

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Short Passages

Try these questions based on short passages in order to familiarize yourself with some common question types.

MAIN IDEA/PURPOSE

Question 1 is based on the following passage.

The passage below is excerpted from Somerset Maugham's The Moon and Sixpence, first published in 1919.

The faculty for myth is innate in the human race. It seizes with avidity upon any incidents, surprising or mysterious, in the career of those who have at all distinguished themselves from their fellows, and invents a legend. It is the protest of
Line romance against the commonplace of life. The incidents of the legend become the
(5) hero's surest passport to immortality. The ironic philosopher reflects with a smile that Sir Walter Raleigh is more safely enshrined in the memory of mankind because he set his cloak for the Virgin Queen to walk on than because he carried the English name to undiscovered countries.

1. In lines 5–8, the author mentions Sir Walter Raleigh primarily to
 - (A) emphasize the importance of Raleigh's voyages of discovery.
 - (B) mock Raleigh's behavior in casting down his cloak to protect the queen's feet from the mud.
 - (C) illustrate how legendary events outshine historical achievements in the public's mind.
 - (D) distinguish between Raleigh the courtier and Raleigh the seafarer.

Question 2 is based on the following passage.

The passage below is excerpted from a text on marine biology.

Consider the humble jellyfish. Headless, spineless, without a heart or brain, it has such a simple exterior that it seems the most primitive of creature. Unlike its sessile (attached to a surface, as an oyster is attached to its shell) relatives whose stalks cling
Line to seaweed or tropical coral reefs, the free-swimming jellyfish or medusa drifts along
(5) the ocean shore, propelling itself by pulsing, muscular contractions of its bell-shaped body. Yet beneath the simple surface of this aimlessly drifting, supposedly primitive creature is an unusually sophisticated set of genes, as recent studies of the invertebrate phylum Cnidaria (pronounced nih-DARE-ee-uh) reveal.

2. Which assertion about jellyfish is supported by the passage?

- (A) They move at a rapid rate.
- (B) They are lacking in courage.
- (C) They attach themselves to underwater rock formations.
- (D) They are unexpectedly complex.

Question 3 is based on the following passage.

The passage below is excerpted from an article on Florida's Everglades National Park.

Pioneering conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas called it the River of Grass. Stretching south from Lake Okeechobee, fed by the rain-drenched Kissimmee River basin, the Everglades is a water marsh, a slow-moving river of swamps and sawgrass. *Line* flowing southward to the Gulf of Mexico. It is a unique ecosystem, whose enduring value has come from its being home to countless species of plants and animals: cypress trees and mangroves, wood storks and egrets, snapping turtles and crocodiles. For the past 50 years, however, this river has been shrinking. Never a torrent, it has dwindled as engineering projects have diverted the waters feeding it to meet agricultural and housing needs.

3. The author of this passage cites the conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas in order to
- (A) present a viewpoint.
 - (B) challenge an opinion.
 - (C) introduce a metaphor.
 - (D) correct a misapprehension.

Question 4 is based on the following passage.

The following passage is taken from a brochure for a museum exhibit.

How does an artist train his eye? "First," said Leonardo da Vinci, "learn perspective; then draw from nature." The self-taught eighteenth-century painter George Stubbs followed Leonardo's advice. Like Leonardo, he studied anatomy, but, unlike Leonardo, *Line* instead of studying human anatomy, he studied the anatomy of the horse. He dissected carcass after carcass, peeling away the five separate layers of muscles, removing the organs, baring the veins and arteries and nerves. For 18 long months he recorded his observations, and when he was done he could paint horses muscle by muscle, as they had never been painted before. Pretty decent work, for someone self-taught.

4. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) explain a phenomenon.
 - (B) describe a process.
 - (C) urge a course of action.
 - (D) argue against a practice.

Question 5 is based on the following passage.

The following passage is an excerpt from an article on Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, known best today for her travel writings.

