

DIRECTIONS: Read and answer each of the following questions. You will be asked to recognize and correct errors in sentences or short paragraphs. Mark the **best** answer for each question.

1. Read this sentence.

On October 24, 1929 a stock market crash in the United States was the beginning of the Great Depression which lasted for ten years.

Which edit should be made to correct this sentence?

- A. insert a comma after On
- B. insert a comma after October
- C. insert a comma after 1929
- D. insert a comma after crash

2. Read this sentence.

Only one of the eleven players on offense were not paying attention during practice, but the entire team had to run five laps as punishment.

Which edit should be made to correct this sentence?

- A. insert a comma after offense
- B. change **during practice** to **when they practice**
- C. change **were not** to **was not**
- D. insert a comma after players

3. Read this sentence

After work Donna came home, warmed up and ate a small dinner, watched a movie on the television and went to bed.

Which edit should be made to correct this sentence?

- E. insert a comma after work
- F. insert a comma after up
- G. insert a comma after movie
- H. insert a comma after television

4. Read this paragraph

1 The Cuban Missile Crisis was a direct and dangerous confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War and was the moment when the two superpowers came closest to nuclear conflict. **2** In 1962, the Soviet Union was discovered by a spy plane, which was building nuclear missiles in Cuba. **3** To prevent the Soviet Union from bringing in more supplies, President Kennedy placed a naval blockade around the island. **4** After thirteen days, the Soviet Union agreed to take down the weapon sites if the United States would not invade Cuba.

Which sentence should be revised to correct a misplaced modifier?

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

5. Read this paragraph

1 In 1865, as commanding general, Ulysses S. Grant led the Union Armies to victory over the Confederacy in the American Civil War. **2** As an American hero, Grant was later elected the 18th President of the United States, working to implement Congressional Reconstruction and to remove the vestiges of slavery. **3** Late in the administration of Andrew Johnson, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant quarreled with the President and aligned himself with the Radical Republicans. **4** He, as the symbol of Union victory during the Civil War and their logical candidate for President in 1868.

Which sentence should be revised to correct an incomplete sentence?

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

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below and answer the questions following it. You will be asked to improve the writing quality of the passage and to correct errors so that the passage follows the conventions of standard written English. You may reread the passage if you need to. Mark the **best** answer for each question.

1 The romanticized American cowboy of myth rode the open range, herding cattle and fighting villains. **2** The real-life cowboy was doing nonstop work.

3 A cowboy worked for 10 hours a day to 14 hours a day when he was on a ranch and for 14 hours a day or more when he was on the trail. **4** He was always alert all the time for dangers that might harm the herds of cattle or upset the herds of cattle. **5** Some cowboys were as young as 15; most were broken-down by the time they were 40. **6** A cowboy might own his saddle, but his trail horse usually belonged to his boss.

7 This overland transport, or long drive, of the animals often lasted about three months. **8** A typical drive included a trail boss; one cowboy for every 250 to 300 head of cattle; a cook, and a wrangler. **9** A trail boss earned 100 or more a month for supervising the drive and negotiating with settlers and Native Americans. **10** Native American deaths caused by cowboys may have been few but Native American deaths caused by the government and the military likely number in the millions. **11** During the long drive, the cowboy was in the saddle from dawn to dusk. **12** He slept on the ground and bathed in rivers. **13** He risked death and loss every day of the drive, especially at river crossings, where cattle often hesitated and were swept away. **14** Because lightning was a constant danger, cowboys piled their spurs, buckles, and other metal objects at the edge of their camp to avoid to attract lightning bolts. **15** Thunder, or even a sneeze, could cause a stampede.

16 Legendary figures like James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok and Martha Jane Burke (Calamity Jane) actually never dealt with cows. **17** Hickok served as a scout and a spy during the Civil War and, later, as a marshal in Abilene, Kansas. **18** Hickok was a violent man, was shot and killed while holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights in a poker game, a hand still known as the “dead man’s hand.” **19** Calamity Jane, an expert sharpshooter who dressed as a man, may have been a scout for Colonel George Custer.

20 Almost as quickly as cattle herds multiplied and ranching became big business, the cattle frontier met its end. **21** Alternating patterns of dry summers and harsh winters wiped out whole herds. **22** Ranchers fenced the land with barbed wire, invented by an Illinois farmer. **23** It was cheap and easy to use and helped to turn the open plains into a series of fenced-in ranches. **24** The era of the wide-open West was over.

