

Tests

Improving Paragraphs



Improving Paragraphs Test 1



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about a hero in life.

(1) Heroes are an important part of children's lives. (2) Some children have heroes who are cartoon characters, and some have heroes who are a part of their families. (3) For as long as I can remember, my dad has been my hero. (4) He has ways of turning my skies blue when they are gray.

(5) He works harder than anyone I know, and sometimes way more hours. (6) He does all this so that he can put food into our mouths, a roof over our heads, and we can have clothes to wear. (7) When the times got rough, he never even stopped to think about himself. (8) He just kept on working.

(9) The most important reason why my dad is my hero is that he shows unconditional love to me and to anyone that he meets. (10) My dad has never made me feel that I was not loved. (11) When I get into trouble, he expresses how he feels, but always ends the conversation with a few simple words which

mean so much: "I still love you, though." (12) Another quality that my dad has is that he quickly forgives and forgets when one does wrong to him. (13) I, for one, do want the characteristic of my dad and with my own friends try to always forgive and forget.

(14) Last, but certainly not least, he is a friend. (15) I can talk to him like he's one of my friends, laughing and joking together. (16) He helps me whenever I have problems, and I find that he always has the best advice. (17) When we talk, he speaks from a father's point of view, but he speaks like a friend. (18) I can trust him to be there for me, and sometimes that's what I need.

(19) I hope that one day I can have at least half the knowledge he has, and a fourth of his heart.

1. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

He works harder than anyone I know, and sometimes way more hours.

- (A) harder than anyone I know, and sometimes way more hours
(B) harder than anyone else I know and way more hours
(C) harder and more hours than any one else
(D) harder and longer than anyone I know
(E) harder and longer than anyone else I know

2. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 6 (reproduced below)?

He does all this so that he can put food into our mouths, a roof over our heads, and we can have clothes to wear.

- (A) a roof over our heads, and we can have clothes to wear.
 - (B) a roof over our heads, and clothes to be worn
 - (C) a roof over our heads, and clothes on our backs
 - (D) we can have a roof over our head, and clothes on our backs
 - (E) a roof, and clothes
3. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 13 (reproduced below)?

I, for one, do want the characteristic of my dad and with my own friends try to always forgive and forget.

- (A) the characteristic of my dad and with my own friends try to always forgive and forget.
 - (B) my dad's characteristic so that with my friends I will always try to forgive and to forget
 - (C) my dad's characteristic and so I will try to always forgive and to forget with my friends
 - (D) to always forgive and forget with my friends, just like my dad's characteristic
 - (E) with my friends always to forgive and forget just like my dad's characteristic
4. In context, which is the best way to revise and combine sentences 7 and 8 (reproduced below)?

When the times got rough, he never even stopped to think about himself. He just kept on working.

- (A) When the times got rough, he never stopped to think about himself, he just kept on working.
 - (B) During rough times, he never stopped to think about himself, but kept on working.
 - (C) During rough times, never stopping to think about himself, but keeps on working
 - (D) During rough times, never stopping to think about himself, he keeps on working.
 - (E) He never stopped to think about himself during rough times but, keeps on working.
5. Which sentence would be most appropriate to follow sentence 19?
- (A) Altogether he's the perfect role model.
 - (B) He himself isn't perfect, but I guess that's what's too perfect about him.
 - (C) My dad has greatly influenced me.
 - (D) Ultimately, I hope to be the same kind of hero for my children as my dad has been for me.
 - (E) In conclusion, I really care for my dad, and he cares for me.
6. Including a paragraph on which of the following would most strengthen the writer's presentation?
- (A) Why a society must have heroes
 - (B) A description of the physical traits of the dad
 - (C) The dad's feelings about drugs
 - (D) Other heroes who are similar to the dad
 - (E) Specific trials the dad endured for the sake of the family

Improving Paragraphs Test 2



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about mandatory uniforms in high schools.

(1) Students often judge their peers by the clothing they wear. (2) An enforced dress code could possibly avoid major problems which many students face. (3) Appearance undoubtedly makes an impact on who is or is not in the popular group. (4) A person should not be judged by his outward appearance. (5) It's what people see on the inside that counts. (6) Many kids want to be popular, but in order to have that popularity, they need the right clothes; unfortunately, many parents can't always afford it.

(7) Another reason I believe uniforms are better for school children is because they don't cause a distraction during class. (8) For instance, if someone comes to class wearing bright yellow leather pants and seven inch platform shoes, the class will no longer pay attention to the teacher and her lessons. (9) By doing this they will miss out on their lessons and learning what they need to know. (10) By missing out on all of these lessons, the quality

of learning will go down drastically.