In 1979, when the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had finally been eradicated, few, if any, people recollected the efforts of an eighteenth-century English aristocrat to combat the then-fatal disease. As a young woman, Lady Mary
Line Wortley Montagu had suffered severely from smallpox. In Turkey, she observed the
(5) Eastern custom of inoculating people with a mild form of the pox, thereby immunizing them, a practice she later championed in England. The Turks, she wrote home, even held house parties during which inoculated youngsters played together happily until they came down with the pox, after which they convalesced together.

5. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) celebrate the total eradication of smallpox.
 - (B) challenge the actions of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.
 - (C) demonstrate that smallpox was a serious problem in the eighteenth century.
 - (D) call attention to a neglected historical figure.

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following passage.

The passage below is excerpted from Somerset Maugham's *The Moon and Sixpence*, first published in 1919.

The faculty for myth is innate in the human race. It seizes with avidity upon any incidents, surprising or mysterious, in the career of those who have at all distinguished themselves from their fellows, and invents a legend. It is the protest of romance against
Line the commonplace of life. The incidents of the legend become the hero's surest passport
(5) to immortality. The ironic philosopher reflects with a smile that Sir Walter Raleigh is more safely enshrined in the memory of mankind because he set his cloak for the Virgin Queen to walk on than because he carried the English name to undiscovered countries.

6. As used in line 1, "faculty" most nearly means
- (A) capacity.
 - (B) authority.
 - (C) teaching staff.
 - (D) branch of learning.
7. As used in line 5, "reflects" most nearly means
- (A) mirrors.
 - (B) exhibits.
 - (C) muses.
 - (D) casts back.

NOTE

Some passages appear here for a second time. Read them again at this time looking for vocabulary in context.

- The clerk proceeded to call the roll. When he reached "Mr. Engle," there was no response. A brain tumor had robbed California's mortally ill Clair Engle of his ability to speak. Slowly lifting a crippled arm, he pointed to his eye, thereby signaling his affirmative vote. Few of those who witnessed this heroic gesture ever forgot it. When Delaware's John Williams provided the decisive 67th vote, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield exclaimed, "That's it!" Richard Russell slumped; Hubert Humphrey beamed.
- (25) With six wavering senators providing a four-vote victory margin, the final tally stood at 71 to 29. Nine days later the Senate approved the act itself—producing one of the 20th century's towering legislative achievements.

12. As used in line 3, "occupied" most nearly means
- (A) inhabited.
 - (B) engaged.
 - (C) invaded.
 - (D) held.
13. As used in line 5, "concluded" most nearly means
- (A) finished.
 - (B) arranged.
 - (C) stated.
 - (D) judged.

Question 14 is based on the following passage.

The following passage is excerpted from an article in a natural history journal.

When I found out about the nesting habits of the Marbled Murrelet, I could see why they've become endangered—it's amazing they survive at all. The only places they nest are in old-growth redwoods or Douglas firs within thirty miles of the ocean—although to call it 'nesting' is a bit of a stretch. The female lays an egg in a depression on a large branch a hundred-fifty feet or more off the ground. And that branch has to be a fair distance below the crown of the tree, so that the egg will be concealed from above, because the eggs and young chicks are especially susceptible to crows, jays, and other predatory birds. Add to this the fact that adult birds mate for life, and don't nest every year, and the odds against survival seem almost insurmountable. The only way these birds have kept going as a species is because they're extremely secretive. Even the experts almost never actually see them in their nesting habitats. Most 'sightings'—somewhere around ninety-five percent—are from having *heard* them.

14. In line 4, "stretch" most nearly means
- (A) expanse.
 - (B) period.
 - (C) elasticity.
 - (D) exaggeration.

Question 15 is based on the following passage.

The following passage is excerpted from *Phoenix Fire*, a novel by Tim O'Laughlin.

Fort Bragg had once been a major fishing town, but the catch was way down from what it had been in the past. Commercial fishing was yet another casualty of unsound forestry practices that had gone unchecked for generations. The problem had resulted from the massive amount of earth-moving and excavation, not to mention the denuded hillsides the loggers left behind. In the early days of logging, berms of soft earth had been mounded up to provide a soft landing for the huge redwoods, to keep the brittle wood from splintering when they fell. At first, no one had known the effect that the highly erosive logging practices would have on local fisheries—that the salmon and steelhead population would be decimated, as streams and rivers became warmer from their exposure to the sun, and silt covered the spawning beds. Even after scientists discovered the connection between logging and the decline of the salmon population, the legislature was horrendously slow to act to protect the fishing industry.

