

SAT Test 2-2

Writing Test | 35 Minutes, 44 Questions



I've been an air traffic controller at Kennedy International Airport for 20 years. Most people would call this job high-stressing¹, but I thrive on it. You either love this type of job or you quit, or you never get into it in the first place. There are other jobs you could characterize as stressful, too², such as food safety managers who have to worry about food-borne illnesses. Probably most corporate jobs are stressful today. It seems that everyone is asked to do the work of three people and those who haven't been laid off are wondering if they're next.

Jobs involving peoples³ health or safety can add a whole other level of stress if you let them. Most of these jobs, however⁴, have some downtime.⁵ Air traffic controllers are responsible for thousands of lives. People expect to arrive at their destination safely and quickly as⁶ possible. I know that. I'm definitely aware of my responsibility. I've been trained, I'm experienced and have confidence in my ability⁷.

1.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. stresses
 - c. stressful
 - d. stress
2.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. Stressful, too
 - c. stressful too
 - d. stressful too
3.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. peoples'
 - c. people's
 - d. person's
4.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. consequently
 - c. nevertheless
 - d. previously
5. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following information.
We're busy every single minute we're actually working.
Should the writer make this addition here?
 - a. Yes, because it provides specific detail of the materials discussed in the sentence.
 - b. Yes, because it illustrates the reason for the responsibility mentioned
 - c. No, because it interrupts the flow of the sentence by supplying irrelevant information.
 - d. No, because it weakens the focus of the passage by discussing a subject other than air traffic controllers.
6.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. quickly
 - c. as quickly
 - d. as quickly as
7.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. believing in myself to perform well
 - c. I'm confident about my ability
 - d. Confiding in my ability

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Some jobs in the control tower are more stressful than others. We rotate responsibilities. Some of us direct planes taxiing from a terminal to a runway, or from a runway to a terminal, and others determine the routes that planes will fly. In one hour, some of us may direct 100 planes which are in the middle of taking flight or landing⁸. We're supposed to keep them three, four or five miles apart when they're in the air, depending on the size of the aircraft. They're not supposed to be as close as 2.9 miles, or as far apart as 6. There is no gray area; everything is black and white.

As a group, I'd say controllers have a low tolerance for ineptitude. We try to work⁹ at 110 percent efficiency. Everything we do involves saving time while paying attention to detail, so if a few of us go out for a bite to eat and the service is slow, we're extremely annoyed. When I leave work, I have to turn that off. I can't expect my 7-year-old twins and my 10-year-old to be at peak performance the way I am at work. I leave work at work when my shift is over. I don't know how; I just do it. Maybe some employees run, or work out or vegetate in front the TV to wind down.

¹⁰My 10-year-old daughter's health sometimes keeps me awake. She has pulmonary hypertension, a disorder of the blood vessels in which the heart has to pump harder for blood to reach the lungs. You can't imagine the stress of seeing your child on a heart and lung bypass machine, which happened once, or in an intensive care unit. Now that makes me anxious.

In sum, working as an air traffic controller is a job that is not for everyone. Contrary to popular belief, air traffic controlling is not as stressful as other careers and relies heavily on efficiency; I, for one, truly love my job.¹¹

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/21/jobs/21preoccupations.html>

8.
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. that are taking off or, on the other hand, landing
 - c. who are in the midst of taking off and landing
 - d. taking off and landing
9. Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?
 - a. ineptitude; however, we try to work at
 - b. ineptitude, trying to work at
 - c. ineptitude, for we make our best effort to work at
 - d. ineptitude, consequently trying to work at
10. Which choice most effectively sets up the following paragraph?
 - a. However, I would not trade my job for any other job in the world.
 - b. Some people toss and turn at night from job stress, too, but that's not what disturbs my sleep.
 - c. Perhaps someday my children will follow in my footsteps.
 - d. Being an air traffic controller, however, exposes you to a multitude of air-borne illnesses.
11. Which choice most clearly ends the passage with a restatement of the writer's primary claim?
 - a. NO CHANGE
 - b. Although many people incorrectly assume that air traffic controlling is dangerous and stressful, it is not.
 - c. Family illnesses are often more stressful than working as an air traffic controller.
 - d. However, the extensive training and low tolerance for ineptitude may scare people away.