(11) In conclusion, all high schools need to enforce a strict dress code. (12) For many reasons such as not worrying about financial problems, or not being accepted from a certain group at school. (13) If fewer problems can result in greater learning, then a strict dress code is a must in our classrooms.

1. In context, which of the following is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

Appearance undoubtedly makes an impact on who is or is not in the popular group.

- (A) makes an impact with
 - (B) is important to
 - (C) is necessary for
 - (D) is a deciding factor in determining
 - (E) makes it important to determine
2. Which of the following is the best phrase to replace the word "it" in sentence 6?
- (A) it for them
 - (B) for it
 - (C) to buy them
 - (D) to "keep up with the Joneses"
 - (E) to get what their child needs in order to become popular

3. Which of the following sentences, if added to the end of the first paragraph would best sum up the ideas in that paragraph?
- (A) Uniforms or any type of limitations on the way clothes need to be worn will help create equilibrium among the students.
 - (B) Mandatory uniforms would help put a stop to judging a person based on the clothes he wears, as well as eliminate the parents' need to spend money on expensive name brand fashions.
 - (C) So many kids these days get such a low self esteem when someone judges them by what they are wearing.
 - (D) By having to wear uniforms to schools, popularity contests would end.
 - (E) It seems like the best thing to do is to have to wear uniforms.

4. In context, which of the following is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

Another reason I believe uniforms are better for school children is because they don't cause a distraction during class.

- (A) because they don't cause distractions during class
- (B) that they don't cause so many distractions in class
- (C) for having fewer disturbances during class
- (D) because of the fewer distractions they will cause
- (E) that uniforms are less likely to cause classroom distractions

5. To vary the pattern of sentences in the second paragraph, which of the following would be the best way to combine sentences 9 and 10 (reproduced below)?

By doing this they will miss out on their lessons and learning what they need to know. By missing out on all of these lessons, the quality of learning will go down drastically.

- (A) Such a distraction will cause learning to be missed and the quality to go down drastically.
- (B) By such a distraction, all students will miss out on their learning and it will go down drastically.
- (C) Such a distraction in class can result in a lower quality of learning for all the students.
- (D) By doing this and missing out, lessons and learning will go down.
- (E) The quality of learning will go down by dressing like this.

6. Which is the best revision of sentence 12 in order to eliminate the error in sentence structure? (Reproduced below)

For many reasons such as not worrying about financial problems, or not being accepted from a certain group at school, as well as disrupting the classroom.

- (A) Many problems could be totally solved with dress codes.
- (B) If schools had these dress codes, all sorts of problems could be solved.
- (C) Financial problems, popularity contests, and classroom distractions could be minimized.
- (D) Financial problems, or not being accepted from a certain group at school, as well as disrupting the classroom.
- (E) Worrying about finances and popularity would be solved.

Improving Paragraphs Test 3



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about the meaning of courage.

(1) Courage plays a big part in many people's lives. (2) Many times courage has more to do with the internal strength of a person than the strength he displays outside.

(3) Courage is often misjudged as being parallel to toughness. (4) Showing courage usually has nothing to do with a person's physical abilities. (5) Instead, courage is an inner strength. (6) Rosa Parks is considered to be courageous because of her unwillingness to give in to unreasonable demands during the Civil Rights Era. (7) She had the courage to confront prejudice when it was considered unacceptable to do so, and because of her choice to be different, the course of American History was changed.

(8) Another kind of courage is shown through people's endurance. (9) Carrying on after a disappointment or failure is usually hard. (10) It takes "guts" to keep on going and those who endure usually find success. (11) For instance, Thomas Edison tried repeatedly to

design the light bulb, but it took him over one hundred tries to find a successful filament. (12) Persistence in accomplishing goals helps to develop a person's courage. (13) A person which meets their challenges head on exhibits belief in himself and courage that he can handle what lies ahead.

1. Which of the following sentences, if added after paragraph 3, would best conclude that paragraph?
 - (A) Not knowing what the future holds in store takes courage to be optimistic.
 - (B) Thomas Edison was such a man whose courage to endure led him to success.
 - (C) Although a person's conception of courage differs from others, each person walks his own path.
 - (D) The courage to endure is a mark of many of our country's pioneers.
 - (E) To exemplify true courage, Thomas Edison is a good example.
2. Which of the following is the best word to substitute for "which" in sentence 13?
 - (A) that
 - (B) whom
 - (C) who
 - (D) he
 - (E) what

3. Which of the following is the best way to revise sentences 1 and 2 (reproduced below) in order to combine the two sentences?

