

The Complete GMAT[®] Sentence Correction Guide

Erica L. Meltzer

▲ THE CRITICAL READER

New York

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ISBN-13: 978-0-9975178-0-4

ISBN-10: 0997517808

ALSO BY ERICA MELTZER

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Introduction

I know you're probably eager to get down to business (literally), so I've done my best to keep this part short. Nevertheless, there are a couple of important points I feel obligated to make here; if you'll humor me, I've outlined them below.

First, you will be taking the GMAT® on a *screen*. This fact may seem so basic that it barely seems worth mentioning, but if you are doing the majority of your preparation on paper, it should not be discounted. Reading on a computer is not the same as reading on paper. Although you may have scratch paper to work out your answers on, you cannot physically draw lines through answer choices, nor can you cross out distracting information from sentences themselves. You are also more likely to overlook, insert, and misread letters and words – and unfortunately, the distinction between the correct answer and one or more of the incorrect answers can sometimes come down to a single word, even a single letter. Add in the fatigue factor and the second-guessing that often accompanies it, and you can end up losing points that you could have obtained easily given more favorable circumstances.

To guard against these pitfalls, you must make certain to pay extra close attention to which words the underlined portion of a sentence does and does not include.

For example, consider the following question:

Among elephants living in families in the wild, older females often have the greatest vulnerability because their large tusks, which make the animals exceptionally attractive to poachers in search of ivory.

- (A) older females often have the greatest vulnerability because their large tusks, which make
- (B) older females are often the most vulnerable due to their large tusks, which make
- (C) older females often having the most vulnerability because of their large tusks making
- (D) older females are often the most vulnerable and due to their large tusks making
- (E) older females are often the most vulnerable because their large tusks make

If you happen to know that *because* rather than *due to* should be used (we'll get into why later), this is a relatively straightforward question; however, it does have the potential to be tricky for an entirely unrelated reason.

If you read carefully, you can see that the original version of the sentence is not a grammatically coherent statement. Because the verb *make* belongs to the subject *which* rather than to *tusks*, the second half of the sentence is missing a main verb (*because their large tusks, which make the animals exceptionally attractive to poachers in search of ivory*). (A) is therefore incorrect.

What people can easily *think* they see in the original version, however, is this:

...older females often have the greatest vulnerability because of their large tusks, which make the animals exceptionally attractive to poachers in search of ivory.

That, of course, is perfectly acceptable as a sentence. The problem is that it's not what's written! But because it's what a lot of people are *expecting* to see, their eye automatically fills in the word *of*. As a result, they jump to pick (A) without reading the other answers carefully and get the question wrong, even though they understand perfectly well the concept being tested.

In contrast, (E), the correct answer, eliminates *which*, restoring the verb *make* to its proper subject, *tusks*. But if you mentally insert the word *of* into the original version, you might not even make it that far.

The difference between a pretty good score and a very good score is therefore not just a matter of what you know, but also of how carefully you work. On the GMAT, you have no choice but to sweat the details. (As long as your proctor does not object, you may even want to physically put your finger on the screen as you read. Doing so might feel a bit ridiculous, but it can help ensure that you read what is actually written. If you find this technique distracting, you are of course free to disregard it; I mention it because I happen to find it useful.)

Second, on the actual exam, Sentence Corrections are interspersed with Reading Comprehension and Critical Reasoning questions. Sometimes you may see a few Sentence Corrections in a row, while other times you may encounter a single Sentence Correction bookended by other question types. By necessity, you must be able to flip in and out of grammar mode very quickly. In addition, you cannot afford to let yourself get caught off guard by a first Sentence Correction that appears after four Reading Comprehension questions. Because the test is adaptive, a careless mistake early on can have serious repercussions for your score. Again, an obvious point, but one that cannot be overemphasized.

The good news is that among the various types of questions that appear on the Verbal portion of the GMAT, Sentence Corrections are typically the most straightforward. Unlike Reading Comprehension and Critical Reasoning questions, which ask you to juggle multiple ideas simultaneously, Sentence Corrections are always limited to one sentence. As a result, they can provide a welcome respite from the kind of mental contortions required by the rest of the section. If you're properly prepared, they can be a relatively easy source of points.

That said, if you don't have a solid understanding of what you're looking for, Sentence Corrections can also be a source of significant confusion. Like the other two Verbal question types, they present you with a mass of information, some of which is important and some of which is not. In order to conserve your energy for more involved, passage-based questions, you must be able to distinguish between information that is relevant and information that is present merely to distract you. In a sentence of 30 words, for example, the answer may depend on just 10 words or fewer. Conversely, you may not be able to determine the answer to a question in which only a single word is underlined without taking the entire sentence into account.

Throughout this book, I have sought to strike a balance between depth and clarity: I have attempted to discuss concepts in sufficient detail to allow you to understand their underlying logic as well as their application to a range of situations, but I have also tried to avoid detouring into potentially confusing nuances or exceptions not directly relevant to the GMAT. With the number of international test-takers growing, the GMAC has shifted the emphasis of the test toward reasoning skills and away from nitpicky idiomatic usage. So while correct answers may often sound less than elegant by non-GMAT standards, you can still determine many of them by thinking clearly about the most logical intended meaning.

One note about the exercises in this book: In my very considerable experience teaching grammar for a range of standardized tests, I have found that an excessive reliance on answer choices can be problematic. Rather, to master material to the point at which you are virtually unshakeable during the exam, you must be accustomed to correcting errors yourself. The more challenging the grammar, the better you will be served by the ability to predict corrections before you even look at the answers. Consequently, I have chosen not to place the exercises at the end of each chapter in multiple-choice format. Although you may find this setup somewhat tedious, it is designed to help you build a solid foundation rather than simply learn a few "tricks" and shortcuts.

To help you understand how the material in this book applies to actual released GMAT questions, I have also provided a list of relevant questions from the *Official Guide for GMAT Review 2018* and the *Official Guide for GMAT Verbal Review 2018* at the end of each chapter. In addition, I discuss specific questions from those guides at various points in order to illustrate the application of certain rules to the exam. You should, however, be aware that there are a handful of concepts covered in this book that are either not tested or deemphasized in the 2018 guides. When that is the case, the concepts have appeared either in earlier editions of the *Official Guides* or in official GMAT practice software. If a rule has been tested in recent years, it is reasonable to assume that it could be tested again. My goal is to help you anticipate the broadest possible range of Sentence Correction types you could encounter on the GMAT, and to give you the tools to master them.

