



Chapter 17
English Practice
Test 3



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

A Day in the City

When I woke up this morning, I made myself a bowl of cereal and sat, listening to the traffic. Some of my friends ask me how I can stand living somewhere so noisy. It’s true that

there’s always some kind of noise in my neighborhood—taxi drivers honking their horns, kids playing their radios so loud that the bass makes my teeth vibrate, or people yelling in the street. I know that some people wouldn’t like it, but to me, these are the sounds of life. 3

It’s Saturday, so this morning I decided to go to the park. The train is the fastest way to go but I took the bus instead.

When I ride the bus, you get to see so much more of the city. It can be kind of loud on the bus, with some people talking

1. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 - A. cereal and sat while listening
 - B. cereal, sat listening
 - C. cereal, sat, and listened
 - D. cereal before sitting and listening
2. F. NO CHANGE
 - G. neighborhood, taxi
 - H. neighborhood; taxi
 - J. neighborhood taxi
3. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, the essay would primarily lose:
 - A. a contrast to the positive tone of the essay.
 - B. an explanation for the narrator’s trip to the park.
 - C. information that shows the author’s attitude toward the place she lives.
 - D. nothing at all; this information is not relevant to the essay.
4. F. NO CHANGE
 - G. Since today it is finally
 - H. Allowing for it being
 - J. The day of the week is
5. A. NO CHANGE
 - B. one is riding
 - C. you ride
 - D. they are riding

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



on their phones, others chatting sociable with their friends, and others playing music. Just like the traffic's sounds, though, the

noise on the bus represents people working, relaxing, and living.

Once I get to the park, I pick a bench over near the play area. The city added the bench so they could play while their

parents sit nearby, obviously I like to sit there because there's a great big oak tree for shade. I can see and hear almost

everything from there. I sit there watching, and listening to the people around me. People-watching is one of my favorite

things to do, I like listening even better. The park is the best place because you get to see and hear everything. The only problem is that there's so much to see and hear!

That's why people get so tired after a little while. That way, I can pay more attention to the sounds and not get distracted by what I see. With my eyes closed, I can pick out parts of

two old men's familiar conversation. One of them is telling the other about something his grandson said. I can't hear the rest, but whatever it was must have been hilarious because his

friends' laugh is so loud, it startles me.

Later that night, after I've ridden the bus back home, I think about those old men. When I'm old, I hope that I too will have a friend who will sit in the park with me, and who will enjoy listening to the sounds of the city as much as I do.

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. sociably, with
H. sociable with,
J. sociably with

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. people, working;
C. people; working
D. people, working,

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. kids
H. because they
J. that it

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. nearby.
C. nearby,
D. nearby, because

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. there, watching, and listening,
H. there, watching and listening
J. there watching and listening,

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. do, nevertheless,
C. do, but
D. do, however

12. Which choice most effectively introduces the idea discussed in this rest of the paragraph?
F. NO CHANGE
G. I close my eyes
H. the park is interesting
J. some people like quiet

13. Which choice would emphasize the narrator's curiosity and interest in the old men's conversation in the most logical and effective way?
A. NO CHANGE
B. noisy chatter.
C. animated discussion.
D. entertaining stories.

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. friends's
H. friends
J. friend's

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. Suppose the writer's assignment was to write an essay analyzing one reason people might choose to live in a large city. Would this essay fit that description?
- A. Yes, because it discusses the convenience of public transportation.
 - B. Yes, because it explains the narrator's enjoyment of one of the city's parks.
 - C. No, because it focuses on one detail of city living that most people dislike.
 - D. No, because it only discusses why the narrator prefers listening to watching.

PASSAGE II

The Bridge They Said Couldn't Be Built

Visible in the fog as well as the sun, the Golden Gate Bridge is a symbol of San Francisco. The bridge was once famous for having the longest suspension span in the world; even today, its suspension span is the second longest in the United States. It is open to cars and pedestrians alike and has only been shut down three times in that seventy-year history. The amount of concrete needed to anchor the bridge was

enough to construct a sidewalk five feet wide, all the way from San Francisco to New York City. Since the Golden Gate opened, almost two billion cars have crossed the bridge and it has been featured in countless movies.