Courage plays a big part in many people's lives. Many times courage has more to do with the internal strength of a person than the strength he displays outside.

- (A) Courage plays a big part in people's lives, often having more to do with the internal strength of a person than what he displays outside.
- (B) Courage, playing a big part in one's lives, often has more to do with the internal strength of a person than the strength he displays outside.
- (C) Courage, a large part of people's lives, often has more to do with people's internal strength than what they display outside.
- (D) Courage, an important part of people's lives, has more to do with people's internal strength than with their outward actions.
- (E) An important part of life is courage, and it deals with internal strength and outward actions.

4. Which of the following is the best word to substitute for "their" in sentence 13?

- (A) his
- (B) there
- (C) your
- (D) ones'
- (E) that person's

5. Which of the following is the best way to combine sentences 3 and 4 (reproduced below) into one sentence?

Courage is often misjudged as being parallel to toughness. Showing courage usually has nothing to do with a person's physical abilities.

- (A) Courage, often misjudged as being parallel to toughness, usually has nothing to do with a person's physical abilities.
- (B) Courage is often misjudged as being parallel to toughness, but showing courage usually has nothing to do with a person's physical abilities.
- (C) Courage, often misjudged as being parallel to toughness, but having nothing to do with a person's physical abilities.
- (D) Courage, often confused with being tough, usually has nothing to do with a person's physical abilities.
- (E) Courage is often confused with being tough, and it has nothing to do with people's physical strength.

6. Which is the best revision of sentence 10 in order to avoid beginning the sentence with "It"? (Reproduced below)

It takes "guts" to keep on going, and those who endure usually find success.

- (A) "Guts" is necessary to keep on going and to reach success.
- (B) Courage is behind the persistence and endurance, and that usually leads to success.
- (C) Courage is necessary to keep on going, and those who endure usually find success.
- (D) Those with the courage to persist and endure usually find success.
- (E) Keeping on going requires guts, but they will find success.

Improving Paragraphs Test 4



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about the nature of beauty.

(1) Beauty is a powerful word. (2) It can refer to a physical feature, a character trait, or it can describe an imaginary state of being. (3) People's concepts of beauty are wildly diverse. (4) An item of magnificent beauty to one may appear to be hideous to another. (5) David Hume, an early 1700s Scottish philosopher, said it best: Beauty in things exists in the mind which contemplates them. (6) This means that beauty is different to everyone. (7) It is the onlooker that sees and deciphers if a person, place, or thing is attractive to only themselves.

(8) It is common to hear disputes about the relative beauty of art. (9) Some people believe that abstract art is silly and pointless, while others adore it for its breathtaking creativity and exotic tones. (10) These two viewpoints are both concerning the beauty of art. (11) Some people perceive unique characteristics

about art that others disagree with or overlook. (12) The way a person judges beauty is dependent upon their personality and previous experiences.

(13) Hume was correct: Beauty in things [does exist] in the mind which contemplates them. (14) Because no two people are alike, everyone's definition of beauty is different. (15) Beauty is found in the hearts and souls of men, not in the external appearances of things.

1. Which of the following would be the best way to combine sentences 6 and 7 (reproduced below) into one?

This means that beauty is different to everyone. It is the onlooker that sees and deciphers if a person, place, or thing is attractive to only themselves.

- (A) Beauty is seen differently by everyone: it is the onlooker that sees and deciphers that which is attractive to only themselves.
- (B) Beauty is seen differently by everyone: it is the onlooker who sees if something is attractive.
- (C) Each man sees beauty differently: it is the beholder who sees the beauty in an object.
- (D) Each man sees beauty differently: he alone decides upon the beauty in an object.
- (E) Beauty is different to everyone.

2. Which of the following best replaces the word "their" in sentence 12?

- (A) there
- (B) its
- (C) his
- (D) your
- (E) that persons'

3. Which of the following would be the best way to combine the underlined portions of sentences 10 and 11 (reproduced below)?

These two viewpoints are both concerning the beauty of art. Some people perceive unique characteristics about art that others disagree with or overlook.