6. Which transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 2?

- A. Consequently,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Meanwhile,
- D. For instance,

7. What is the best way to combine sentences 3 and 4 to clarify the relationship between ideas?

- A. A cowboy was alert at all times for dangers that might harm or upset the herds so he worked 10 to 14 hours a day on a ranch and 14 or more on the trail.
- B. Because he had to stay alert at all times for dangers that might harm or upset the herds, a cowboy worked 10 to 14 hours a day on a ranch and 14 or more on the trail.
- C. A cowboy worked for 10 hours to 14 hours a day when he was on a ranch and for 14 hours or more when he was on the trail and he was alert at all the time for dangers that might harm the herds or upset the herds.
- D. A cowboy worked 10 to 14 hours a day on a ranch and 14 or more on the trail, alert at all times for dangers that might harm or upset the herds.

8. Which sentence would best precede and support sentence 6?

- A. Most cowboys came from lower social classes and the pay was poor, approximately a dollar a day.
- B. To avoid additional strain on the horses, cowboys were usually smaller than according to legend.
- C. Because of the time and physical ability needed to develop necessary skills, the cowboy often began his career as an adolescent, and, if not crippled by injury, might handle cattle or horses for the rest of his working life.
- D. Cattle owners became established and wealthy from sale of cattle but cowboys, after months of monotonous work were paid off and turned loose.

9. Which introductory sentence should be added before sentence 7 to support the points presented in the paragraph?

- A. While many parts contained vast herds of stray, free-ranging cattle available for free to anyone who could round them up, at the time, there was little demand for beef.
- B. The cowboy's season began with the spring roundup, sorting and branding of cattle followed by the lengthy delivery of the animals to market.
- C. Cattle drives represented a compromise between the desire to get cattle to market as quickly as possible and the need to maintain the animals at a marketable weight.
- D. Geography, climate and cultural traditions caused differences to develop in cattle-driving methods and equipment from one part of the United States to another.

10. Which sentence is irrelevant to the narrative presented in the passage and should be deleted?

- A. Sentence 8
- B. Sentence 9
- C. Sentence 10
- D. Sentence 11

11. Which edit is needed to correct sentence 14?

- A. change **was** to **were**
- B. change **piled** to **had piled**
- C. change **their** to **they're**
- D. change **avoiding to attract** to **to avoid attracting**

12. Which revision of sentence 18 uses the most precise language?

- A. He was a violent man who was shot and killed during a poker game while holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights, which is a hand still known as the "dead man's hand."
- B. As Hickok was a violent man, he was shot and killed in a poker game while holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights in a poker game, a hand still known as the "dead man's hand."
- C. He was a violent man who was shot and killed while holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights in a poker game, a hand still known as the "dead man's hand."
- D. He, a violent man, who was shot and killed while holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights in a poker game, a hand still known as the "dead man's hand."

13. Which sentence should be added after sentence 20 to support the argument presented in the paragraph?

- A. Overgrazing of the land, extended bad weather, and the invention of barbed wire were largely responsible for its downfall.
- B. It even became an insult in the area to call someone a "cowboy," as it suggested he was a horse thief, robber, or outlaw.
- C. Today, cattle drives are primarily used to round up cattle within the boundaries of a ranch and to move them from one pasture to another, a process that generally lasts at most a few days.
- D. However, smaller cattle drives continued for decades as ranchers still needed to herd cattle to local railheads for transport to packing plants.

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below and answer the questions following it. You will be asked to improve the writing quality of the passage and to correct errors so that the passage follows the conventions of standard written English. You may reread the passage if you need to. Mark the **best** answer for each question.

1 The Darvaza gas crater is nicknamed by locals "The Door to Hell," or "The Gates of Hell," for its sinister burning flames. **2** Located in the Karakum Desert of central Turkmenistan, the pit attracts hundreds of tourists each year. **3** It also attracts nearby desert wildlife- from time to time local spiders are seen plunging into the pit by the thousands, luring to their deaths by the glowing flames.

4 In 1971, when the republic was still part of the Soviet Union, a group of Soviet geologists went to the Karakum in search of oil fields. **5** Unfortunately for the scientists, they were drilling on top of a cavernous pocket of natural gas which couldn't support the weight of their equipment. **6** The site gave way, and when it gave way, the desert fell in in other places too because the crumbly sedimentary rock was set off. **7** It made a domino-effect that, in the end, resulted in several open craters.