The fame of the Golden Gate Bridge wasn't always assured. [A] When Joseph Strauss announced his intention of building the bridge, people flocked to support him. A combination of factors made building a bridge in that location difficult: cold, stormy seas below, foggy and damp weather, and winds that regularly reach speeds of 60 miles per hour.

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. their
H. its
J. DELETE the underlined portion.
17. A. NO CHANGE
B. sidewalk five feet wide
C. sidewalk—five feet wide
D. sidewalk, five feet wide
18. Which choice provides the conclusion that relates to the rest of the paragraph in the most logical way?
- F. NO CHANGE
 - G. many said it was impossible.
 - H. some admired his vision.
 - J. he had already built other bridges.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



[B] After two years of discussion, the voters approved a bond: that would raise \$35 million, all dedicated to building the

bridge. Even then, there were many skeptics whom believed that it couldn't be done.

Strauss, a veteran bridge builder, refused to give up. Construction began in 1933 and ended in 1937, and lasted a

little more than four years. On May 28, 1937. The bridge, arching grandly over the water, opened to pedestrians. More than 200,000 people walked across the bridge that day to

celebrate the grand achievement.

[C] By the time it was completed, the bridge had exceeded everyone's expectations. Not only was it built, it was also ahead of schedule and under budget. To top it off,

it was beautiful. Nevertheless, the Golden Gate Bridge is considered an artistic masterpiece, recognizable all around the world. At its highest point, the bridge rises 746 feet into the air—191 feet taller than the Washington Monument.

The name "Golden Gate" refers not to the color of the bridge, which is actually orange, but to the stretch of water below, where the San Francisco Bay connects to the Pacific Ocean. [D] The color, called "International Orange," was chosen partly because it matched the natural surroundings and

19. A. NO CHANGE
B. bond,
C. bond;
D. bond

20. F. NO CHANGE
G. that
H. who
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

21. A. NO CHANGE
B. being completed by 1937,
C. ending four years later
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

22. F. NO CHANGE
G. 1937; the bridge arching grandly
H. 1937, the bridge, arching grandly
J. 1937, the bridge, arching grandly,

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. an achievement that was extremely impressive because it symbolized a significant victory over difficult circumstances.
C. the successful completion of a project that was amazing both because of the obstacles that had been overcome and because of the magnitude of the product that was the result of the project.
D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

24. F. NO CHANGE
G. At the time,
H. Regardless,
J. Even today,

25. A. NO CHANGE
B. air;
C. air
D. air, rising

26. F. NO CHANGE
G. nature surrounding
H. nature surrounded
J. natural surrounds

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partly because it would allow the bridge to remain visible on foggy days. 27

Today, the bridge is divided into six lanes for cars, plus pedestrian lanes for people and bicycles. On sunny days, crowds of people flock to the bridge to enjoy the view. Rising out of the sea like a vision from a dream, the Golden Gate Bridge captures the imagination today, just as it did when

Strauss first envisioned it. 28

27. The writer is considering deleting the phrase “on foggy days” from the preceding sentence in order to make the paragraph more concise. If the writer were to make this deletion, the sentence would primarily lose information that:
- A. explains why the color of the bridge is referred to as “International Orange.”
 - B. demonstrates the ways in which the bridge’s color matches the environment.
 - C. reveals the danger that the bridge can cause for some ships during bad weather, regardless of color.
 - D. adds a detail that provides a specific situation in which the bridge’s visibility is particularly important.
28. The writer is considering adding a sentence that demonstrates the wide variety of the bridge’s uses today. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most clearly and effectively accomplish the writer’s goal?
- F. On weekdays, during the busiest times of day, the direction of certain lanes changes to accommodate rush hour commuters.
 - G. The weather in San Francisco is often foggy, but when the sky is clear, the bright orange of the bridge stands out against its surroundings.
 - H. The bridge is 1.7 miles long, so some people walk across in one direction but hire a taxi or take the bus to return.
 - J. People use it to commute to work, to go on day trips to Marin or San Francisco, and even just to enjoy the beauty of the bridge itself.

Question 29 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

29. Upon reviewing the essay, the writer realizes that some information has been omitted. The writer wants to incorporate that information and composes the following sentence:

The local community began to consider building a bridge to connect the San Francisco peninsula in 1928.