- (A) concerning the beauty of art, but some people perceive unique characteristics and others disagree.
- (B) concern art, one may perceive unique characteristics that are disagreed with by others.
- (C) are about what is beautiful in art, but not everyone likes the same things.
- (D) both concern art, but what one person may perceive as unique, another may find distasteful.
- (E) both concerning the beauty of art, show that some people who perceive unique characteristics about art that others disagree with or overlook.

4. Which of the following is the best way to revise sentence 8 (reproduced below)?

It is common to hear disputes about the relative beauty of art.

- (A) It is common, hearing disputes about the relative beauty of art.
- (B) The relative beauty of art is a common thing to be heard about.
- (C) It is common to dispute about the relativity and beauty of art.
- (D) Hearing about the relativity and beauty of art being common.
- (E) Hearing disputes about the relative beauty of art is common.

5. Which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined portion of sentence 2 (reproduced below)?

It can refer to a physical feature, a character trait, or it can describe a state of being.

- (A) the trait of a character, or a state of being
- (B) a character trait, or describing a state of being
- (C) a character trait, or a state of being
- (D) the character of a person, or his state of being
- (E) a person's character, or the state in which he is

6. Including a paragraph on which of the following would most strengthen the writer's position.

- (A) pleasing personality traits
- (B) art history
- (C) the judging of beauty pageants
- (D) most popular flowers
- (E) favorite colors

Improving Paragraphs Test 5



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about trying times in today's society.

(1) Our society today is far from flawless. (2) In fact, many citizens claim our world to be full of corruption, hateful, and everyone is deceitful. (3) However, the world is not as bad as it may seem. (4) Some optimistic minds view our world as somewhat troublesome at times, but notice, as well, the goodness in the world.

(5) Thomas Paine said it best: "These are the times that try men's souls." (6) Mr. Paine spoke these ringing words in the year of 1776 during the American Revolution. (7) He noted that in certain circumstances, some men become cowards, while others stand their ground. (8) Trying times of Paine's day brought out the true character of men. (9) The trying times of today, likewise, bring out undesirable traits in the modern man.

(10) Money has backfired against our society as a weapon. (11) We use it to threaten, to bribe, and to pay; therefore, it is often misused.

(12) Greed takes over the drowning minds of men and causes them to act inappropriately. (13) It is during these times that men's souls radiate through their outer shell.

(14) It is plain to see that the times we live in not only try men's souls, but their hearts and minds as well.

1. In context, which is the best version of sentence 4 (reproduced below)?

Some optimistic minds view our world as somewhat troublesome at times, but notice, as well, the goodness in the world.

- (A) Some minds think our world is terrible, but it isn't
- (B) While our world may appear somewhat troublesome at times, there is much goodness to be found.
- (C) Some people optimistically view our world as troublesome, but still see good also.
- (D) Our world is sometimes troublesome, but it is seen by the optimistic mind as good.
- (E) The goodness in our world is sometimes overshadowed by trouble, some optimistic minds think.

2. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2 (reproduced below)?

In fact, many citizens claim our world to be full of corruption, hateful, and every one is deceitful.

- (A) hatred, and deceit
- (B) hateful, and deceitful
- (C) full of hate, and very deceitful
- (D) hate, and deceitful
- (E) hateful, and deceiving

3. Which sentence would be most appropriate to introduce the second paragraph?

- (A) But let's look at another time when things were bad.
- (B) This same thing has been seen by others in other times.
- (C) Looking at another period in our history of America.
- (D) History repeats itself, and other times had troubles too.
- (E) Troublesome times are not exclusive to the twentieth century.

4. The writer uses all of the following strategies in the passage EXCEPT

- (A) giving specific examples of situations which cause distress
- (B) making reference to other people's experiences
- (C) explaining a process
- (D) disputing conventional notions
- (E) making reference to the passage of time

5. In context, which is the best way to revise and combine sentences 5 and 6 (reproduced below)?

Thomas Paine said it best: "These are the times that try men's souls." Mr. Paine spoke these ringing words in the year of 1776 during the American Revolution.

- (A) Thomas Paine, in the American Revolution of 1776 said the same thing; "These are the times that trouble men's souls."
- (B) "These are the times that try men's souls," were the words spoken by Thomas Paine in 1776 during the American Revolution.
- (C) In 1776 during the American Revolution, Thomas Paine said it best with these ringing words: These are the times that try men's souls.
- (D) "These are the times that try men's souls," said Thomas Paine in 1776 during the American Revolution.
- (E) During the American Revolution, Thomas Paine, in 1776, said it in ringing words: These are the times that try men's souls.