15. As used in line 1, “catch” most nearly means a

- (A) concealed drawback.
- (B) quantity of something caught.
- (C) device for securing motion.
- (D) desirable prospect.

Full-Length Passages

Questions 1–10 are based on the following passage.

The following passage is an excerpt from the short story “Clay” in *Dubliners* by James Joyce. In this passage, tiny, unmarried Maria oversees tea for the washerwomen, all the while thinking of the treat in store for her: a night off with her younger brother and his family.

The matron had given her leave to go out as soon as the women’s tea was over and Maria looked forward to her evening out. The kitchen was spick and span: the cook said you could see yourself in the big copper boilers. The fire was nice and bright and on one of the side-tables were four very big barmbracks. These barmbracks seemed uncut; but if you went closer you would see that they had been cut into long thick even slices and were ready to be handed round at tea. Maria had cut them herself.

Maria was a very, very small person indeed but she had a very long nose and a very long chin. She talked a little through her nose, always soothingly: “Yes, my dear,” and “No, my dear.” She was always sent for when the women quarreled over their tubs and always succeeded in making peace. One day the matron had said to her:

“Maria, you are a veritable peace-maker!”

And the sub-matron and two of the Board ladies had heard the compliment. And Ginger Mooney was always saying what she wouldn’t do to the dummy who had charge of the irons if it wasn’t for Maria. Everyone was so fond of Maria.

- (15) When the cook told her everything was ready, she went into the women's room and began to pull the big bell. In a few minutes the women began to come in by twos and threes, wiping their steaming hands in their petticoats and pulling down the sleeves of their blouses over their red steaming arms. They settled down before their huge mugs which the cook and the dummy filled up with hot tea, already mixed with milk and sugar in huge tin cans. Maria superintended the distribution of the barmbrack and saw that every woman got her four slices. There was a great deal of laughing and joking during the meal. Lizzie Fleming said Maria was sure to get the ring and, though Fleming had said that for so many Hallow Eves, Maria had to laugh and say she didn't want any ring or man either; and when she laughed her grey-green eyes sparkled with disappointed shyness and the tip of her nose nearly met the tip of her chin. Then Ginger Mooney lifted her mug of tea and proposed Maria's health while all the other women clattered with their mugs on the table, and said she was sorry she hadn't a sup of porter to drink it in. And Maria laughed again till the tip of her nose nearly met the tip of her chin and till her minute body nearly shook itself asunder because she knew that Mooney meant well though, of course, she had the notions of a common woman.

1. The author's primary purpose in the second paragraph is to
 - (A) introduce the character of a spinster.
 - (B) describe working conditions in a public institution.
 - (C) compare two women of different social classes.
 - (D) illustrate the value of peace-makers in society.
2. It can be inferred from the passage that Maria would most likely view the matron as which of the following?
 - (A) An inept administrator
 - (B) A benevolent superior
 - (C) A demanding taskmaster
 - (D) An intimate friend
3. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
 - (A) Lines 10–11 ("One day . . . peace-maker")
 - (B) Line 12 ("And the sub-matron . . . compliment")
 - (C) Lines 15–16 ("When the cook . . . bell")
 - (D) Lines 20–21 ("Maria superintended . . . slices")
4. It can most reasonably be inferred from the care with which Maria has cut the barmbracks (lines 4–6) that
 - (A) she fears the matron.
 - (B) she is not in a hurry to leave.
 - (C) it is a dangerous task.
 - (D) she takes pride in her work.