~Erica Meltzer

GMAT Sentence Correction Cheat Sheet

1. Do NOT ignore the non-underlined portion of the sentence; it may include key information.
2. Shorter = Better.
3. -ING, especially BEING, usually = wrong. (Exceptions: idioms and participles used to join clauses).
Subjects + conjugated verbs & nouns usually = right.
4. Non-essential clauses are often used to distract from errors and “pad” sentences. Cross out to simplify.
5. Semicolons separate two complete sentences.
6. Singular/plural verb split = subject-verb agreement question. -S = singular verb; no -S = plural verb.
7. *It* vs. *they* splits = pronoun agreement. *It(s)* = singular, paired with singular noun. *They/their* = plural, paired with plural noun.
8. Collective nouns (*jury, agency, company*) = singular.
9. *This* and *that* should be followed by nouns.
10. All items in a list must be parallel: noun, noun, and noun; verb, verb, and verb; -ING, -ING, and -ING. If items are long, focus on the beginning of each item. Also: remember that constructions on either side of a conjunction or word pair must be parallel.
11. *Which* often = wrong. This word must refer back to the noun that immediately precedes it.
12. *Which* = comma, *that* = no comma.
13. *Where* = places, not times, books, works of art, etc.
14. *Whose* = both people and things. *Who* = people only; *which* = things only.
15. *Due to* = caused by, usually wrong.
16. Keep comparisons equivalent: people = people; things = things. Correct comparisons are often introduced by *(un)like*.
16. *Such as* = introduce examples; *(un)like* = introduce comparison.
17. Participial phrase (e.g. *having gone, written by*) at the start of a sentence often = dangling modifier
18. Make sure modifiers (adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases) are placed next to the words they are intended to modify.
19. Top word pairs: *not (only)...but (also)*; *both/ between...and*; *so/such...that*; *from...to, (n)either...(n)or*; *just as...so*.
20. *Amount, much, less* = singular nouns; *number, many, fewer* = plural nouns.

Chapter Four

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

All verbs must agree with their subjects in number:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.

GMAT questions testing number ask about verbs in the 3rd person singular (*he/she/it*) and plural (*they*) forms.

Important: 3rd person singular verbs always end in **-S**; 3rd person plural verbs do not. Note that this is the opposite of nouns, which take an **-S** in the plural.

	Correct	Incorrect
Singular subject	The rate increases.	The rate increase.
Plural subject (simple)	The rates increase.	The rates increases.
Plural subject (compound)	The rate and the velocity increase.	The rate and the velocity increases.

Important: *is/are, was/were, and has/have* are the most frequently tested verbs. When you see the conjugated form of one of these verbs underlined, you should immediately begin by identifying its subject.

Unfortunately, most subject-verb agreement questions that appear on the GMAT are considerably longer than the above examples, not to mention a good deal more complex. Furthermore, subjects and verbs are unlikely to appear next to one another, making disagreements difficult to spot.

That said, there are a limited number of ways in which subjects and verbs are likely to be separated from one another in GMAT sentences. The following pages detail these common constructions, as well as a number of additional formats in which subject-verb agreement errors could potentially appear.

A. Subject – Non-Essential Clause – Verb

On the GMAT, non-essential clauses may be inserted between subjects and verbs in order to distract from the fact that the subject is singular and the verb is plural or vice-versa.

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, **are** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, **is** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Whenever you encounter a non-essential clause, you should immediately cross it out. Most often it is used to distract you from spotting subject-verb agreement errors, but it can be used to distract from other types of errors as well (discussed later). Do not forget this step! Otherwise, you risk overlooking errors that can be easily spotted.

Subject-verb agreement errors can also appear *within* non-essential clauses, so if you've eliminated a non-essential clause and can't find another problem in the sentence, go back and check.

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which **are** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which **is** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

You may also encounter subject-verb agreement questions with essential clauses. Sometimes these clauses will be set off with *that*, but other times they may begin with another part of speech (typically a past participle).

Incorrect: In large doses, many common chemicals (that are) found in household cleaners **has** devastating effects, but toxicologists insist that such substances are thoroughly innocuous in minuscule amounts.

Correct: In large doses, many common chemicals (that are) found in household cleaners **have** devastating effects, but toxicologists insist that such substances are thoroughly innocuous in minuscule amounts.

B. Subject – Prepositional Phrase – Verb

A prepositional phrase is a phrase that begins with a preposition, e.g., *in the box*, *under the table*, *over the hill*.

Prepositional phrases may be inserted between subjects and verbs to distract from disagreements. When this is the case, the verb will follow the last word of the prepositional phrase (or series of prepositional phrases).

Incorrect: **Changes** in the balance of trade **seems** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect the ways in which consumers choose to spend their money.

Correct: **Changes** in the balance of trade **seem** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect the ways in which consumers choose to spend their money.

The above sentence contains a classic trick: the subject (*changes*) is plural and thus requires a plural verb (*seem*). However, the prepositional phrase inserted between the subject and the verb ends with a singular noun (*trade*). If you are not paying close attention, *trade* can easily appear to be the subject of the verb that follows.

C. (Prepositional Phrase) – Verb – Subject

Note: this structure is not normally tested on the GMAT, but I am including it here for the sake of thoroughness.

In this structure, the normal word syntax is reversed so that the prepositional phrase appears at the beginning of a sentence or clause (italicized), followed by the verb (bold) and then the subject (underlined).

Incorrect: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extends** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Correct: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extend** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

The preposition can also appear as the second word in a clause. In such cases, it will most likely be preceded by a participle, either present (-ING) or past (-ED, -OWN, -UNG).

Incorrect: Running *along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **is** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Correct: Running *along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **are** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Although the reversed syntax makes the sentence sound odd, the syntax itself is not the problem. Rather, it is a distraction tool that makes the disagreement between the subject and the verb more difficult to hear.

In addition, errors may appear in which the verb comes before the subject but is not preceded by a prepositional phrase:

Incorrect: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **is** its long-term effects.