1

Design stirs debate in a new exhibition opening tomorrow at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. “What is Luxury?” draws together more than 100 objects, both historical and contemporary, in a tightly edited show with broad ambitions.¹² setting out to define the meaning of luxury while predicting its possible futures. At a time when the symbiosis of major museums with fashion and commerce has never been stronger¹³, it is apt — if a little surprising — that this temple of decorative art treasures should interrogate the very aesthetic on which it was founded back in 1852.

12.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. ambitions;
- c. ambitions,
- d. ambitions

13. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

(the V&A is concurrently showing the blockbuster exhibition “Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty”)

Should the writer make this addition here?

- a. Yes, because it provides context for the previous statement.
- b. Yes, because it explains what luxury is.
- c. No, because it interrupts the paragraph’s description of the exhibit.
- d. No, because it implies that certain forms of beauty is savage.

2

“Luxury has a historic and intrinsic link with craft,” explains co-curator Leanne Wierzba, who produced the display alongside the Craft Council to coincide with the first annual London Craft Week, which debuts next month. “But luxury has many other connotations, too — its¹⁴ a highly subjective term.” As if in proof, on view in a series of blackened rooms in the Porter Gallery is¹⁵ some pretty imaginative pairings that attempt to pin the concept down: a whizzy mechanical wristwatch from Swiss makers Vacheron Constantin and a 17th-century Venetian vestment in needlepoint lace; artist, Nora Fok’s¹⁶, intricately woven “Bubble Bath” necklace and Max Lamb’s precariously bubble-embedded glass; and a laser-cut mesh couture dress by Iris van Herpen alongside heavy embroidery shrouding the entire exhibit in an air in mystery¹⁷.

14.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. too; its
- c. too: its
- d. too – it’s

15.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. it’s
- c. are
- d. DELETE the underlined portion

16.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. artist, Nora Fok’s
- c. artist Nora Fok’s,
- d. artist Nora Fok’s

17. Which choice gives a second supporting example that is most similar to the example already in the sentence?

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. a series of 100 spoons by the German artist Simone ten Hompel
- c. soft fluorescent lights illuminating the pathway are also a part of the exhibit
- d. there are even authentic mannequins fixed in different high fashion poses throughout the years

3

In the eyes of the design world, we suppose¹⁸, the future of luxury lies not in material goods, but in increasingly intangible qualities — like discovery and exploration. The designer Marcin Rusak’s “Time for Yourself” is the corporate high flyer’s tool pack for losing oneself — quite literally. It contains a dial-free watch to the left of the display case, an ever-spinning compass in the center of the case, and an inkless pen near the window of the exhibit¹⁹.

4

“We wanted to show that no matter how gorgeous an object may be, it always exists within a larger context of ecology, economy, politics and culture,” Wierzba says. Take Studio Swine’s “Hair Highway,” which sets human hair in natural resin, fashioning a dressing table, comb set and trinket boxes that look for all intents and purposes like wood. It’s²⁰ all part of a commentary on the Chinese hair trade that highlights the material’s latent possibilities as a self-sustaining resource — one beautiful enough to put an end to the use of coral and tortoiseshell.

5

“In this age of consumerism, our lives are increasingly occupied by technology; there’s no time to get lost,” says Wierzba of the piece. He adds²¹, “Luxury could become something that’s free, yet incredibly precious, like time itself.”

Question 22 asks about the previous passage as a whole.

Source:

<http://tmagazine.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/luxury-exhibit-victoria-and-albert-museum-london/>

18.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. it seems
- c. consequently
- d. contrarily

19. Which choice most closely matches the stylistic pattern established earlier in the sentence?

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. the right of the display case has an inkless pen
- c. the right of the display case has a window and an inkless pen resting against the glass
- d. an inkless pen to the right of the display case

20.

- a. NO CHANGE
- b. Its
- c. Its’
- d. DELETE the underlined portion

21. Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- a. piece; adding
- b. piece, adding
- c. piece by adding
- d. piece; conversely, he adds

22. Think about the previous passage as a whole as you answer question 22. To make the passage most logical, paragraph 3 should be placed

- a. where it is now
- b. after paragraph 2
- c. after paragraph 4
- d. after paragraph 5

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Sometime this summer, a United Airlines flight will take off from Los Angeles International Airport that is bounding for San Francisco, use fuel generated from²³ farm waste and oils derived from animal fats. For years²⁴, biofuels have been seen as an important part of the solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And airlines, with their concentration around airports and use of the same kind of fuel, have been seen as a promising customer in a biofuels industry that has struggled to gain traction. Now that relationship is showing signs of taking off.