5. As used in line 13, "charge" most nearly means
- (A) responsibility.
 - (B) accusation.
 - (C) attack.
 - (D) fee.
6. The language of the passage most resembles the language of
- (A) a mystery novel.
 - (B) an epic.
 - (C) a fairy tale.
 - (D) a sermon.
7. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 2–3 ("The kitchen . . . boilers")
 - (B) Lines 7–8 ("Maria . . . chin")
 - (C) Lines 16–18 ("In a few . . . arms")
 - (D) Lines 25–28 ("Then Ginger . . . drink it in")
8. As used in line 30, "common" most nearly means
- (A) united.
 - (B) widespread.
 - (C) usual.
 - (D) coarse.
9. Which of the following traits least characterizes Maria?
- (A) A deferential nature
 - (B) Eagerness for compliments
 - (C) Respect for authority
 - (D) Reluctance to compromise
10. During the course of the final paragraph, the omniscient narrator's focus shifts from
- (A) evaluation of laundry women's working conditions to reflection on personal disappointments of the main character.
 - (B) depiction of an average working day to an explanation of the protagonist's importance to her community.
 - (C) portrayal of interactions within a group to description of the main character's reactions to the conversation.
 - (D) recounting of a current group activity to a flashback to an earlier scene.

Questions 11–20 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Frederick E. Hoxie, *This Indian Country: American Indian Political Activists and the Place They Made*, published in 2012.

- Sarah Winnemucca spoke out against the morality of American expansion just as federal officials were embarking on a national campaign to “civilize” all American Indians. Of course missionaries had striven to convert and “uplift” Indian people from the seventeenth century forward, but it was not until the middle of the nineteenth century, when the U.S. conquest of the continent became complete, that federal officials and the general public shifted the bulk of their attention from extending the nation’s borders to creating a comprehensive system for incorporating indigenous communities into the nation. They hoped to integrate these individuals into the lower rungs of a modern industrial state.
- (10) The centrality of domestic reform to the Indian civilization effort had been apparent even in prewar proposals to establish reservations, but those ideas were given new life after the Civil War by reformers such as Lydia Maria Child, who sought to extend the promise of American civilization from newly freed slaves to Indians. A former abolitionist, Child declared in 1870 that “human nature is essentially the same in all races and classes of men,” adding, “My faith never wavers that men can be made just by being treated justly, honest by being dealt with honestly, and kindly by becoming objects of kindly sympathy.” Women like Child and Amelia Stone Quinton, who had taught newly freed African Americans in the South immediately after the Civil War, were at the forefront of this effort. Their commitment to “all races and classes of men” inspired them to press for Indian schools and Indian citizenship. In 1879 Quinton founded the Women’s National Indian Association, a forerunner of the later male-led Indian Rights Association. This activity inspired younger women, such as the anthropologist Alice Cunningham Fletcher and the popular author Helen Hunt Jackson, to join the effort.
- (25) These women saw domestic reform aimed at civilization (education, traditional marriage, and individual landownership) as a solution for Native communities increasingly surrounded by land-hungry whites. Fletcher became an early advocate of replacing reservations with individual landownership and a firm supporter of the nation’s growing network of boarding schools. Helen Hunt Jackson offered her prescriptions in the form of popular essays and stories. Her most famous effort was a romance set in the Mission Indian communities of southern California. Published in 1884, *Ramona* portrayed the struggle of a Christian Indian woman striving to establish a household for her pious husband and son. Jackson’s account of the heroine Ramona’s homemaking in the face of racial hostility and rampant lawlessness echoed the domestic images in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s more famous *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and other works that illustrated the nuclear family’s ability to protect individuals from hostile outsiders. For Jackson, as for Fletcher and Stowe, a civilized home managed by a Christian matron could be both a refuge from lawlessness and a vehicle for transporting its members to a better place.
- (40) In 1883, with the publication of *Life among the Piutes*, Winnemucca attacked the heart of this national campaign of uplift and domestic reform. As early as 1870, she had argued from her post at Camp McDermitt that the solution to Indian suffering was “a

permanent home on [the Indians'] own native soil." Thirteen years later, in *Life among the Plutes*, she proposed the same solution. Winnemucca's angry words were hurled
 (45) at a uniform set of self-serving popular attitudes and a rapidly hardening government policy: Indians represented the past, treaties were obsolete, native cultures must yield, and the incorporation of conventional American domestic behaviors was the surest recipe for civilization. Her speeches and writing, coming from an eloquent, self-confident woman, challenged that mind-set and proposed an alternative scenario in
 (50) which Indian communities consolidated and progressed on their own within protected enclaves inside America's borders. Rooted in the story of herself and her family and aimed at establishing "homes to live in" for her community, the book was intended as a public testimonial that would provide a guide for Indian survival that challenged alien definitions of Native private life and civilization. The common thread of her activist
 (55) career was the dignity of Indian communities and the role within them of powerful Indian women who upheld the best standards of their tribal traditions.

11. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - (A) explain that reservations are not an ideal way to uplift the Indians.
 - (B) show that women share strong bonds, even though they have different backgrounds.
 - (C) explain the establishment of the Women's National Indian Association.
 - (D) explain one woman's resistance to a major reform movement.
12. It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that the author would likely agree with the idea that
 - (A) American Indians needed to be civilized.
 - (B) the majority would inevitably have prevailed.
 - (C) women authors helped bring about social and political change.
 - (D) women were more effective political advocates than were men.
13. As used in line 20, "press" most nearly means
 - (A) flatten.
 - (B) weigh heavily.
 - (C) urge insistently.
 - (D) squeeze affectionately.
14. What view did domestic reformers such as Helen Hunt Jackson promote through novels, essays, and other works?
 - (A) Adherence to family structure and gender roles that conformed to the dominant American culture would help Indians integrate into society more effectively.
 - (B) Adherence to tribal traditions was necessary to prevent complete assimilation and to force the United States government to honor treaty obligations.
 - (C) Human nature manifests itself in the same manner in all races.
 - (D) The Mission Indians deserved their own reservation in southern California.

15. Which choice best provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- (A) Lines 27–29 (“Fletcher . . . schools”)
 - (B) Lines 29–30 (“Helen Hunt Jackson . . . stories”)
 - (C) Lines 31–33 (“Published . . . son”)
 - (D) Lines 36–39 (“For Jackson, . . . to a better place”)
16. As used in line 29, “prescriptions” most nearly means
- (A) medicine to be administered.
 - (B) changes to be considered.
 - (C) punishments to be endured.
 - (D) reforms to be instituted.
17. The role played by the Women’s National Indian Association with regard to the Indian Rights Association can best be described as
- (A) adversarial.
 - (B) concurrent.
 - (C) cooperative.
 - (D) foundational.
18. Over which major issue did Sarah Winnemucca’s views clash with those of the other women reformers?
- (A) The proper form of Indian land ownership.
 - (B) Use of the term “Indian.”
 - (C) The importance of literary works in social and political movements.
 - (D) The role of women in politics.
19. *Life among the Piutes* may be most aptly characterized as
- (A) a captivating romance.
 - (B) an autobiographical testimonial.
 - (C) a moralizing historical novel.
 - (D) a traditional Native American legend.
20. According to the passage, what was the major change that occurred in the mid-nineteenth century?
- (A) A change in United States government policy from expansion of territory to consolidation of control over people within that territory
 - (B) A change in the focus of reformers from abolition to prohibition
 - (C) A change in the focus of reformers from men to women
 - (D) A change in Indian policy toward the United States government from cooperation to resistance

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The questions on the SAT Writing and Language test include small-picture questions about punctuation, tense, and wordiness as well as big-picture questions about fine-tuning the structure and logic of the essays. These question types come in a random sequence. For the sake of practice, let's try some small-picture questions in isolation and then some big-picture questions. For the following small-picture questions, make sure you are silently mouthing out the wording, looking at the surrounding context, and thinking about what makes the most sense. Don't rush through these—be very patient and thorough to do your best.

Small-Picture Question Practice

The Romani People

It comes as a rather disturbing ❶ surprise and shock that even in contemporary ethnic dialogue the term “Gypsy” remains in remarkably common employ. Disregarding for the moment the ❷ word's historically contumelious overtones, it has been so broadly misapplied throughout the past several centuries that “Gypsy” now refers to no fewer than eight discrete ethnic groups spread across half of the world. The term itself is seldom used within the migrant communities of Europe; ❸ they are an exonym of English origin, and evolved from the mistaken belief that the nomadic Romani people, who arrived in Britain at the end of the 16th century, had ❹ immigrated from Egypt (“Gypcien” being a dialectical permutation of “Egyptian”). “Gypsy” is a word that signifies not only ignorance but also the ❺ global indifference of the community toward the person of Romani backgrounds.