If the writer were to add this sentence to the essay, the most logical place to insert it would be at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 2.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 3.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 5.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 6.

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PASSAGE III

Father of a Language

The Italian language wasn't always the single, unified, language that it is today. In fact, during the Middle Ages, Italy wasn't a unified country. Even today, though Italy is politically unified, each region speaks its own dialect. In some regions, such as Tuscany, the dialect is virtually identical to the "official" Italian language. In other regions, such as Venice, however, the language is still distinct in many ways.

Dante Alighieri, more commonly known simply as Dante, is sometimes called the "father of the Italian language." He was born in Florence during the thirteenth century and was a prolific writer. In approximately 1305, he published an essay entitled "De Vulgari Eloquentia," or "In Defense of the Vernacular." About three years later, Dante began work on his masterpiece: *The Divine Comedy*. Today he is considered one

of the greatest writers of the Western world. ³² During his

life, however, his work was more controversial. Some of the main reasons for this was his decision not to write in Latin, but in "Italian."

30. F. NO CHANGE
 G. single yet unified,
 H. single, and unified,
 J. single, unified
31. The writer is considering removing the underlined phrase. The primary effect of the deletion would be the loss of a detail that:
- A. provides context that may be helpful in understanding the passage.
 B. creates confusion regarding the writer's point in this paragraph.
 C. interrupts the flow of the passage without adding any new information.
 D. provides a grammatically necessary connection.
32. The writer is considering adding the following phrase to the end of the preceding sentence (changing the period after "world" to a comma)
- alongside other recognized greats such as Homer, Shakespeare, and Sophocles.
- Should the writer make this addition?
- F. Yes, because it provides necessary context for the sentence's previous statement.
 G. Yes, because it explains the important role the creation of Italian played in Western literature.
 H. No, because it adds details that distract from the primary point of the sentence.
 J. No, the list of important writers does not include all important writers in the Western tradition.
33. A. NO CHANGE
 B. One
 C. Few
 D. Each

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At that time, high literature was written not in the various local languages and in Latin. Dante believed that literature

should be available not only to the educated elite who had education but also to the common people. In order to make

this dream possible, Dante “created” a new language as he called “Italian.” This new language wasn’t really new at all; it consisted of bits and pieces from the different languages already spoken throughout Italy, and drew most heavily on Dante’s native Tuscan dialect. Dante’s creation laid the foundation for the unified language to be spoken in Italy today.

The Divine Comedy is, in some ways, the beginning of national Italian literature. By writing it in the language spoken by the Italian people; Dante made *The Divine Comedy*

available to the people. Dante for his opinion that literature to anyone should be accessible drew criticism. However, the

movement that Dante helped begin led to diminished literacy among the Italian people, which, in turn, eventually led to the Renaissance.

The title of *The Divine Comedy* confusing some people. At one time, the label of “comedy” was attached to any work not written in Latin. *The Divine Comedy* wasn’t written in

Latin, but it was considered a comedy; however, today it is widely considered a masterpiece of serious literature. Dante’s

34. F. NO CHANGE
G. for
H. as
J. but

35. A. NO CHANGE
B. who had been taught
C. with a school background
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

36. F. NO CHANGE
G. and called
H. that he called
J. calling

37. A. NO CHANGE
B. spoken
C. if spoken
D. to speak

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. people,
H. people.
J. people:

39. A. NO CHANGE
B. Dante should be accessible for his opinion that literature to anyone drew criticism.
C. Dante drew criticism for his opinion that literature should be accessible to anyone.
D. Dante drew criticism to anyone for his opinion that literature should be accessible.

40. The writer wants to imply that prior to Dante’s development of “Italian,” illiteracy was common. Which choice best accomplishes that goal?

F. NO CHANGE
G. an increase in
H. a passion for
J. compulsory

41. A. NO CHANGE
B. confusing
C. confuses some
D. that confuses

42. F. NO CHANGE
G. since
H. because
J. so

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brave decision, while, in defiance of the common beliefs of his time, demonstrated that it was not necessary for a literary masterpiece to be written in Latin, paved the way for future writers and readers alike. Nevertheless, *The Divine Comedy* remains a symbol of both literature and innovation today.