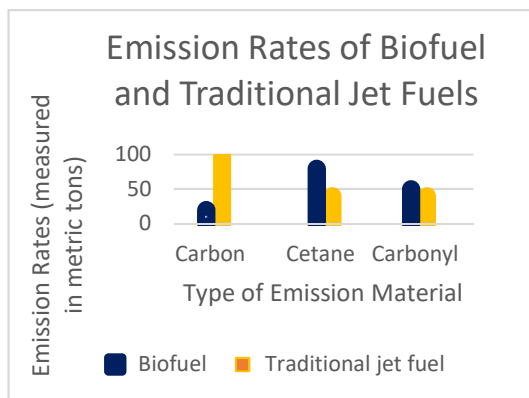
On Tuesday, United plans to announce a \$30 million investment in one of the largest producers of aviation biofuels, Fulcrum BioEnergy, the biggest investment so far by a domestic airline. It's²⁵ decision to do so is now becoming increasingly common in the small but growing field of alternative fuels.²⁶

[1] Airlines are increasingly under pressure to reduce carbon emissions. [2] The Obama administration proposed this month that new limits on aviation emissions be developed. [3] "There is a significant role for biofuels within the aviation sector, specifically for reducing carbon emissions," said Debbie Hammel, a senior resource specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, who focuses on biofuel. [4] Airlines, in turn, say they have every reason to adapt, not only to reduce pollution but also to lower what is usually their biggest cost: jet fuel.²⁷

- 23.
- NO CHANGE
 - bound for San Francisco using fuel generated from
 - bounding for San Francisco, using fuels generated from
 - bounded for San Francisco by using fuels generated from
- 24.
- NO CHANGE
 - Unfortunately
 - Forever
 - Likewise
- 25.
- NO CHANGE
 - It is
 - Its
 - Their
26. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following information. Should the writer make this addition here?
(Cathay Pacific, based in Hong Kong, last year announced a smaller investment in Fulcrum.)
- Yes, because it establishes the relationship between Cathay Pacific and Fulcrum.
 - Yes, because it exemplifies the previous statement.
 - No, because it contradicts the claim made in the previous paragraph that biofuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - No, because it mentions Cathay Pacific, blurring the focus of the paragraph.
27. Where is the most logical place in this paragraph to add the following sentence?
Similarly, the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency, is expected to complete its own negotiations on limiting carbon pollution by February 2016.
- after sentence 1
 - after sentence 2
 - before sentence 4
 - after sentence 4

Fulcrum, a California-based company, has developed and certified a technology that turns municipal waste — household trash — into sustainable aviation fuel, a kind that can be blended directly with traditional jet fuels. It is currently building a biofuel refinery in Nevada to open in 2017, and hints, that²⁸ has plans for five more plants around the country. Fulcrum said its²⁹ technology can cut an airline's carbon emissions by 80 percent compared with traditional jet fuel³⁰. "There is definitely a huge interest from airlines in this market," said Angela Foster-Rice, United's managing director for environmental affairs and sustainability.

The airlines seem to have little choice. For example, airlines are unable to utilize other forms of energy sustainment such as electrification like automakers can³¹, said Ms. Hammel of the Natural Resources Defense Council, which is why it is important, she added, that the fuels be sustainably produced. But despite the airlines' interest, there are still substantial hurdles to the large-scale development of biofuels — most notably reasonable cost and reliable supplies. "It remains quite difficult to get biofuels for aviation that is cost-effective, and,³² to make sure the fuels will be available," Ms. Foster-Rice said. The airline conducted³³ its first test flight in 2009, with biofuels from algae.



Sources:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/30/business/energy-environment/farm-waste-and-animal-fats-will-help-power-a-united-jet.html?ref=earth>

- 28.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. hints – that
 - c. hints, “that
 - d. hints that
- 29.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. they’re
 - c. their
 - d. it’s
30. Which choice offers an accurate interpretation of the data in the chart?
- a. Biofuel use cuts an airline’s cetane emissions by 10 percent
 - b. Biofuel use cuts an airline’s cetane emissions by 40 percent
 - c. Biofuel use increases an airline’s carbon emissions by 80 percent
 - d. Biofuel use increases an airline’s cetane emissions by 80 percent
- 31.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. unlike other companies such as automakers, airlines cannot opt for alternatives to fuel sources such as electrification
 - c. airlines, dissimilar from automakers, cannot integrate electrification into their products
 - d. airlines, unlike automakers, cannot turn to other options like electrification
- 32.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. Cost-effective and,
 - c. Cost-effective, and
 - d. Cost-effective and
- 33.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. orchestrated
 - c. transferred
 - d. escorted

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Nancy-Ann DeParle, the White House deputy chief of staff, picked up The Wall Street Journal one summer day in 2010 and got an uninvited³⁴ shock. The Food and Drug Administration was proposing as part of the new health care law to require that movie theaters post calorie counts for popcorn —³⁵ and this was the first she had heard of it.