6. Including a paragraph on which of the following would be LEAST likely to strengthen the writer's argument?

- (A) corruption in our government
- (B) the rising divorce rate
- (C) increase in crimes committed
- (D) drugs in schools
- (E) standards of education

Improving Paragraphs Test 6



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about poverty.

(1) Many people around the world are forced to face the reality of poverty. (2) Various countries around the world have extremely bad conditions resulting in a lack of food and shelter. (3) The people of these countries are born into these conditions. (4) They won't be able to have a better life because they don't have but a few choices. (5) The disease-ridden environment proves to be harsh and causes sickness to sweep over the land. (6) The children are taught how to fight and at very young ages are released to the wars that rage around them. (7) There is little food in these areas which causes starvation and death.

(8) An example of poverty in America exists in the slums and ghettos in large cities. (9) Most of the time, these areas are influenced by crime, violence and drugs. (10) There is little opportunity for the residents to find employment to have a better way of live. (11) For this reason,

many people turn to drugs or crime for survival. (12) The family structure has broken down in these areas leaving children alone to fend for themselves. (13) It is hard for a person to get back on their feet. (14) Therefore, they struggle under these circumstances. Poverty is often thought to exist in only poor countries, but it actually exists everywhere.

Many factors in the world test men's strength to see how long they can stay strong and not waiver. Poverty is one of these tests.

1. Which of the following sentences, if added to the end of the first paragraph would best connect it to the rest of the essay?
 - (A) No one wants to be stricken with being poor.
 - (B) Now is the most important time for people to stand up for their beliefs.
 - (C) Hard times have always been a part of people's lives, but they must not concentrate on the harsh times.
 - (D) The people see these conditions daily, but they have to face the effects of them for life.
 - (E) Poverty, however, knows no boundaries; it abounds in poor countries as well as in rich cities.

2. Which of the following would be the best way to combine sentences 3 and 4 (reproduced below)?

The people of these countries are born into these conditions. They won't be able to have a better life because they don't have but a few choices.

- (A) The people of these countries are born into these conditions and have few choices in gaining a better life.
- (B) Born into these conditions, people won't be able to have a better life because of few choices.
- (C) A few choices limits the ability of these people to get a better life.
- (D) A better life cannot be had by these people because of a few choices they have.
- (E) These people are limited by a few choices as to what kind of life they can have.
3. Which of the following is the best version of sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

There is little food in these areas which causes starvation and death.

- (A) Starvation and death is caused in these areas by a lack of food.
- (B) A lack of food in these areas causes much starvation and death.
- (C) There is much starvation and death in these areas because of little food.
- (D) Because these areas have little food, there is much starvation and death.
- (E) Starvation and death rule in these areas because the lack of food causes them.

4. Which of the following sentences should be removed from the first paragraph?

- (A) 3
(B) 4
(C) 5
(D) 6
(E) 7

5. Which of the following is the best version of sentence 10 (reproduced below)?

There is little opportunity for the residents to find employment to have a better way of life.

- (A) There is no way the people can get jobs and have a better life.
- (B) Little opportunity exists for the residents to find a better life through gainful employment.
- (C) Employment is hard to find, and so the residents can't have a better way of life.
- (D) A better life is difficult to come by since there is little employment.
- (E) It is hard to have a better way of life because of the lack of employment.

6. Which of the following best replaces the word "their" in sentence 13 (reproduced below)?

It is hard for a person to get back on their feet.

- (A) (no change)
(B) there
(C) his
(D) ones'
(E) people's

Improving Paragraphs Test 7



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow.

Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about a given quotation.

(1) *Pascal's statement "The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of" can be seen everyday through the choices we make in our daily lives.*

(2) *My heart leads me, and I blindly follow, sometimes laughing sometimes crying.* (3) *Mostly crying.* (4) *I am often discouraged at the weakness I show by letting my heart have its way.* (5) *The continuous, foolish situations and devastating results never teach us to stop.* (6) *My heart and soul just plunge into the pain again, head first.* (7) *I suppose we are hoping for those eternal moments of pleasure.* (8) *The extreme highs of joy that last only in memories.* (9) *I dive in and hope that the water will be pure and endless, but instead I am chilled with the cold and hurt with the shallow depth of our desire.* (10) *Those memories of passion and love and forever are the only things that keep me alive.*

(11) *My heart retreats with silent beats, deadly bleeding, and wounds that cry in misery.*
(12) *The smiles that you see through my tears are the roses, the dances, the glimpses from my tower before I fell.* (13) *Fortunately, I'm young and I will come out again, too soon, only to experience the pain once more.*

1. Which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined portions of sentences 2 and 3 (reproduced below) in order to combine the two sentences?