8 Reportedly, no one was injured in the collapse, but the scientists soon had another problem on their hands: the natural gas escaping from the crater. **9** Natural gas is composed mostly of methane, which, though not toxic, does displace oxygen, making it difficult to breathe. **10** The escaping methane also posed dangers due to its flammability—there needs to be just five percent methane in the air for an explosion to potentially take place. **11** So the scientists decided to light the crater on fire, hoping that all the dangerous natural gas would burn away in a few weeks' time.

12 It's not as outlandish as it sounds—in oil and natural gas drilling operations, this happens all the time to natural gas that can't be captured. **13** If there's too much not pipeable to a processing facility natural gas, 'flaring', a process where drillers burn the natural gas to get rid of it, is done. **14** Flaring wastes almost a million dollars of worth of natural gas each day in North Dakota alone. **15** The Bakken rock formation in North Dakota has produced oil since 1953, but has been producing natural gas since the turn of the century.

16 Unlike drillers in North Dakota or elsewhere, the scientists in Turkmenistan weren't dealing with a measured amount of natural gas; scientists still don't know just how much natural gas is feeding the burning crater.

14. Which edit is needed to correct sentence 3?

- A. Change **attracts** to **attracted**
- B. Change **are seen** to **can be seen**
- C. Change **by the thousands** to **in the thousands**
- D. Change **luring** to **lured**

15. Which sentence would best follow sentence 4 to support the argument presented in the passage?

- A. They found what they thought to be a substantial oil field and began drilling.
- B. The gas reserve they found there is one of the largest in the world.
- C. Turkmenistan plans to increase its production of natural gas, intending to increase its export of gas to many countries such as Pakistan, China, India, Iran, Russia, and Western Europe.
- D. Natural gas is found in deep underground rock formations or associated with other hydrocarbon reservoirs.

16. What is the best way to combine sentences 6 and 7 to clarify the relationship between ideas?

- A. The site collapsed and the desert fell in other places too because the crumbly sedimentary rock was set off which made a domino-effect that, in the end, resulted in several open craters.
- B. The site collapsed, and the event triggered the crumbly sedimentary rock of the desert to collapse in other places too, creating a domino-effect that eventually resulted in several open craters.
- C. The site collapsed and made the desert collapse in other places too because the crumbly sedimentary rock was set off, causing a domino-effect that eventually resulted in several open craters.
- D. The site collapsed, and the event triggered the crumbly sedimentary rock of the desert to collapse in other places too, created a domino-effect that eventually resulted in several open craters.

17. Which sentence would best follow and support sentence 9?

- A. Natural gas also contains varying amounts of other alkanes, and sometimes a small percentage of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen sulfide, or helium.
- B. The scientists were aware that natural gas is a fossil fuel used as a source of energy for heating, cooking, and electricity generation.
- C. Though the scientists survived, Karakum Desert animals inhabiting the area began to die shortly after the collapse.
- D. Explorer George Kourounis became the first person to ever set foot at the bottom, gathering samples of microorganisms.

18. Which revision of sentence 13 uses the most precise language?

- A. If there's an excess of natural gas that can't be piped to a processing facility, drillers often burn the natural gas to get rid of it in a process called "flaring."
- B. Drillers often burn natural gas to get rid of it if there's too much of it that can't be piped to a processing facility and this burning process is called "flaring."
- C. If there's too much of natural gas that can't be piped to a processing facility, 'flaring' is done, a process in which drillers burn the natural gas to get rid of it.
- D. Drillers often burn natural gas to get rid of it if there's too much that can't be piped to a processing facility and this process is called "flaring."

19. Which transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 16?

- A. Otherwise,
- B. Arguably,
- C. However,
- D. Accordingly,

20. Which sentence is irrelevant to the argument presented in the passage and should be deleted?

- A. sentence 2
- B. sentence 9
- C. sentence 12
- D. sentence 15

21. Which concluding sentence should be added after sentence 16 to support the argument presented in the passage?

- A. After visiting the crater in 2010, Turkmenistan's president Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, worried that the fire would threaten the country's ability to develop nearby gas fields.
- B. Thus, what was supposed to be a few-week burn has turned into almost a half-century-long desert bonfire.
- C. To those travellers who've defied odds in having their visas granted to this closed nation, reaching the 'Door to Hell' is at the top of their list.
- D. Turkmenistan's natural gas reserves rank fifth in the world, but a lack of international pipelines has hampered development efforts.