to my parents home. We played music and ate and danced

past midnight. 25

As the memory faded; I looked around my new room again. Sure, it was small and a little bit dingy. True, I didn't know anyone yet. None of that mattered, though. I had finally made it. My new roommate would be arriving the next day. Hopefully she would be a new friend and even if she wasn't, my classes were starting in a few days. I had literally millions of people to meet; surely a few of them would become my new friends. I smiled, suddenly feeling nervous but excited, not

21. A. NO CHANGE
B. acceptance I received
C. acceptance, I received,
D. acceptance, receiving by me
22. F. NO CHANGE
G. will get
H. was getting
J. had to get
23. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
A. where it is now.
B. after the word time.
C. after the word language.
D. after the word different (and before the period).
24. F. NO CHANGE
G. parents's
H. parent's
J. parents'
25. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:
My favorite dance has always been la bomba.
Should the writer make this addition here?
A. Yes, because it adds a detail that helps explain the personality of the narrator.
B. Yes, because it provides a smooth transition to the following paragraph.
C. No, because it gives the false impression that the narrator will study dance in college.
D. No, because it would be an unnecessary digression from the main point of the paragraph.
26. F. NO CHANGE
G. faded, and
H. faded,
J. faded.
27. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. excitement nervous
B. nervously excited
C. nervous excitement
D. excitedly nervous

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lonely any more. I was eighteen, in the city, and had to face
28

the world. [29]

28. Which choice most effectively expresses the narrator's confidence about her new life?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. ready to take on
- H. all alone in
- J. about to enter

29. The writer is considering adding a concluding sentence here. Which of the following would be most logical and best express one of the main ideas of the essay?

- A. Still, I knew I would miss Puerto Rico and my friends I had left behind.
- B. Little did I know that my new roommate would become a lifelong friend.
- C. My dreams of living in the big city were finally going to become a reality.
- D. I hoped that my classes would be as exciting as my move had been.

PASSAGE III

Dual Personalities

[1]

When Lois Lane finds herself in serious danger, she looks to Superman for help. When she needed help with an article, on the other hand, she calls on Clark Kent. Of course, as the reader knows, the two men are actually the same person. [A]

30. F. NO CHANGE
G. in need of
H. she was needing
J. needed

[2]

The tradition of giving superheroes alternate names and characters, or “alter-egos,” goes back as far as superhero stories do. [B] Today, when it's a commonplace writing technique. Batman fights crime by night, but he poses as millionaire Bruce

31. A. NO CHANGE
B. where
C. because
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

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Wayne at day. Spider-Man protects the streets of New York—

³²

when he's not busy going to school as Peter Parker. [33]

[3]

Each of the superheroes have something in his (or her) back-story to explain the dual character. [C] They all have a few things in common too, though. Superheroes have a certain image—the costume and the name, for example; that helps

³⁵

them maintain their authority. If Batman didn't fight crime, he would probably do something else to deal with his past. Peter

³⁶

32. F. NO CHANGE

G. for

H. by

J. DELETE the underlined portion.

33. At this point, the writer is thinking about adding the following true statement:

Wonder Woman, on the other hand, is always herself, since she comes from a tribe of warrior women.

Should the writer make this addition here?

A. Yes, because it provides a balance for the previous examples of Batman and Spider-Man.

B. Yes, because it emphasizes the author's earlier claim that the alter-ego is commonplace.

C. No, because it strays from the primary focus of the passage by providing irrelevant information.

D. No, because it poses the unnecessary hypothetical that no superhero really needs an alternate identity.

34. F. NO CHANGE

G. has

H. is having

J. are having

35. A. NO CHANGE

B. example,

C. example.

D. example—

36. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the best support for the statement in the preceding sentence?

F. NO CHANGE

G. Batman, who lost his parents when he was young, were younger, he might have a harder time.

H. Batman were just a regular-looking man, it would be harder for him to strike fear into the heart of criminals.

J. Batman needed to, he could probably fight criminals without his gadgets since he knows several martial arts.

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Parker isn't a very awe-inspiring name, but Spider-Man is. At the same time, the hero often has friends and family members

who are somehow completely unaware of their loved ones'

other identity. Providing the superheroes with everyday names

and jobs helps in their attempts to fit in with the people around them.