The perpetuation of the Romani's nomadic lifestyle throughout the centuries ❻ has been integral in preserving their culture. Formal efforts to sedentarize, assimilate and—occasionally—expel or eliminate the Romani have followed them since the Middle Ages and remain prevalent in Europe today. Capturing and enslaving Romani refugees was common practice within the Byzantine Empire and remained technically legal in Moldavia and

1. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) surprise
(C) shocking surprise
(D) OMIT the underlined portion.
2. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) words
(C) word is
(D) words'
3. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) they were
(C) it is
(D) it was
4. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) integrated
(C) emanated
(D) emigrated
5. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) community of Romani people with indifference toward the global backgrounds.
(C) indifference of the global community toward the Romani people.
(D) backgrounds of Romani indifference toward the community of which it is global.
6. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) have been
(C) had been

Wallachia up until the unification of Romania in 1859. ⑦ In Western Europe, antiziganism, achieved a particular vogue during the mid-18th century. In Austria and Switzerland, Romani were forbidden from owning horses and wagons, wearing traditional Romani clothing, speaking the Romani language, and marrying another person of Romani descent. ⑧ Just as those in England and Spain, where Romani families were frequently separated by the State and male Romani children were conscripted by the military. Up until 1977, in Norway it was not uncommon for the State to forcibly sterilize Romani immigrants. Most infamously of all, the Romani were among the groups targeted by the Nazis in the Holocaust.

Paradoxically, it may be that the very persecutorial precedents that sought to eliminate the Romani were also the forces that encouraged and necessitated ⑨ their continuous migration, thus obstructing their gradual genetic and cultural assimilation. Today, hostility toward the Romani remains widespread throughout Europe in the ⑩ form for racism with educational segregation. The Czech Republic in particular has received international criticism for a law passed in 1992 that denied Romani permanent residents Czech citizenship. The law was superficially revised in 1999, ⑪ also citizenship remains a contentious issue for the Romani. Repatriation raids of Romani encampments in 2005 and 2011 resulted in the deportation of Romani refugees ⑫ en masse from Germany and France.

7. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) In Western Europe antiziganism, achieved
(C) In Western, Europe, antiziganism achieved
(D) In Western Europe, antiziganism achieved
8. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) Similar laws were enforced in England and Spain,
(C) Just like the laws England and Spain,
(D) Similarly for the English and Spanish laws,
9. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) they're
(C) its
(D) its'
10. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) form of racism and also by the form of educational segregation.
(C) racist and educational forming of segregation.
(D) forms of racism and educational segregation.
11. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) for
(C) but
(D) because
12. (A) NO CHANGE
(B) in mass
(C) with mass
(D) massively

Big-Picture Question Practice

On the following types of questions, be sure you *really focus on what the question is asking*. Rarely will these test issues of grammar. They will instead test concepts like your understanding of whether something should be added or deleted, where a sentence or paragraph should be placed, and whether a sentence accomplishes a specific goal of the author. Carefully underline and circle these questions as you read them to ensure you fully grasp what is asked. Also, try to create your own idea of what the answer is before jumping into the choices.

Into the Abyss

How much do we truly know about our planet? Satellites and advances in aerial photography have made it so few terrestrial areas go unmarked or unexplored. ❶ But what about the seven-tenths of Earth's surface that is ocean? In fact, very little is known.