Correct: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **are** its long-term effects.

D. Compound Subject

When two singular nouns are connected by *and*, the result is a **compound subject**. Compound subjects are always plural and require plural verbs.

If you only notice the second noun – the noun closer to the verb – you are likely to think that a singular verb is correct. As a result, you should always make sure to back up and determine the *complete* subject before deciding whether a given verb is correct.

Incorrect: Louise Erdrich's fiction and poetry **draws** on their author's Chippewa heritage to examine complex familial relationships among Native Americans as they reflect on issues of identity and culture.

Correct: Louise Erdrich's fiction and poetry **draw** on their author's Chippewa heritage to examine complex familial relationships among Native Americans as they reflect on issues of identity and culture.

Note that compound subjects can also appear in conjunction with other features, such as prepositional phrases or non-essential clauses. When this is the case, you must be very careful to identify the complete subject. If you only notice the noun closer to the verb and overlook the word *and*, you are likely to think that the subject is singular.

Compound subject with prepositional phrase:

Incorrect: The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree **distinguishes** that species from the equally common English Elm tree.

Correct: The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree **distinguish** that species from the equally common English Elm tree.

Compound subject with flipped subject and verb:

Incorrect: In the galleries of the Louvre museum **hangs** Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Eugene Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, two of the best-known paintings in the world.

Correct: In the galleries of the Louvre museum **hang** Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Eugene Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, two of the best-known paintings in the world.

E. There is/There are, etc.

There is
There was
There has been

} take **singular** nouns

There are
There were
There have been

} take **plural** nouns

Incorrect: In recent months, there **has been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances, increasing speculation that it may soon declare bankruptcy.

Correct: In recent months, there **have been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances, increasing speculation that it may soon declare bankruptcy.

F. Neither...Nor + Verb

When (n)*either*...(n)*or* is used, the verb must agree with the noun that comes right before the verb.

Incorrect: Although both authors have written acclaimed novels, neither Maxine Hong Kingston nor Amy Tan **were** raised in a literary family.

Correct: Although both authors have written acclaimed novels, neither Maxine Hong Kingston nor Amy Tan **was** raised in a literary family.

When (n)*either* is used without (n)*or*, a singular verb should be used. (N)*either* is short for (n)*either one*.

Incorrect: Although Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan have both written acclaimed novels, neither **were** raised in a literary family.

Correct: Although Maxine Hong Kingston and Amy Tan have both written acclaimed novels, neither **was** raised in a literary family.

In addition:

Collective (group) nouns = singular

Collective nouns are nouns that refer to groups of people, e.g., *agency, company, board, institution, organization, team, family, and committee*. **Note that while British English considers these nouns plural, the GMAT follows American usage and only considers them singular.**

Incorrect: Founded in 1948, the World Health Organization **support** countries' attempts to improve the health of their citizens by coordinating the efforts of multiple sectors.

Correct: Founded in 1948, the World Health Organization **supports** countries' attempts to improve the health of their citizens by coordinating the efforts of multiple sectors.

A number = plural

The number = singular

Incorrect: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, a number of workers **has** unexpectedly begun to protest the new administration's economic policies.

Correct: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, a number of workers **have** unexpectedly begun to protest the new administration's economic policies.

Incorrect: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, the number of workers beginning to protest the new administration's economic policies **are** unexpectedly high.

Correct: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, the number of workers beginning to protest the new administration's economic policies **is** unexpectedly high.

One = singular

Although this rule may seem obvious, it is easy to become confused if a prepositional phrase is inserted between the subject and the verb.

Incorrect: According to a view held by many economists, one of the fundamental causes of inflation **involve** changes in the demand for goods.

Correct: According to a view held by many economists, one of the fundamental causes of inflation **involves** changes in the demand for goods.

Each (one) = singular

Incorrect: Each of the labor union's members **are** expected to attend the meeting at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Correct: Each of the labor union's members **is** expected to attend the meeting at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Every (one) = singular

Incorrect: Every one of the labor union's members **are** expected to attend the meeting, at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Correct: Every one of the labor union's members **is** expected to attend the meeting, at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Gerunds (-ING words) = singular

Incorrect: Playing parlor games such as charades **were** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

Correct: Playing parlor games such as charades **was** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

Infinitives (TO + verb) = singular

Incorrect: To train for competition in an athletic event at the Olympics **are** to be subjected to a grueling regime of discipline and training, one that must be followed strictly for months or even years.

Correct: To train for competition in an athletic event at the Olympics **is** to be subjected to a grueling regime or discipline and training, one that must be followed strictly for months or even years.

That, Whether, What = singular

Although the use of these words as subjects may sound odd to you, it is perfectly acceptable. If anything, answers containing these constructions are more likely to be correct, and should thus be considered very carefully, precisely because so many test-takers are likely to find them questionable.

Correct: That Jane Goodall became the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees **was** hardly a surprise to those who had observed her childhood fascination with animals.

Correct: What has been repeatedly criticized **is** the author's refusal to discuss her work publicly, not the content of her novels.

Correct: Whether *The Tale of Genji* was actually written entirely by Murasaki Shikibu **is** unlikely to ever be determined unless a major archival discovery is made.

Note that some of these words are condensed versions of longer phrases, e.g., *that* = the fact that, *whether* = the question whether. In some cases, you may find it easier to understand what sentences are saying if you plug in the complete phrase.

For an example of an authentic question using *whether* as a subject, see *The Official GMAT Verbal Guide 2018*, question #260, p. 267 (does not test subject-verb agreement, however).

With that information, we can return to our question.

The presence of mysterious paintings in a cave located outside Columbia, Missouri, remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying the images created by ancient residents of the Mississippi Valley.

- (A) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (B) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began to study
- (C) remains puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (D) remains puzzling to archaeologists, beginning in the mid-1980s to study
- (E) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s would begin to study

Because *The presence*, the subject of the verb, is singular, the verb must be singular as well: *remains*, not *remain*. (A), (B), and (E) can thus be eliminated.

Notice that the question of whether *began* should be followed by the gerund *studying* or the infinitive *to study* has become entirely irrelevant. (In fact, both versions are acceptable.)