My heart leads me, and I blindly follow, sometimes laughing sometimes crying. Mostly crying.

- (A) laughing, sometimes crying. Mostly crying
- (B) laughing, but mostly crying
- (C) laughing, but most of the time I am crying
- (D) laughing, most often I will be crying
- (E) laughing, sometimes I cried

2. In context of the second paragraph, which of the following is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

The continuous, foolish situations and devastating results never teach us to stop.

- (A) situations in which we find ourselves don't seem to faze us
- (B) situations in which I find myself don't seem to faze me.
- (C) situations lead us to disasterous and continuing results
- (D) situations and devastating results never teaching me to stop
- (E) situations of mine never taught me to stop

3. Which of the following would be the best way to revise and combine sentences 7 and 8 (reproduced below) into one?

I suppose we are hoping for those eternal moments of pleasure. The extreme highs of joy that last only in memories.

- (A) I suppose I am hoping to regain those elusive moments of pleasure, the extreme highs of joy that last only in memories.
- (B) I suppose I am hoping for those eternal moments of pleasure in the extreme highs of joy that last only in memories.
- (C) I suppose we are hoping for those extreme highs of joy to be experienced once again.
- (D) I suppose we are hoping for those fleeting memories of pleasure, the extreme highs of joy to return again.
- (E) I suppose I am hoping to relive those eternal moments of pleasure, the extreme highs of joy that last only in memories.

4. Which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined portion of sentence 9 (reproduced below)?

I dive in and hope that the water will be pure and endless, but instead I am chilled with the cold and hurt with the shallow depth of my desire.

- (A) endless, but instead I
- (B) endless, but, instead, I
- (C) endless; instead, I
- (D) endless: but instead I
- (E) endless but, instead, I

5. Which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined portion of sentence 9 (reproduced below)?

I dive in and hope that the water will be pure and endless, but instead I am chilled with the cold and hurt with the shallow depth of its desire.

- (A) chilled with the cold and hurt with the shallow depth of its desire
- (B) chilled with the cold, and the shallow depth hurts me
- (C) chilled and hurt by the cold, and by the shallow depth of its desire
- (D) chilled and hurt with the cold and by the shallow depth of its desire
- (E) chilled by its cold and hurt by its shallow depth of desire

6. Including a paragraph on which of the following would most strengthen the writer's presentation?

- (A) specific experiences that caused pain
- (B) how to recover from a broken heart
- (C) reasons relationships don't last
- (D) examples of the heart overruling reason
- (E) experiences that cause happiness

Improving Paragraphs Test 8



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about a quotation regarding education.

(1) *A wise man once said, "Education is the apprenticeship of life."* (2) *Through this thought he was stressing the importance of education, for to truly live, and not to just exist, one must be knowledgeable and educated.*

(3) *Merely to exist, one needs nothing more than to be born into this world.* (4) *However, meaningful life is more than mere existence.* (5) *A person with no education has no way of impacting those around him, and thus leaving no sign that he even walked the earth.*

(6) *To live means that one has worked hard and put forth a lot of effort in order to leave something of themselves behind when they go.* (7) *To make such an impact, one must be educated.* (8) *Education provides a knowledge base that serves as a springboard to better things.* (9) *It provides an atmosphere where relationships are built and responsibility is given.* (10) *It is*

not easy. (11) *They must work to meet all the challenges that are presented to them.*

(12) *True living in this context means that one must have a good foundation of skills along with the ambition to use those skills.* (13) *Education instills these into those people who are willing and able to accept the challenge of life.*

1. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

A person with no education has no way of impacting those around him, and thus leaving no sign that he even walked the earth.

- (A) A person with no education has no way of impacting those around him, and thus leaving
- (B) A person with no education has no way of impacting those around him, and, thus, leaves
- (C) An uneducated person has no way of impacting those around him, and thus leaving
- (D) An uneducated person with no way of impacting those around him leaves
- (E) A person with no education with no way of impacting those around him, thus leaves

2. In context, which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 2 (reproduced below)?

Through this thought he was stressing the importance of education, for to fully live, and not to just exist, one must be knowledgeable and educated.