❷ The United States' Ocean Observatories Initiative, or OOI, is taking off in hopes of uncovering a few more of the planet's mysteries. The project consists of the prized observatory, the *Cabled Array*, and six other smaller observatories that will be scattered around the world's oceans to measure physical, chemical, geological, and biological phenomena. The *Cabled Array*

1. The author wants to insert a sentence at this point that builds on the idea that humanity has widespread access to information about terrestrial areas. Which choice best accomplishes the author's objective?
 - (A) The circumference of Earth is approximately 25,000 miles around the equator, slightly larger than it would be if measured along lines of longitude.
 - (B) In comparison, we know very little about the outer reaches of space and the great depths of the seas.
 - (C) In fact, most of the world's land is available for viewing by anyone in the world with Internet access.
 - (D) It all started when Ferdinand Magellan successfully circumnavigated Earth in the 1500s.
2. Which of these sentences, if inserted at this point, would best introduce the topic of the current paragraph and provide a logical transition from the previous one?
 - (A) We know more about the surfaces of the ocean than what lies beneath.
 - (B) A new \$385 million project is set to change that.
 - (C) A global consortium of countries is working to "stem the tide" of misinformation.
 - (D) Approximately \$254 million dollars has been invested in terrestrial earthquake research in the past year alone.

itself will be just off the coasts of Oregon and Washington. ❸ The six other observatories—*Pioneer*, *Endurance*, *Irminger Sea*, *Argentine Basin*, *Southern Ocean*, and *Ocean Station Papa*—will be powered by battery, sun, and wind but transmit data via satellite.

(1) Using torpedo-shaped ocean gliders that travel long distances through the sea, OOI will sample sunlight penetration, element concentrations, pressure, temperature, etc. (2) A particular focus of the underwater observatories is to monitor the drastic changes that occur with the movement of tectonic plates or where the continental shelf abruptly ends. (3) Altogether, some 800+ instruments will collect data and funnel it back to Rutgers University, where it will then be made available to the public. ❹

3. Which option, if inserted here, gives the most specific description as to how the *Cabled Array* would function?
- (A) and uses the very latest oceanic observation technology
 - (B) gathering information on underwater tectonic movements, which serves as data for a tsunami warning system since tsunamis originate with deep sea geological abnormalities
 - (C) the two most northwestern states in the contiguous Continental United States, homes to both spectacular scenery in National Parks and cutting-edge technology companies
 - (D) organized around a submarine cable and linked to seventeen junction boxes that distribute power and signals to the unit's instruments, which will then collect and return data

4. The author wishes to insert the following sentence into the preceding paragraph.

"In addition to the gliders, some observatories will employ propeller-driven autonomous underwater vehicles, or AUVs, that can 'swim' in strong currents."

Where should it be placed?

- (A) Before sentence 1
- (B) Before sentence 2
- (C) Before sentence 3
- (D) After sentence 3

OOI is clouded with the ambiguity and uncertainty that undoubtedly follow a project of this sort—groundbreaking and colossal. Yet, it turns out that the project isn't exactly pioneering; 6 Canada has been operating a similar facility since 2006 and has had its own share of ups and downs. Hopefully, the U.S. can learn from the decade of 6 experience. Some are already predicting serious flaws. While Canada's significantly smaller project is overseen by five researchers, OOI has employed only four researchers to manage an initiative that is almost eight times larger. Other detractors argue that the lack of scientific oversight during construction is bound to result in failure. Still, many anticipate the wealth of knowledge and new discoveries that will certainly follow underwater monitoring— 7 friend or foe of OOI, that is something to be excited about.

5. The author is considering deleting the underlined part of the sentence and adjusting the punctuation in the sentence by changing the semicolon that immediately precedes it to a period. Should the author make this deletion?
- (A) Yes. The underlined part distracts from the primary focus on what the United States has done.
 - (B) Yes. The underlined part gives information that is inconsistent with what comes later in the essay.
 - (C) No. The underlined part provides a relevant elaboration on the first part of the sentence.
 - (D) No. The underlined part gives specific details as to how the OOI will function successfully.
6. Which option most effectively joins the two sentences at this point?
- (A) experience; however some
 - (B) experience, but some
 - (C) experience and some
 - (D) experience, with some
7. The author wants to end the essay on a positive note that is tied to the argument of this paragraph. Which option best accomplishes the author's objective?
- (A) NO CHANGE
 - (B) the consensus of scientists and policy makers can only be characterized as optimistic.
 - (C) the OOI is designed to gather data about oceanic activities.
 - (D) with such a large staff operating the OOI, expectations for success couldn't be higher.