Now let's consider just choices (C) and (D):

- (C) remains puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (D) remains puzzling to archaeologists, beginning in the mid-1980s to study

Neither of these answers is flat-out grammatically wrong, although if you have a good ear, you can probably hear that (D) sounds somewhat awkward and be reasonably confident that (C) is correct.

Otherwise, you can think of it this way: the date *mid-1980s* indicates that the sentence is describing a completed action in the past, and that a verb in the simple past should therefore be used. (C) contains such a verb (*began*), along with a subject (*who*), whereas (D) contains only a participle (*beginning*). The construction in (C) is clearer and more precise, making that answer correct.

Note: For an excellent *Official Guide* example of how focusing on verb "splits" can help you narrow down answers quickly, see #771 on p. 701. Notice that (A), (B), and (D) all contain the plural verb *leave*, whereas (C) and (E) contain the singular *leaves*. If you can back up to the beginning of the sentence and identify the singular noun *absence* as the subject, you can immediately eliminate (A), (B), and (D).

Exercise: Subject-Verb Agreement

In the following sentences, fix any subject-verb agreement error. Label subjects, verbs, and prepositional phrases, and cross out non-essential clauses. Some sentences may not contain an error. (Answers p. 190)

1.	First described by Aristotle in his <i>Poetics</i> (c. 335 B.C.E.), the process of living vicariously through a fictional character in order to purge one's emotions are known as catharsis.
2.	On the border between China and Tibet lies the Himalaya Mountains, which rise to more than 25,000 ft. above sea level and include some of the highest peaks in the world.
3.	The buildings of Frank Gehry, including Gehry's private residence, attracts thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.
4.	Although Andrew Carnegie and Cornelius Vanderbilt eventually became two of the most powerful figures in business during the late nineteenth century, neither were born into a wealthy family.
5.	The maps of historian and cartographer John Speed depict some of the first visual representations of many towns and cities throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland.
6.	Playboating, a discipline of whitewater rafting or canoeing in which players stay in one spot while performing a series of complex maneuvers, involve specialized canoes designed specifically for the sport.
7.	Often found in plastic drinking bottles is substantial amounts of a substance known as Bisphenol A, a potentially toxic chemical that may affect the brains and behaviors of infants and young children.
8.	Louise Glück's seemingly straightforward language and unadorned style gives her poems an air of accessibility that masks the intensity of their content.
9.	Among the finds from a recent archaeological dig in London was earthenware knobs originally used for "pay walls," boxes into which Elizabethan theater-goers deposited their admission fees.
10.	One of the animal kingdom's best jumpers are the flea, whose ability to leap up to 200 times its own body length is virtually unsurpassed among either insects or other land-dwelling creatures.
11.	According to entomologist Deborah Gordon, the popular depiction of ants as brave soldiers and dutiful factory workers is a human fiction, one entirely unrelated to true insect behavior.
12.	The patent for the first mechanical pencils were granted to Sampson Morgan and John Hawkins in England in the early nineteenth century, a time when fountain pens were the most commonly used writing implement.
13.	Each of the Taino's five chiefdoms, which inhabited the Bahamas before the arrival of Europeans during the late fifteenth century, were ruled by a leader known as a <i>cacique</i> .
14.	Writing about scientific matters poses a problem because it requires the adoption of imprecise metaphors that allow new findings to be put in perspective for readers with minimal expertise.
15.	Possible explanations for the suspicion surrounding Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> includes the superstition that the witches' song is an actual incantation and the belief that theaters only mount the play when they are in need of money.
16.	<i>Saint Maybe</i> , the twelfth novel by Pulitzer prize-nominated author Anne Tyler, revolves around a protagonist whose efforts to compensate for a single thoughtless act dictates the shape of his entire life.

17.	The Hebrides islands have been continuously occupied since the Mesolithic period, and the culture of their inhabitants have been shaped by the successive influences of Celtic, Norse, and English-speaking peoples.
18.	Found throughout England, stiles, structures that provides people with a passage through or over a fence, are often built in rural areas or along footpaths in order to prevent farm animals from moving between enclosures while allowing path users to travel freely.
19.	In recent days, an increasing number of disturbing reports have filtered into the news agency – reports suggesting that the country’s government, already reputed to be unstable, could be on the verge of collapse.
20.	Opposition to rodeos from animal-rights workers center primarily on the poor treatment and living conditions of the horses that are ridden in competitions.
21.	Because planes have been grounded and flights eliminated from schedules, the number of airplane tickets available to passengers have declined, causing prices to rise.
22.	Preliminary studies of the new drug suggests that adverse effects are unlikely and, moreover, that any reactions that do occur will probably be minor.
23.	The automotive company, whose products are at the center of a massive recall scandal, now faces an array of challenges, including servicing damaged products, handling lawsuits, and managing a general loss of business.
24.	Dry stone structures, structures built from stones not bound together by mortar, achieves stability because of their unique construction method, which is characterized by load-bearing façades of carefully selected interlocking stones.
25.	A landmark 2015 report that cast doubt on the results of dozens of published psychology studies has exposed deep divisions in the field, but neither the report itself nor the critique published in response have found evidence of data fraud or manipulation.

1. Precipitation in California is often erratic, and when arriving, tends to fall in the mountainous northern and eastern parts of the state rather than the populous and fertile southern and western ones.

- (A) when arriving, tends to fall
- (B) when arriving, has a tendency of falling
- (C) when it arrives, it tends in falling
- (D) when it arrives, tending to fall
- (E) when it arrives, it tends to fall

2. Some people contend that the distinction between an extreme sport and a conventional one has as much to do with marketing as with the level of danger involved or how much adrenaline is generated.

- (A) with the level of danger involved or how much adrenaline is generated
- (B) with the level of danger that is involved or the adrenaline amount it generates
- (C) with the level of danger involved or the amount of adrenaline generated
- (D) to the danger level involved or the amount of adrenaline being generated
- (E) to the level of danger involved or the amount of adrenaline it generates

3. Just who inspired English painter John Constable's marvelously enigmatic cloud studies, much prized by collectors, have never been entirely clear.

- (A) studies, much prized by collectors, have
- (B) studies, much prized by collectors, has
- (C) studies, many of them prized by collectors, have
- (D) studies, many of which are prized by collectors,
- (E) studies, and many of them prized by collectors, has

4. James Joyce is best known for *Ulysses* (1922), a landmark work in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among them.