[4]

Stan Lee, creator of Spider-Man, and dozens of other superheroes, often commented on what he believed makes a true hero. His opinion was that in order for the reader to care about the hero, the hero has to be flawed. Do you agree with him? According to Lee, without some kind of flaw, the hero

wouldn't really seem human. [D] Lee built tension, in his stories, by putting those human flaws and the hero's quest into conflict. It is that tension, perhaps, that makes his storylines so gripping. Even Superman, the least "normal" of all the heroes, has to deal with the tension between his love for Lois Lane and her love for Superman, not Clark Kent. [44]

37. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. name; on the other hand,
 - B. name, because
 - C. name, although
 - D. name; however,
38. F. NO CHANGE
G. one's
H. individuals
J. individuals'
39. A. NO CHANGE
B. Assuming
C. Offering
D. Allowing for
40. F. NO CHANGE
G. it's
H. his
J. one's
41. A. NO CHANGE
B. Lee creator of Spider-Man,
C. Lee creator of Spider-Man
D. Lee, creator of Spider-Man
42. Which choice provides the most logical and effective transition to the rest of this paragraph?
- F. NO CHANGE
 - G. Why would anyone want a hero to be less than perfect?
 - H. Are you familiar with Lee's various characters?
 - J. What kind of flaw could a superhero have?
43. A. NO CHANGE
B. tension in his stories
C. tension in his stories,
D. tension, in his stories
44. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
- F. Kept, because it provides a specific example of the theory being discussed throughout the paragraph.
 - G. Kept, because it demonstrates that the ultimate superhero will not seem human under any circumstances.
 - H. Deleted, because it takes away from the persuasiveness of the point made in the previous sentences.
 - J. Deleted, because it switches the focus from the more "human" superheroes to the "least" human of them.

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Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

Even though many readers feel that Lane’s ignorance is hard to believe, the Clark Kent persona provides a valuable, and time-honored, element to the Superhero story: the alter-ego.

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 4.

PASSAGE IV

Curly Hair: The Circular Trend

Is curly hair a blessing or a curse? Passing trends, which can last a day or a decade, typically influence hairstyles, which can vary dramatically; every bit as much as clothing. Some segment of the population will therefore always be fighting the natural tendency of their hair, unless the fashion becomes natural hair.

[47] In the 1950s, curls were in, and the average American woman spent countless hours pinning, rolling, and curling her hair every week. Without blowdryers or curling irons, women were left with few options, maintaining properly stylish

- 46. F. NO CHANGE
 - G. dramatically, being every
 - H. dramatically, every
 - J. dramatically. Every
47. Given that all of the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most clearly and effectively introduce the main subject of this paragraph?
- A. Some people don’t care for curly hair because it is considered more difficult to style than straight hair is.
 - B. As far back as the Renaissance, people have faked having curly hair by wearing wigs and using curlers.
 - C. Curly hair has bounced in and out of the American fashion scene for at least the last fifty years.
 - D. Clothing styles also change frequently, and sometimes influence hairstyles in a direct, easily visible way.

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hair-dos to work hard⁴⁸ and a great deal of time. By the mid-1960s, a lot of women started to wonder whether all that work was really necessary. Suddenly, natural hair was all the rage. Women began to grow they're⁴⁹ hair out and allow it to remain in its natural state, whether curly or straight. For a brief moment, it looked like women would be able to embrace their natural hair, whether straight or curly, light or dark, or having length or being short.⁵⁰