In the F.D.A.'s view, the law called for moviegoers to know that many a buttery bucket of popcorn had more calories then³⁶ two Big Macs. However³⁷, Ms. DeParle, President Obama's chief health adviser,³⁸ thought the requirement was unnecessary. Dr.

Margaret A. Hamburg, the F.D.A. commissioner appointed by Mr. Obama, soon heard about the White House's displeasure and called Ms. DeParle at home one evening. Within days, the F.D.A., an agency charged to³⁹ protecting public health, backed down and dropped the notion of calorie counts for foods served in movie theaters and on airplanes.

Similar tussles have erupted between top administration officials and the F.D.A. over issues from the regulation of sunscreens and asthma inhalers to the enforcement of an agency decision on a drug to prevent premature births.

Three powerful women — Ms. DeParle, Ms. Sebelius and Dr. Hamburg — have been the main players in this struggle. As leading defenders of the health reform law, Ms. Sebelius and Ms. DeParle, deeply loyal to the president, have been in the political trenches. It was Dr. Hamburg, the polished, cerebral former head of New York City's health department, seeking⁴⁰ to balance representing the administration and the F.D.A.

- 34.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. unwelcome
 - c. disagreeable
 - d. obnoxious

- 35.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. popcorn, therefore -
 - c. popcorn, nonetheless -
 - d. popcorn, however

- 36.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. calories, then
 - c. calories than
 - d. calories, than

- 37.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. Likewise
 - c. Therefore
 - d. Nonetheless

- 38.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. advisor -
 - c. advisor;
 - d. advisor

- 39.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. at
 - c. with
 - d. from

- 40.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. whom seeks
 - c. who sought
 - d. she sought

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White House officials describe their disagreements with the F.D.A. as part of the normal, constructive give-and-take over policy that has never undermined the agency's mission.⁴¹

[1] Consumer advocates credit the Obama administration with bolstering the F.D.A.'s budget and championing landmark legislation that strengthened the agency's authority to regulate food and tobacco. [2] But they also express concerns that the administration has been overly cautious, sitting on important regulatory policies regarding foods and medical devices to avoid giving Republicans fodder for attacks.⁴² [3] "In a globalizing world, where trust is a huge part of what American manufacturers have to sell, the politicization of the F.D.A. could hurt not only consumer protection but industry profits as well on top of that⁴³," said Daniel Carpenter, an F.D.A. historian at Harvard University. [4] And some analysts worry that the administration's increased engagement could erode the F.D.A.'s reputation for regulatory thoroughness and integrity.⁴⁴ [5] "If this trend continues, one could easily see major government purchasing programs in Europe, India, China and elsewhere saying, 'We're not going to follow F.D.A. recommendations anymore.' "

Sources:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/health/policy/white-house-and-fda-at-odds-on-regulatory-issues.html?_r=0

41. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

The administration also views the agency's hostility to its oversight as hopelessly naïve, given a 24-hour news cycle and a ferocious political environment that punishes any misstep.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- a. Yes, because it provides an example of the give-and-take norm.
 - b. Yes, because it elaborates on how the White House views the F.D.A.
 - c. No, because it blurs the paragraph's focus by introducing a topic that is not further explained.
 - d. No, because it contradicts the claims made in the rest of the paragraph.
42. Which choice provides information that best supports the claim made by this sentence?
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. delaying regulation processing due to inefficient and archaic federal administration
 - c. setting aside health reform in order to focus attention on national security issues
 - d. vetoing F.D.A. backed policies that call for increased public health awareness campaigns because of lobbying efforts by small but vocal tea party groups
- 43.
- a. NO CHANGE
 - b. in addition
 - c. likewise
 - d. DELETE the underlined portion
44. To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed
- a. where it is now
 - b. before sentence 2
 - c. before sentence 3
 - d. after sentence 5