- (A) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among them
- (B) where the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are a parallel array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration being most prominent among these
- (C) where the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration is most prominent among these
- (D) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* is paralleled in an array of contrasted literary styles, and the stream of consciousness narration is most prominent among these
- (E) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in a contrasting array of literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among it

5. By day, hippos enjoy bathing in water to cool themselves down, which might have contributed to their reputation for being relatively sluggish and sedentary.

- (A) which might have contributed to their reputation for being
- (B) which might contribute to its reputation for being
- (C) and this might have contributed to their reputation to be
- (D) a preference that might contribute to their reputation for being
- (E) a preference which might have contributed to their reputation to be

6. The starling, a bird mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays, was first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become a significant pest species.

- (A) was first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become
- (B) were first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become
- (C) was first introduced to the United States in 1890 and would since become
- (D) was first introduced to the United States in 1890 and since became
- (E) were first introduced to the United States in 1890 and since has become

7. The outsourcing of hospital workers has become relatively common in the last decade, driven by a combination of factors including a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keeping people healthy after they are discharged.

- (A) a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keeping
- (B) a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and they keep
- (C) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keep
- (D) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growing pressure on hospitals in measuring quality and to keep
- (E) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growth of pressure on hospitals that measure quality and keep

8. Contrasting with the works of the rationalists, Hume held that passion rather than reason governs human behavior and postulated that humans can have knowledge only of the objects of experience.

- (A) Contrasting with the works of the rationalists,
- (B) In contrast with the rationalists' work,
- (C) In contrast to those of the rationalists,
- (D) Unlike those of the rationalists,
- (E) Unlike the rationalists,

9. Categorized as a "red" volcano as a result of the lava that periodically spews from its crater, a depression measuring 2,100 feet across and 750 feet deep, many cataclysmic explosions have been associated with Mt. Vesuvius since the volcano's most famous eruption in 79 A.D.

- (A) many cataclysmic explosions have been associated with Mt. Vesuvius since the volcano's most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (B) they have associated many cataclysmic explosions with Mt. Vesuvius since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (C) and many cataclysmic explosions were associated with Mt. Vesuvius since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (D) Mt. Vesuvius has exploded cataclysmically many times since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (E) Mt. Vesuvius has erupted cataclysmically many times since its most famous one in 79 A.D.

10. The wandering albatross, the first albatross ever to be described by naturalists, is a large seabird that belongs to the albatross family and found primarily in the seas around Antarctica.

- (A) and found primarily in the seas around Antarctica
- (B) and that is found primarily in the seas around Antarctica
- (C) and primarily found in the Antarctic seas
- (D) being found primarily in the seas around Antarctica
- (E) and are found primarily in the seas around Antarctica

11. All of the country's political parties agree as to whether constitutional reform is necessary to address chronic instability and other pressing issues, but when it comes to deciding what kind of reform, they can only agree to disagree.

- (A) agree as to whether constitutional reform is necessary to address
- (B) agree that constitutional reform is necessary to address
- (C) have an agreement of constitutional reform being necessary to address
- (D) agree that constitutional reform is necessary for the addressing of
- (E) agree about whether constitutional reform is necessary to address

5. Fragment: A recent trend of advertisers treating major awards ceremonies as platforms for new ads that will elicit an audience response **seems** to be intensifying, with a variety of well-known companies planning to introduce new campaigns.

6. Sentence

7. Fragment: Recent findings from research on moose **suggest** that the development of arthritis in human beings may be linked to nutritional deficits as well as to the natural consequences of aging.

8. Fragment: Although photovoltaic (PV) cells, first discovered in the 1950s, have long been the dominant source for solar **power, concentrated** solar power (CSP) technology has been rising in popularity in recent years as well.

OR: Photovoltaic (PV) cells, first discovered in the 1950s, have long been the dominant source for solar **power, but concentrated** solar power (CSP) technology has been rising in popularity in recent years as well.

9. Fragment: A popular novelist and playwright, George Barr McCutcheon **is** best known for the series of novels set in Graustark, a fictional country in Eastern Europe.

10. Sentence

11. Fragment: Brunei is the only sovereign state located entirely on the island of **Borneo; the** remainder of the island's territory is divided between the nations of Malaysia and Indonesia.

12. Fragment: Although Rodin purposely omitted crucial elements such as arms from his sculptures, his consistent use of the human figure **attested** to his respect for artistic tradition.

13. Correct

14. Fragment: When companies move from a traditional office model to an open office **model, discrete** offices placed along a central corridor are removed in order to make way for large communal rooms.

15. Fragment: In 1763, the signing of the Treaty of Paris marked the end of the Seven Years' War, also known as the French and Indian **War, ushering in (or: War, and ushered in)** a period of British dominance outside of Europe.

Subject-Verb Agreement, p. 44

1. First described by Aristotle in his *Poetics* (c. 335 B.C.E.), the process of living vicariously through a fictional character in order to purge one's emotions **is** known as catharsis.

2. On the border between China and Tibet **lie the Himalaya Mountains**, which rise to more than 25,000 ft. above sea level and include some of the highest peaks in the world.

3. The buildings of Frank Gehry, including Gehry's private residence, **attract** thousands of visitors annually because critics frequently praise his designs for embodying the most important principles of contemporary architecture.

4. Although Andrew Carnegie and Cornelius Vanderbilt eventually became two of most powerful figures in business during the late nineteenth century, neither **was** born into a wealthy family.

5. Correct

6. Playboating, a discipline of whitewater rafting or canoeing in which players stay in one spot while performing a series of complex maneuvers, **involves** specialized canoes designed specifically for the sport.

7. Often found in plastic drinking bottles **are** substantial amounts of a substance known as Bisphenol A, a potentially toxic chemical that may affect the brains and behaviors of infants and young children.

8. Louise Glück's seemingly straightforward language and unadorned style **give** her poems an air of accessibility that masks the intensity of their content.

9. Among the finds from a recent archaeological dig in London **were** earthenware knobs originally used for "pay walls," boxes into which Elizabethan theater-goers deposited their admission fees.

10. One of the animal kingdom's best jumpers **is** the flea, whose ability to leap up to 200 times its own body length is virtually unsurpassed among either insects or other land-dwelling creatures.