The change was short-lived, however, and didn't last for long, perhaps unsurprisingly.⁵¹ The desire to have long, natural hair somehow turned into the desire to have long, straight hair. During the 1970s, the movie and television star⁵² Farrah Fawcett popularized a look that involved long hair that seemed naturally straight and feathered—cut into layers designed to frame the face—yet slightly messy. 53 Women who had

naturally curly hair were suddenly⁵⁴ the ones to suffer now, as they painstakingly ironed their hair to achieve that “natural” look. The fashions of the 1980s, however, turned everything around yet again. Big was in, and that went for hair as well as clothes. Curly hair became incredibly popular, and the main⁵⁵ fashion goal was to make one's hair as curly and as big as possible.⁵⁵ Women who didn't have natural curls got “permanent

48. F. NO CHANGE
G. was hardly work
H. with hard work
J. by working hard
49. A. NO CHANGE
B. their
C. there
D. her
50. F. NO CHANGE
G. and regardless of length.
H. which can be long or short.
J. long or short.
51. A. NO CHANGE
B. wasn't fated to continue, though, so it
C. predictably enough failed to stick and
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
52. F. NO CHANGE
G. star, Farrah Fawcett
H. star, Farrah Fawcett,
J. star Farrah Fawcett,
53. The writer is considering deleting the phrase “cut into layers designed to frame the face” from the preceding sentence (adjusting the punctuation as needed). Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
- A. Kept, because it contrasts the style popularized by Fawcett with earlier styles.
B. Kept, because it defines the word used immediately before the phrase.
C. Deleted, because it fails to adequately explain the term it is intended to modify.
D. Deleted, because it digresses from the main point of the paragraph.
54. F. NO CHANGE
G. suddenly we're
H. sudden were
J. sudden we're
55. A. NO CHANGE
B. the curlier, the better.
C. it.
D. it didn't seem possible to have hair that was too curly, or too big to be fashionable.

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waves,” or “perms,” to create the rampant curls modeled by their pop icons, such as Cyndi Lauper and Gloria Estefan.

[1] By the middle of the 1990s, however, the perm had lost its appeal, and straight hair was back in fashion where it remains today. [2] Some commentator’s have recently claimed that curly hair is making a comeback, but only time will tell. [3] Instead of using an iron, women can have their hair chemically straightened in a sort of “reverse perm.” [4] While it’s hard to know what the trend of tomorrow will be, one thing seems certain: no style lasts forever. 58

56. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- F. worn
 - G. displayed
 - H. imitated
 - J. popularized
57. A. NO CHANGE
B. commentators
C. commentators’
D. commentators’s
58. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 3 should be placed:
- F. where it is now.
 - G. before Sentence 1.
 - H. after Sentence 1.
 - J. after Sentence 4.

Question 59 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

59. Suppose the writer had been instructed to write an essay discussing modern attitudes toward curly hair. Would this essay meet that requirement?
- A. Yes, because it explains why some women prefer to wear their hair straight, regardless of current fashions.
 - B. Yes, because it analyzes the reasons behind changes in fashion that affect the popularity of curly hair.
 - C. No, because it focuses more on the changeability of fashions than the attitudes toward them.
 - D. No, because it focuses primarily on the popularity of straight hair and the effort of style maintenance.

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PASSAGE V

Marie Curie: Physicist, Chemist, and Woman

Marie Curie is famous today for two main reasons: her scientific discoveries and her defiance of gender stereotypes. She, along with her husband, identified two new elements, polonium and radium. She then coined the term “radioactive”

60

and developed a theory to explain the phenomenon. Curie first began to research radioactivity after noticing that the amount of radiation produced by a sample depended wholly on the quantity of uranium in the sample.

61

61

61

Curie was proficient in the fields of physics and chemistry, though her education was somewhat unusual, which prevented her from attending university due to a lack of money, Curie initially studied in a laboratory run by her cousin. Determined to pursue her love of science, Curie eventually enrolled at the University of Paris, where she later became the first female professor.