43. A. NO CHANGE
 B. and
 C. which,
 D. so that,
44. F. NO CHANGE
 G. In contrast,
 H. However,
 J. DELETE the underlined portion.

PASSAGE IV

Baking Lessons

[1]

Both of my parents worked full-time when I was a little girl, so my grandmother would stay at our house during the day.

We would sit in the living room on the couch at my family's house and watch game shows. Our favorite was

The Price is Right. We would call out their answers along with the contestants. When our answers were right, we would

scream with excitement, and when the contestants were wrong, we would moan with disappointment. [A]

[2]

[1] When I got older and started going to school, we couldn't watch our game shows regular. [2] That was okay with me, though, because the one thing I liked better than watching game shows with my grandmother was helping her bake. [49] [3] Watching her in the kitchen was magical: she never seemed to need the recipes but everything she made tasted like heaven.

45. A. NO CHANGE
 B. on the couch in the living room at my family's house
 C. in the living room at my family's house on the couch
 D. at my family's house on the couch in the living room
46. F. NO CHANGE
 G. my
 H. our
 J. her
47. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 A. excitement, when
 B. excitement; when
 C. excitement. When
 D. excitement, or when
48. F. NO CHANGE
 G. as regular.
 H. but regularly.
 J. as regularly.
49. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. If the sentence were removed, the essay would primarily lose:
 A. a transition from the narrator's discussion of watching game shows to the subject focused on in the remainder of the essay.
 B. unnecessary information that serves only to detract from the primary subject being discussed in the paragraph.
 C. details that are critical to understanding why the narrator took such pleasure in watching game shows with her grandmother.
 D. an insight into why the narrator would choose to spend her afternoons watching television with her grandmother.

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[3]

[1] As I got older, she let me help with the easy parts, such as sifting the flour and measuring the sugar. [2] At first I would

just sit on the kitchen stool and watch, even though I didn't understand what she was doing. [3] The day she let me separate

the eggs, I felt like I had reached the pinnacle of success. 52

[4]

Eventually, my parents decided that I could take care of myself, and my grandmother stopped coming over every day because I didn't need someone to keep an eye on me anymore. [B] The love of baking that she had inspired, however, stayed with me. I started baking by myself, and even if the cookies ended

up burned

sometimes, more often they turned out pretty well. I dropped in new recipes, and whenever I got to a tricky part, I would call my grandmother for advice. Sometimes I would call her just to talk, too. I felt like I could talk to her about anything.

50. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. during
- G. her with
- H. out with
- J. along

51. Which of the following would best express the narrator's respect for her grandmother's abilities in the kitchen, and the enjoyment the narrator feels at watching her grandmother bake?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. or work on whatever homework I had for the next day.
- C. awed by her skills and eager to taste whatever she was creating.
- D. confused by all the different steps that went into each dish.

52. Which of the following is the most logical ordering of the sentences in Paragraph 3?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. 3, 1, 2
- H. 2, 3, 1
- J. 2, 1, 3

53. A. NO CHANGE
B. since I was considered old enough to stay home by myself.
C. due to my parents' decision that I didn't need a babysitter.
D. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

54. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. spoiled
- G. burnt
- H. ruined
- J. burnt

55. A. NO CHANGE
B. auditioned for
C. tried out
D. fell into

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[5]

[C] Last week, I found a recipe book she made for me. It included her recipes for brownies, cookies, and my favorite, lemon meringue pie. As I flipped through the pages, I thought

56

for a moment I could hear her voice, although she's gone, I know that in the way that matters most, she'll never really be

57

gone at all. She was the one which taught me not just about

58

baking, but about life. I imagine that I will enjoy baking for the rest of my life. [D]

59

56. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. leafed through
- G. looked through
- H. tossed out
- J. read over

57. A. NO CHANGE

- B. voice; but
- C. voice. Although
- D. voice although

58. F. NO CHANGE

- G. whom
- H. who
- J. whose

59. Given that all the choices are true, which one would provide a concluding sentence that best captures the main idea of the essay?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. To this day, I love watching game shows and baking delicious food for my family.
- C. Baking is a great way to relax, and it's often less expensive than buying cakes and pastries from a bakery.
- D. Every day, when I enter the kitchen, I remember my grandmother and everything she taught me.