- (A) to fully live, and not to just exist
- (B) fully to live, and not just to exist
- (C) to fully live, and not just to exist
- (D) to live fully, and not to just exist
- (E) to live fully, and not just to exist

3. In context, which is the best way to revise the underlined portion of sentence 6 (reproduced below)?

To live means that one has worked hard and put forth a lot of effort in order to leave something of themselves behind when they go.

- (A) of themselves behind when they go
- (B) of himself behind when they go
- (C) of himself behind when they go
- (D) of himself behind when he goes
- (E) of himself behind when he goes

4. Including a paragraph on which of the following would most strengthen the writer's argument?

- (A) the name of the author of the quote
- (B) specific examples of what education has taught one about life
- (C) other people's quotations on the same subject
- (D) what life is like without an education
- (E) what kinds of jobs an education can provide

5. In context, which is the best way to revise sentence 11 (reproduced below)?

They must work to meet all the challenges that are presented to them.

- (A) One must work to meet all the challenges presented to him.
- (B) One must work to meet all the challenges that he is presented with.
- (C) They must work to meet all the presented challenges.
- (D) One must work to meet all the challenges which are presented to them.
- (E) They must work in order to meet all the challenges with which they are presented.

6. Which of the following is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 13 (reproduced below)?

Education instills these into those people who are willing and able to accept the challenge of life.

- (A) instills these into
- (B) is necessary to gain those skills which
- (C) requires those skills from
- (D) can provide these skills for
- (E) provides the means by which those skills can be obtained by

Improving Paragraphs Test 9



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow.

Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about the following quotation: "Even a fool, if he holds his peace, is thought wise; keep your mouth shut and show your good sense."

(1) I have a large, ghastly, gaping hole for a mouth, and from my experiences, it seems best to just keep it shut. (2) It is unfortunate, however, that I rarely do this. (3) If I did, maybe I would not be considered so much the fool that myself and my peers view me to be.

(4) So, maybe I don't have much good sense. (5) I figure admitting it can't be any worse than the way I display it day after day. (6) Oh, how I try to keep that awful spring trap shut! (7) But, it is inevitable — if I don't say one thing I will say another.

(8) All my life I have heard words of wisdom like the quote above, in various forms, and I have tried again and again to take heed. (9) But I seem to have been born without hinges to my mouth, and the foolishness comes like dribble. (10) Afterwards, I am

always ashamed — because I know that what I've said is nonsensical and I'm ashamed of it — but this all comes to nothing.

(11) It is always the quiet ones with firmly placed rubber for lips that are considered to be the brightest. (13) Time and time again I've found after talking with them privately that they've nothing more to say than the rest of us yammering clowns. (14) They aren't always so bright. (15) Silence connotes intelligence whatever it may actually be.

1. Which of the following is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

If I did, maybe I would not be considered so much the fool that myself and my peers view me to be.

- (A) that I and my peers think me to be.
- (B) that I and my peers view myself to be
- (C) that myself and my peers view myself to be
- (D) that I appear to be, both to myself and to my peers
- (E) that I appear to be, both to me and to my peers

2. Which is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

But, it is inevitable — if I don't say one thing I will say another.

- (A) However, it is inevitable: if
- (B) It is inevitable, though; if
- (C) The inevitability is this: if
- (D) But, inevitably, I find that if
- (E) Inevitably, though, if

3. Which is the best version of sentence 11 (reproduced below)?

It is always the quiet ones with firmly placed rubber for lips that are considered to be the brightest.

- (A) The quiet ones, with firmly placed rubber for lips, are the ones who are always considered to be the brightest.
- (B) The ones considered to always be the brightest are the quiet ones who have firm rubber for lips.
- (C) It is always the ones with firmly placed rubber for lips, the quiet ones, who are considered the brightest.
- (D) The brightest, the ones with firmly placed rubber for lips, are always the quiet ones.
- (E) With firmly placed rubber for lips, the brightest are always considered the quietest.

4. Which sentence would be most appropriate to follow sentence 11?

- (A) When people talk, they stand a chance to show their ignorance.
- (B) "Considered" is the key word here.
- (C) Quiet people are not necessarily shy; they may be thinking.
- (D) I'm very bright, but sometimes you wouldn't know it to listen to me.
- (E) For me, silence is not golden.

5. Which of the following best replaces the word "it" in sentence 15?

Silence connotes intelligence, whatever it may actually be.