62

62

63

60. The writer is considering deleting the underlined phrase and adjusting the punctuation accordingly. If the phrase were removed, the paragraph would primarily lose:
- F. a specific detail that provides information about the result of some of Curie’s research.
 - G. an explanation of how Curie was able to make such a variety of important scientific discoveries.
 - H. information that identifies the reason Curie was awarded two Nobel prizes.
 - J. a definition of radioactivity included by the writer and necessary to the paragraph as a whole.
61. Given that all of the choices are true, which provides the most effective transition from this paragraph into the rest of the essay?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. Due to her discoveries, she was both the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize and the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes, though her road to success was paved with difficulties.
 - C. Although physics and chemistry are treated as separate fields, like so many other branches of science, the two are so interconnected in some areas that it can be difficult to tell them apart.
 - D. Curie’s husband, Pierre, was also a noted scientist who wrote several famous pieces on magnetism, including one that detailed the relationship between temperature and paramagnetism.
62. F. NO CHANGE
G. unusual, prevented
H. unusual. Prevented
J. unusual prevented her
63. A. NO CHANGE
B. like
C. when
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

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While Curie is widely given recognition and credit for⁶⁴ discovering radioactivity, this is not entirely accurate. Henri Becquerel, a French scientist, has that honor. When Curie

made her discovery, Becquerel had already saw that rays, functioning much like X-rays but produced by uranium salt,⁶⁵ existed; however, he did not identify the underlying process.

Becquerel of radioactivity was performing⁶⁶

experimental involving photographic paper, and the discovery⁶⁷ was accidental. He realized that something was exposing the photographic paper to rays even before he placed the paper in the sunlight. Nevertheless, further experiments revealed⁶⁸ that the substance emitting rays was the fluorescent substance, potassium uranyl sulfate.

However, Becquerel didn't identify the underlying scientific principal, namely, that the rays were produced not by a⁶⁹ molecular interaction but by the atom itself. Curie was

the first to make this discovery; it was she who isolated, and⁷⁰ identified radium and polonium. The earliest scientist to realize that there was an element in the fluorescent substance more

reactive than uranium,⁷¹ Curie dedicated the next twelve years to developing a method for isolating that substance,

64. F. NO CHANGE
 G. credited and acknowledged as the person responsible for
 H. generally credited with
 J. appreciated often as deserving credit and recognition for

65. A. NO CHANGE
 B. has already seen
 C. had already seen
 D. has already saw

66. The most logical placement of the underlined portion would be:
 F. where it is now.
 G. after the word *performing*.
 H. after the word *paper*.
 J. after the word *discovery*.

67. A. NO CHANGE
 B. an experimental
 C. experimentally
 D. an experiment

68. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Subsequently, further
 H. Further
 J. In contrast, further

69. A. NO CHANGE
 B. principle
 C. principal
 D. principle:

70. F. NO CHANGE
 G. isolated
 H. isolated it
 J. isolated—

71. A. NO CHANGE
 B. uranium;
 C. uranium
 D. uranium:

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which was not yet known but later came to be identified and is
now called “radium.”⁷²

Curie was progressive for a chemist; much less for a
⁷³

woman. Women in science would of often had a difficult
⁷⁴ time, and Curie was no exception. She was refused a position
 at Krakow University due to her gender, and was ultimately
 denied membership in the French Academy of Sciences.
 However, the general consensus is that Curie was not bitter
 about these rejections. Instead, she worked as hard as she
⁷⁵ could even when she wondered whether she would ever be
recognized. She was a woman who knew her own worth, even
⁷⁵ when others did not: a trait as valuable today as during the
 eighteenth century.

72. F. NO CHANGE
 G. we now know as radium.
 H. scientists and laypeople alike are familiar with today under the name “radium.”
 J. people in the present day refer to under the name of “radium.”
73. A. NO CHANGE
 B. chemist,
 C. chemist; moreover,
 D. chemist so
74. F. NO CHANGE
 G. might of
 H. have
 J. has
75. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the most consistent description of Curie’s personality as described in this paragraph?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. became somewhat reclusive in her later years, preferring her work to society.
 C. spent many years in her eventually successful attempt to identify the source of Becquerel’s mysterious rays.
 D. was generally described by those who knew her as persistent, friendly, and humble.

END OF TEST 2
STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.