Question 60 asks about the passage as a whole.

60. The writer is considering adding the following true statement to the essay:

My grandmother passed away ten years ago, but I still think of her every day.

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- F. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- G. Point B in Paragraph 2.
- H. Point C in Paragraph 5.
- J. Point D in Paragraph 5.

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PASSAGE V

Global Rat-titudes

[1]

The relationship between humans and animals have always been complicated. [A] Some cultures have developed entire belief systems around favored animals. For example, cows are treated with reverence in Hindu societies, in part because some followers of the Hindu religion believe that any cow could carry the spirits of one of their ancestors. Certain Native American tribes believe that they're favored animal, the buffalo, had a connection to the divine. The tribes still hunted

the buffalo, but carefully, according to such strict rules that the hunt seemed more like a religious ritual. Even in cultures

with less formalized belief systems, regular interactions between people and animals still lead to common opinions.

[2]

These stories usually develop around the animals that interact with humans most frequently. [B] Therefore, it should not be surprising that so many stories surround the most common of animals: rats. Rats live side-by-side with humans

all over the world, regularly interact with people. Human-rat

61. A. NO CHANGE
B. should of
C. had
D. has

62. F. NO CHANGE
G. their
H. theirs
J. there

63. A. NO CHANGE
B. so that
C. as to mean
D. because

64. Given that all of the choices are true, which of the following concludes this paragraph with the clearest allusion to the story of “The Pied Piper of Hamelin,” which is discussed later in the essay?
- F. NO CHANGE
G. it is well-known that other cultures hold religious beliefs about some animals.
H. people still tend to have beliefs, either individual or cultural, relating to animals.
J. folklore and stories relating to humans’ relationship with animals abound.

65. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. tales
B. legends
C. narrators
D. fables

66. F. NO CHANGE
G. world and regularly
H. world, regular
J. world, regularly,

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coexistence may be common all around the world, with
different cultures respond to that closeness in different ways.

[3]

In the United States and Europe, one typical attitude is that the rat is a pest. This could be due to the common belief that

rats spread disease. They don't, at least not directly; but many people don't know that. [C] "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," a well-known children's story, is one example of how rats have been portrayed in a different way in Western literature: in that story, rats cause such a problem that a town has to hire a piper to call them all away.

[4]

What's really wild is that in many Latin American countries, and some European countries as well, the rat is portrayed in a very different light. The tooth fairy legend is common all over the world, but in Latin America, the "fairy" is a rat! Rats do have very strong teeth, which could explain the association. Clearly, this shows another attitude toward rats that is much more positive.

[5]

Yet another attitude toward the rat can be seen in the

Chinese *Zodiac*. The Rat is one of the animals, of the zodiac along with the Sheep, the Rooster, the Boar, and eight others. Like the other zodiac animals, the Rat is neither entirely good

67. A. NO CHANGE
B. world,
C. world, but with
D. world, but

68. F. NO CHANGE
G. pest, which is a common opinion.
H. pest, a belief many people share.
J. pest, moreover.

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. don't, at least not directly,
C. don't: at least not directly,
D. don't, at least not directly

70. Given that all the choices are true, which one states a detail that most clearly relates to the information conveyed at the end of this sentence?
F. NO CHANGE
G. mystical
H. negative
J. juvenile

71. A. NO CHANGE
B. In
C. Dig this: in the minds of those born and raised in
D. You'll be shocked to discover that in

72. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides a physical detail about rats that relates most clearly to the preceding sentence?
F. NO CHANGE
G. particularly curious natures,
H. a reputation for excessive chewing,
J. long and somewhat unusual tails,

73. A. NO CHANGE
B. China's
C. Chinese mysticism's
D. Their

74. F. NO CHANGE
G. one of the animals, of the zodiac,
H. one of the animals of the zodiac,
J. one, of the animals of the zodiac

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nor entirely bad. It's described as clever and friendly, but also tricky and not entirely honest. That may be the most accurate description of the rat so far. Whether you like rats or not, it's hard to deny their reputation for cleverness. [D] As many people are discovering these days, rats can even make excellent pets, so long as you remember to latch the cage carefully! 75

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

In fact, many still believe that the bubonic plague is directly caused by rats.

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 5.

END OF TEST 3
STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.