11. Correct

12. The patent for the first mechanical pencils **was** granted to Sampson Morgan and John Hawkins in England during the early nineteenth century, a time when fountain pens were the most commonly used writing implement.

13. Each of the Taino's five chiefdoms, which inhabited the Bahamas before the arrival of Europeans during the late fifteenth century, **was** ruled by a leader known as a *cacique*.

14. Writing about scientific matters **poses** a problem because it requires the adoption of imprecise metaphors that allow new findings to be put in perspective for readers with minimal expertise.

15. Possible explanations for the suspicion surrounding Shakespeare's *Macbeth* **include** the superstition that the witches' song is an actual incantation and the belief that theaters only mount the play when they are in need of money.

16. *Saint Maybe*, the twelfth novel by Pulitzer prize-nominated author Anne Tyler, revolves around a protagonist whose efforts to compensate for a single thoughtless act **dictate** the shape of his entire life.

17. The Hebrides islands have been continuously occupied since the Mesolithic period, and the culture of their inhabitants **has** been shaped by the successive influences of Celtic, Norse, and English-speaking peoples.

18. Found throughout England, stiles, structures that **provide** people with a passage through or over a fence, are often built in rural areas or along footpaths in order to prevent farm animals from moving between enclosures while allowing path users to travel freely.

19. Correct

20. Opposition to rodeos from animal-rights workers **centers** primarily on the poor treatment and living conditions of the horses that are ridden in competitions.

21. Because planes have been grounded and flights eliminated from schedules, the number of airplane tickets available to passengers **has** declined, causing prices to rise.

22. Preliminary studies of the new drug **suggest** that adverse effects are unlikely and, moreover, that any reactions that do occur will probably be minor.

23. Correct

24. Dry stone structures, structures built from stones not bound together by mortar, **achieve** stability because of their unique construction method, which is characterized by load-bearing façades of carefully selected interlocking stones.

25. A landmark 2015 report that cast doubt on the results of dozens of published psychology studies has exposed deep divisions in the field, but neither the report itself nor the critique published in response **has** found evidence of data fraud or manipulation.

Cumulative Review 1: Chapters 1-4, p. 47

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. E
6. D
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. E

Verb Exercise 1, p. 52

1. Correct
2. After traveling widely through Russia, where he discovered many previously unknown artistic masterpieces, Diaghilev **mounted** a massive exhibition of Russian portraiture in St. Petersburg.
3. Correct
4. In 1915, the Dutch government approved the proposal for new ships to protect its holdings in the East Indies, not realizing that the request **had been/was** withdrawn because of the start of the First World War.
5. Correct
6. By the time Pearl Buck was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938, she **had been** a best-selling author in the United States for nearly a decade.
7. Correct

Answers and Explanations: Multiple-Choice Practice Questions

1. E: Sentence vs. fragment; Idiom: gerund vs. infinitive

Precipitation in California is often erratic, and when arriving, tends to fall in the mountainous northern and eastern parts of the state rather than the populous and fertile southern and western ones.

- (A) when arriving, tends to fall
- (B) when arriving, has a tendency of falling
- (C) when it arrives, it tends in falling
- (D) when it arrives, tending to fall
- (E) when it arrives, it tends to fall**

A subject + conjugated verb should follow the conjunction *when*; the gerund is not idiomatically acceptable. (A) and (B) include the gerund *arriving* and thus can be eliminated.

(C) is incorrect because the verb *tend* should be followed by the infinitive (*to fall*) rather than the gerund (*falling*).

(D) is incorrect because the main clause is a fragment that lacks a subject + conjugated verb: *tending to fall in the mountainous northern and eastern parts of the state rather than the populous and fertile southern and western ones* is not a complete sentence.

(E) is correct because it supplies a subject and verb (*it tends*) for the main clause, and uses the infinitive (*to fall*) after the verb *tends*.

2. C: Parallel structure

Some people contend that the distinction between an extreme sport and a conventional one has as much to do with marketing as with the level of danger involved or how much adrenaline is generated.

- (A) with the level of danger involved or how much adrenaline is generated
- (B) with the level of danger that is involved or the adrenaline amount it generates
- (C) with the level of danger involved or the amount of adrenaline generated**
- (D) to the danger level involved or the amount of adrenaline being generated
- (E) to the level of danger involved or the amount of adrenaline it generates

This question requires that you deal with two types of parallel structure simultaneously. The first clue is the presence of the word pair *as much...as*. Because the preposition *with* is used after the first half of the word pair, it must be used after the second half as well: *as much to do with x as with y*. Don't get distracted by *to*; it's part of the infinitive *to do* and doesn't affect the parallel structure.

Based on that information, you can eliminate (D) and (E).

Now look at the second type of parallel structure: the constructions on either side of the word *or* must match as well.

(A) is not parallel because the first side starts with a noun (*the level*) and the second side contains a pronoun (*how*).

(B) does contain two nouns (*level...the adrenaline amount*), but the structure is not parallel. The first item is active whereas the second is passive.

(C) is correct because the two sides match: each contains the structure *noun + of + noun* immediately followed by a past participle (*involved, generated*).

3. B: Subject-verb agreement

Just who inspired English painter John Constable's marvelously enigmatic cloud studies, much prized by collectors, have never been entirely clear.

- (A) studies, much prized by collectors, have
- (B) studies, much prized by collectors, has
- (C) studies, many of them prized by collectors, have
- (D) studies, many of which are prized by collectors,
- (E) studies, and many of them prized by collectors, has

The fact that (A) and (C) contain the plural verb *have*, while (B) and (E) contain the singular verb *has* tells you that this question is testing subject-verb agreement.

The sentence contains a non-essential clause; even though the end of it is underlined, you may want to cross it out in order to simplify the sentence: *Just who inspired English painter John Constable's marvelously enigmatic cloud studies...have never been entirely clear.*

The key to answering the question is to recognize that the subject is not the plural noun *cloud studies*, which is located closest to the verb, but rather *Just who*. When *who* is used as a subject this way, it is always singular and requires a singular verb. That eliminates (A) and (C).

