

## WRITING AND LANGUAGE DRILL

Questions 1–11 are based on the following passage.

### A Little Pygmy Up

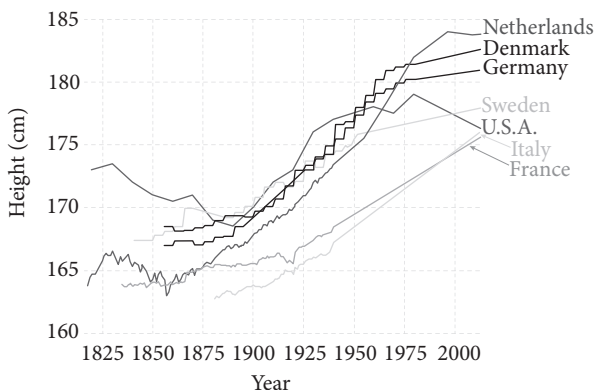
“When I last saw you, you were this tall,” say aunts and grandmothers everywhere, as kids grow taller and taller. If you’ve ever thought that kids seem to be getting taller every generation, you may be right. Data from 1820 forward show that men from a large swath of **1** countries, with no exceptions, have grown in height, some by as much as 25 centimeters. The human species has, on the whole, grown taller since the earliest days of the species, whether from natural selection, improved health, or increased access to good food.

**1**

Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of information in the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) countries, particularly Italy and France, have grown in median height, while many others have shrunk by as much as 20 centimeters.
- C) countries have all seen a growth in median height of over 15 centimeters.
- D) countries, with the exception of the U.S.A., have grown in median height, some by as many as 20 centimeters.

Median Male Height (cm) in Various Countries, 1820–2013



Source/Olson, Randy (2014): Historical median heights for various countries, 1818–2013. figshare. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1066523>

In the discussion of human height, the pygmy populations of the equatorial rain-forest regions of Africa have always been considered a curious outlier. In one pygmy population in Cameroon, the average male **2** gets up to only 150 cm, well below the averages for the European and American nations shown in the graph. A recent study from University of Pennsylvania professor Sarah Tishkoff, a leading **3** scholar, on African genetics, may have revealed the reason and raised some interesting questions besides.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) scales the mountain to
- C) climbs up to
- D) reaches a height of

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) scholar, on African genetics
- C) scholar; on African genetics
- D) scholar on African genetics,

[1] The study documents the early-life factors that limit the height of the pygmy populations. [2] In children from the pygmy group Baka, infants are the same size as infants from other populations. **4** [3] A variety of environmental and genetic factors in each produced the slow growth, with a particular genetic variation in CISH. [4] This gene is linked to **5** resistances, to some equatorial diseases but may also account for the height particularities of these groups. **6**

**4**

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following information and adjusting the punctuation accordingly:

but they grow at a slower rate than other infants, particularly during the first two years of life.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it explains the pygmy data that is shown on the graph.
- B) Yes, because it explains the distinction indicated in the first sentence of the paragraph.
- C) No, because it suggests that pygmy mothers are not as caring as European mothers.
- D) No, because it contradicts data in the previous paragraph that suggests human populations always grow taller.

**5**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) resistances to
- C) resistances to,
- D) resistances: to

**6**

Where is the most logical place in this paragraph to add the following sentence?

In a group like the Sua, however, the slowed growth is mainly prenatal—it occurs before the children are born.

- A) After sentence 1
- B) After sentence 2
- C) After sentence 3
- D) After sentence 4

The truly fascinating questions **7** that have emerged from this study and have related to intra-species evolution. It is well known in the scientific community that humans and baboons evolved from a common ancestor, but **8** it's less known that evolutionary factors may be at play within the relatively “young” human species as well. The study presents findings that **9** suggest that the Baka broke off from the Efé and Sua approximately 20,000 years ago, showing very significant evolutionary adaptation in the recent past. Africa is a particularly notable place because it has more genetic **10** distinction than any other continent. It is home to the pygmies, yes; **11** in this sense, it is also home to the Maasai and the Dinka, who are tall by any standard, and to the mixed populations that have resulted from many years of border crossing and European colonization.