- (A) that
- (B) I
- (C) the truth
- (D) they
- (E) one

6. Including a paragraph on which of the following would most strengthen the writer's presentation?

- (A) research on intelligence
- (B) embarrassing situations
- (C) specific examples of foolish utterings
- (D) specific examples of silence being misinterpreted as intelligence
- (E) an opinion poll on what makes a person smart

Improving Paragraphs Test 10



Directions: The following passage is an early draft of a student essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answers for the questions that follow. Some questions are about particular sentences or parts of sentences and ask you to improve sentence structure and word choice. Other questions refer to parts of the essay or the entire essay and ask you to consider organization and development. In making your decisions, follow the conventions of standard written English.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following essay, which is a response to an assignment to write about how computers have changed our approach to science.

(1) Technology has changed throughout the course of history, and will continue to change until the end of time. (2) Scientists especially benefit from advances in technology because it makes their research and experimentation easier. (3) One very important change in technology is the advancement of computers.

(4) Computers enable people all over the world to accomplish things never thought possible. (5) Computers make work easier and more enjoyable. (6) Computers help scientists in many ways. (7) Scientists can store years of research on a computer disk so that it is easy to store and easily accessible.

(8) Scientists also use computer technology for their experimentation. (9) Computers often allow scientists to view the outcome of their work even before it is accomplished. (10) This can be very helpful if a dangerous outcome is predicted, because then the person can be extra

conscientious while performing that experiment.

(11) Computers are a very important part of technology. (12) They help people in all job professions perform activities more quickly and easily. (13) The advancement of computers will improve the world's technology for years to come.

1. Including an example of which of the following would most strengthen the writer's statement in sentence 5?
 - (A) how computers are designed to fit into offices
 - (B) a comparison of computer use in various countries
 - (C) ways computers make work easier
 - (D) some enjoyable games on computers
 - (E) statistics on the number of computers used in workplaces
2. Which is the best way to combine sentences 11 and 12 (reproduced below)?

Computers are a very important part of technology. They help people in all job professions perform activities more quickly and easily.

- (A) technology, helping
- (B) technology and, they help
- (C) technology because, they help
- (D) technology, although, they help
- (E) technology; helping

3. Which is the best way to revise and combine sentences 6 and 7 (reproduced below)?

Computers help scientists in many ways. Scientists can store years of research on a computer disk so that it is easy to store and easily accessible.

- (A) Computers help scientists in many ways such as storing years of research on a computer disk so that it is easy to store and easily accessible.
- (B) Helping scientists in many ways, computers allow scientists to store years of research on a computer disk so that it is easy to store and easily accessible.
- (C) Scientists, in particular, are able to use computers and easily store and access years of research on a computer disk.
- (D) Scientists, in particular, are helped by being able to easily store and access years of research on a computer disk.
- (E) Scientists are helped by computers because they allow them to store years of research on a computer disk so that it is easy to store and easily accessible.

4. Which is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 1 (reproduced below)?

Technology has changed throughout the course of history, and will continue to change until the end of time.

- (A) history; and will continue
- (B) history, and it will continue
- (C) history: and will continue
- (D) history, and continuing
- (E) history, but it will continue

5. Which is the best way to combine sentences 4 and 5 (reproduced below) in order to avoid repetitious beginnings?

Computers enable people all over the world to accomplish things never thought possible. Computers make work easier and more enjoyable.

- (A) Computers enable people all over the world to accomplish things never thought possible, and they make work easier and more enjoyable.
- (B) Enabling people all over the world to accomplish things never thought possible, and computers make work easier and more enjoyable.
- (C) Making work easier and more enjoyable is one thing computers can do which people all over the world thought was impossible.
- (D) All over the world people are using computers to make work easier and more enjoyable, and to accomplish things never thought possible.
- (E) All over the world people are using computers to make work easier and more enjoyable, accomplishing things never thought possible.

6. Which is the best revision of the underlined portion of sentence 9 (reproduced below)?

Computers often allow scientists to view the outcome of their work even before it is accomplished.

- (A) before it is even accomplished
- (B) even before its completion
- (C) before it is even finished
- (D) before it is completed even
- (E) before the accomplishment is done

Answers

Improving Paragraphs



Answers

Improving Paragraphs



Test 1

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. d 6. e

Test 2

1. d 2. c 3. b 4. e 5. c 6. c

Test 3

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. d 6. d

Test 4

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. e 5. c 6. c

Test 5

1. b 2. a 3. e 4. c 5. c 6. e

Test 6

1. e 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. c

Test 7

1. b 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. e 6. d

Test 8

1. d 2. e 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. e

Test 9

1. a 2. e 3. a 4. b 5. c 6. d

Test 10

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. e 6. b