(B) is correct because the phrase *much prized by collectors* correctly functions as a non-essential clause describing the noun *cloud studies*, and the sentence makes sense when the non-essential clause is removed (*Just who inspired English painter John Constable's marvelously enigmatic cloud studies...has never been entirely clear*).

(D) is incorrect because this version is missing a main verb (*has*); the sentence no longer makes grammatical sense when the non-essential clause is removed.

(E) is incorrect because the construction *and many of them prized by collectors* is awkward and rhetorically unacceptable; a non-essential clause that describes a noun should not normally begin with *and*.

4. A: Relative pronoun; Pronoun Agreement; Subject-verb agreement; Misplaced modifier

James Joyce is best known for *Ulysses* (1922), a landmark work in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among them.

- (A) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among them
- (B) where the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are a parallel array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration being most prominent among these
- (C) where the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration is most prominent among these
- (D) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* is paralleled in an array of contrasted literary styles, and the stream of consciousness narration is most prominent among these
- (E) in which the episodes of Homer's *Odyssey* are paralleled in a contrasting array of literary styles, with the stream of consciousness narration most prominent among it

Don't get too distracted by the fact that the original version of the sentence is awkward. If you look at the answer choices, you'll notice that some answer choices contain *where* while others contain *in which*. If you remember that *where* should only be used to refer to places, then you can eliminate (B) and (C).

(A) is correct because it uses the plural pronoun *them* to refer to the plural noun *styles*. The use of *with* after the comma is also idiomatically acceptable.

(D) is incorrect because the plural noun *episodes* is the subject of the singular verb *is*; the singular noun *Odyssey* is part of the prepositional phrase *of Homer's Odyssey*. In addition, the pronoun *these*, which appears at the end of the sentence, should be followed by a noun.

(E) is incorrect because the singular pronoun *it* is used to refer to the plural noun *styles*. In addition, *contrasting* modifies *literary styles* and should be placed next to that phrase rather than next to *array* (the styles are contrasting, not the array itself).

5. D: Pronoun: missing referent; Idiom: gerund vs. infinitive

By day, hippos enjoy bathing in water to cool themselves down, which might have contributed to their reputation for being relatively sluggish and sedentary.

- (A) which might have contributed to their reputation for being
- (B) which might contribute to its reputation for being
- (C) and this might have contributed to their reputation to be
- (D) a preference that might contribute to their reputation for being**
- (E) a preference which might have contributed to their reputation to be

The pronoun *which* must refer to the noun that comes immediately before it. In this case, however, there is no noun, only a verb (*cool themselves down*), and a verb cannot act as a referent. That eliminates (A) and (B).

(C) is incorrect because *this* should be followed by a noun, and *reputation* should be followed by *for* + gerund rather than by an infinitive.

Logically, *which* must refer to the fact that hippos enjoy bathing to cool themselves, and both (D) and (E) correctly convey that idea by supplying the noun *preference*.

(D) is correct because the correct idiom is *reputation for* + gerund.

(E) is incorrect because *which* should only be used after a comma; *that* should be used after *preference*. In addition, *reputation to be* is idiomatically incorrect; *reputation for being* should be used instead.

6. A: Verb form; Subject-verb agreement

The starling, a bird mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays, was first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become a significant pest species.

- (A) was first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become**
- (B) were first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become
- (C) was first introduced to the United States in 1890 and would since become
- (D) was first introduced to the United States in 1890 and since became
- (E) were first introduced to the United States in 1890 and since has become

The sentence contains a non-essential clause, so you might want to start by crossing it out in order to simplify the sentence: *The starling...was first introduced in the United States in 1890 and has since become a significant pest species.*

Next, the word *since* is a tip-off that the present perfect (*has/have* + *past participle*) is required – the sentence is describing an action that began in the past (1890) and that is continuing into the present. Based on that information, you can eliminate (C) and (D).

(B) and (E) can be eliminated because the subject is the singular noun *the starling*, whereas the verb *were* is plural. Notice how this error becomes apparent when the non-essential clause is removed.

That leaves (A), **which is correct** because it uses the present perfect (*has become*) and the singular verb *was*.

Notice that the preposition issue (*of* vs. *to*) is a distractor here; either is acceptable.

7. C: Parallel structure; Logical construction

The outsourcing of hospital workers has become relatively common in the last decade, driven by a combination of factors including a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keeping people healthy after they are discharged.

- (A) a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keeping
- (B) a desire for efficiency gains as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and they keep
- (C) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growing pressure on hospitals to measure quality and keep**
- (D) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growing pressure on hospitals in measuring quality and to keep
- (E) a desire for gains in efficiency as well as the growth of pressure on hospitals that measure quality and keep

The phrase *as well as* indicates that this question is testing parallel structure; the constructions on either side of *must* match. The first item begins with a noun (*desire*), a construction that is retained in all of the answer choices. As a result, the second item must begin with a noun as well.

That line of reasoning might prompt you to start with (E); however, that answer does not really make sense. The sentence indicates that the hospitals being pressured are ones that are *already* measuring quality and keeping people healthy after they are discharged. Given the context of the sentence, a more logical meaning is that the hospitals are being pressured to start measuring quality and keeping people healthy. So even though (E) is grammatically correct, it's wrong.

If you look at the other answers carefully, you can notice that they don't actually contain parallel construction errors. *Growing* simply acts as an adjective that modifies the noun *pressure*, so the two sides are parallel after all.

When you look at (A)-(D), remember that the constructions on either side of the transition *and* must be parallel too.

(A) is incorrect because *measure* and *keeping* are not parallel.

(B) is incorrect because *to measure* and *they keep* are not parallel.

(C) is correct because *to measure* and *keep* can be considered parallel. The word *to* "applies" to *keep*; it is not necessary to repeat it.

(D) is incorrect because *in measuring* and *to keep* are not parallel.

8. E: Faulty comparison; Idiom

Contrasting with the works of the rationalists, Hume held that passion rather than reason governs human behavior and postulated that humans can have knowledge only of the objects of experience.

- (A) Contrasting with the works of the rationalists,
- (B) In contrast with the rationalists' work,
- (C) In contrast to those of the rationalists,
- (D) Unlike those of the rationalists,
- (E) Unlike the rationalists,**

The original version of the sentence incorrectly compares the works of the rationalists (things) to Hume (person). In addition, the phrase *contrasting with* is not idiomatic; the correct idiom is *in contrast to*. Since the non-underlined part of the comparison involves a person, the underlined portion must be changed to refer to people.