Now we just need to figure out whether this information tells us that it's a small world after all, or if we're all one of a kind.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) that have emerged from this study, in which they relate
- C) to emerge from this study relate
- D) to emerge from this study, they relate

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) its
- C) they're
- D) their

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) findings that suggest that it
- C) findings that suggest that they
- D) findings that are suggestive of its

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) relation
- C) boundedness
- D) diversity

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) nonetheless,
- C) thus,
- D) heretofore,

**Questions 12–22 are based on the following passage.**

### **B & O Cool Story**

Because the people who would eventually found the United States were European, it should **12** be no surprise that the earliest population growth in the country took place on the Atlantic Coast. Some of the major population centers in the early **13** republic make obvious sense; Philadelphia and Boston, famed as the cities of Independence, and New York, renowned as the city of business and just about everything else. What may surprise us, however, is that in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, the third-largest city in the United States was not Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles,

**12**

The writer wants to maintain an informative tone in the passage and avoid the appearance of mockery. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) not blow your minds
- C) not send us for a loop
- D) be no big whoop

**13**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) republic make obvious sense:
- C) republic make obvious sense
- D) republic—make obvious sense,

Atlanta, or Houston. The third-largest city in the United States at that time was Baltimore, **14** Maryland, though Baltimore today ranks 26<sup>th</sup>. In fact, even by 1880, Baltimore had slipped considerably, from third to sixth. In the meantime, three other cities—Boston, St. Louis, and Chicago—had assumed the third, fourth, and fifth spots, respectively. **15**

Populations of Major Cities in the United States, 1860–1900			
City	1860	1880	1900
New York	1,174,800	1,912,000	3,437,000
Philadelphia	565,500	847,000	1,294,000
Boston	177,800	363,000	561,000
Baltimore	212,400	332,000	509,000
Cincinnati	161,000	255,000	326,000
St. Louis	160,800	350,000	575,000
Chicago	109,300	503,000	1,698,000

Source/Bureau of the Census and Schatz, Phil: U.S. History. <http://philschatz.com/us-history-book/contents/m50109.html>

**14**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Baltimore, Maryland, which
- C) Baltimore, Maryland. Baltimore
- D) Baltimore, Maryland, and this city of Baltimore

**15**

The writer wants the information in the passage to reflect the information in the chart as accurately as possible. Given that goal and assuming that no other part of the sentence would not change, in what sequence should the three cities be named?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) St. Louis, Chicago, Boston
- C) Chicago, Boston, St. Louis
- D) Chicago, St. Louis, Boston

[1] In some ways, Baltimore’s relatively small population size today seems unremarkable. [2] For most people alive today, Baltimore **16** has been the home of a storied baseball team, and the fact that Chicago and St. Louis grew as much as they did in the late 1800s can be explained by a more general population shift to the West. [3] The more interesting question should point us in another direction: why did Baltimore have such a relatively large population in the second half of the nineteenth century? [4] Baltimore has always been ideally positioned for a robust shipping industry and **17** holy capable of handling lots of freight. [5] Located as it is near the Atlantic Ocean and directly on the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore was a perfect channel for goods coming from Europe and moving to the interior of the country. **18**

**16**

Which choice most effectively completes the idea presented in this sentence and is consistent with the rest of the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is a mere forty-five miles north of Washington, D.C.,
- C) was reintroduced to the American public through a series of media portrayals,
- D) has “always” been a relatively small city,

**17**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) holy capable for
- C) holey capable for
- D) wholly capable of

**18**

To improve the organization and clarity of this paragraph, the writer wants to add the following sentence.

The answer is relatively simple and comes down to something fundamental: shipping.

The sentence would most logically be placed after

- A) sentence 1.
- B) sentence 2.
- C) sentence 3.
- D) sentence 4.

**19** Fore it to come to the for in population, however, Baltimore also had to do something pioneering, and that something came with the growth of railroads. By the 1820s, Baltimore's prominence as a port was starting to decline after the opening and success of the Erie Canal, which enabled cargo **20** to travel by water from New York City to the Great Lakes, thus enabling easier delivery to the Midwest. In response, Baltimore officials pushed the development of a new and unknown technology, railroading, as a way to move goods through Baltimore to cities in the West, whether those cities had waterways or not.

The result of citizens' petitions and politicians' grand plans **21** have been the Baltimore and Ohio, or B&O, Railroad, which began operations in the late 1820s. While the B&O did have its share of struggles, it was nonetheless be one of the most powerful rail lines in the country for much of the nineteenth century. And it helped Baltimore to maintain its prominence at a time when the size of a city was largely a function of **22** how connected that city was to other places.

**19**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For it to come to the four
- C) For it to come to the for
- D) For it to come to the fore

**20**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) traveling by
- C) to travel in
- D) traveling through

**21**

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) were
- C) was
- D) is

**22**

Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence and paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) how many railroad lines and canals it had.
- C) the number of people who thought of it as a large city.
- D) a strong connection to both diversity and European roots.