(B) contains the same error as (A), comparing the rationalists' work to Hume. In addition, the phrase *in contrast with* is not idiomatic.

(C) and (D) are both incorrect because they simply replace the noun *works* with pronouns (*that* and *those*). Grammatically, they re-create the original error.

(E) is correct because it compares the rationalists to Hume.

9. D: Dangling modifier; Pronoun agreement: missing referent

Categorized as a "red" volcano as a result of the lava that periodically spews from its crater, a depression measuring 2,100 feet across and 750 feet deep, many cataclysmic explosions have been associated with Mt. Vesuvius since the volcano's most famous eruption in 79 A.D.

- (A) many cataclysmic explosions have been associated with Mt. Vesuvius since the volcano's most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (B) they have associated many cataclysmic explosions with Mt. Vesuvius since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (C) and many cataclysmic explosions were associated with Mt. Vesuvius since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.
- (D) Mt. Vesuvius has exploded cataclysmically many times since its most famous eruption in 79 A.D.**
- (E) Mt. Vesuvius has erupted cataclysmically many times since its most famous one in 79 A.D.

The key to recognizing what this question is testing is to cross out the non-essential clause, which is strategically placed to obscure the error: *Categorized as a "red" volcano as a result of the lava that periodically spews from its crater...many cataclysmic explosions have been associated with Mt. Vesuvius since the volcano's most famous eruption in 79 A.D.*

What is *categorized as a red volcano as a result of the lava that periodically spews from its crater*? Logically, Mt. Vesuvius. Since *Mt. Vesuvius* does not appear at the beginning of the clause in question, the modifier is dangling. In order to fix the error, *Mt. Vesuvius* must be placed at the beginning of the clause. That eliminates (A), (B), and (C).

(D) is correct because it places *Mt. Vesuvius* after the comma and uses the singular pronoun *its* to refer to *Vesuvius*.

(E) is incorrect because the pronoun *one* should logically refer to the noun *eruption*; however, only the verb *erupted* appears, and a verb cannot act as a referent.

10. B: Parallel structure

The wandering albatross, the first albatross ever to be described by naturalists, is a large seabird that belongs to the albatross family and found primarily in the seas around Antarctica.

- (A) and found primarily in the seas around Antarctica
- (B) and that is found primarily in the seas around Antarctica**
- (C) and primarily found in the Antarctic seas
- (D) being found primarily in the seas around Antarctica
- (E) and are found primarily in the seas around Antarctica

The key to understanding how this question functions is to recognize that the underlined portion of the sentence is part of the clause beginning with *that*, and that the correct version must be parallel to the non-underlined portion of that clause, and that clause only – the rest of the sentence is effectively irrelevant.

(A) and (C) are incorrect because *found primarily* should be *is found primarily*. The albatross is not *a large seabird that found around Antarctica* – it is *a large seabird that is found around Antarctica*.

(B) is correct because it supplies the verb *is* before *found*, creating the passive construction that makes the sentence logical. In addition, the word *that* makes this version parallel to the beginning of the clause: *that belongs...that is found*.

(D) is incorrect because the gerund *being* is not parallel to the verb *belongs* in the non-underlined portion of the clause.

(E) is incorrect because the plural verb *are* does not agree with the singular subject, *a large seabird*.

11. B: Idiom

All of the country's political parties agree as to whether constitutional reform is necessary to address chronic instability and other pressing issues, but when it comes to deciding what kind of reform, they can only agree to disagree.

- (A) agree as to whether constitutional reform is necessary to address
- (B) agree that constitutional reform is necessary to address**
- (C) have an agreement of constitutional reform being necessary to address
- (D) agree that constitutional reform is necessary for the addressing of
- (E) agree about whether constitutional reform is necessary to address

The correct idiom is *agree that*, eliminating (A), (C), and (E).

(D) is incorrect because *necessary* should be followed by the infinitive rather than the gerund.

That leaves (B), which is correct because it places the infinitive *to address* after *necessary*.

12. E: Diction; Pronoun: ambiguous referent

Even an act as apparently benign as eliminating mosquitoes could have serious ecological affects because they interact with other species in ways that scientists do not yet fully understand.

- (A) eliminating mosquitoes could have serious ecological affects because they interact
- (B) the elimination of mosquitoes can have serious ecological affects because mosquitoes interact
- (C) eliminating mosquitoes could have serious ecological affects because they interact
- (D) to eliminate mosquitoes can have serious ecological effects because they interact
- (E) eliminating mosquitoes could have serious ecological effects because mosquitoes interact**

If you look through the answer choices, you can notice that (A), (B), and (C) contain *affects* whereas (D) and (E) contain *effects*. The word in question functions as a noun, so *effects* is the correct version. That eliminates (A)-(C).

(D) is incorrect because the gerund *eliminating* rather than the infinitive *to eliminate* is more idiomatic here. *Can* should be *could*: the phrase *scientists do not yet fully understand* indicates that the sentence is describing a hypothetical situation. Finally, *they* is ambiguous because there are two plural nouns to which this pronoun could potentially refer: *mosquitoes* and *ecological effects*.

(E) is correct because it uses the gerund *eliminating* (in this case grammatically equivalent to a noun) to refer to “an act,” and the conditional *could* to refer to a hypothetical situation. In addition, the inclusion of the noun *mosquitoes* removes the ambiguity created by the pronoun *they*.

13. D: Pronoun agreement; Tense; Transition

One historical theory posits that an important effect of the Industrial Revolution was that living standards for the general population began to increase consistently for the first time in history, while an opposing theory holds that it did not begin to improve meaningfully until the late 1800s.

- (A) while an opposing theory holds that it did not begin
- (B) while an opposing theory holds that they have not begun
- (C) but an opposing theory holds that it did not begin
- (D) but an opposing theory holds that they did not begin**
- (E) with an opposing theory holding that it did not begin

The easiest way to approach this question is to focus on the word *it*. When this pronoun appears in the underlined portion of a sentence, the question will often test pronoun agreement. Furthermore, the answer choices alternately include *it* and *they*, confirming that pronoun agreement is the focus of the question.