



Test Prep

PRAXIS-Writing-Section

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Exam A

QUESTION 1

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

For homes in typically colder geographic regions, it is particularly important to have effective and efficient heating systems.

- A. For homes in typically colder geographic regions
- B. For people in homes in typically colder geographic regions
- C. For homes in typically cold geographic regions
- D. People in typically colder geographic regions
- E. Homes in typically colder geographic regions

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it makes sense conversationally but not in written English. You cannot just say “colder geographic regions” when there is no object of comparison. Colder compared to what? An area can easily be identified as cold without a prior standard (such as the southern regions or areas near the equator) but not “colder.” Also, it is wrong to refer to people as the subject of this sentence because the second clause states that “it is particularly important to have ... heating system.” People cannot have heating systems usually. Therefore, choice “For homes in typically cold geographic regions”, which uses a descriptive rather than comparative term, is the best choice.

QUESTION 2

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Inside the glove compartment were legal documents, pictures, and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves. And there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.

- A. and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.
- B. and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but not any gloves.
- C. and napkins from the coffee shop, no gloves were there.
- D. and napkins from the coffee shop, but no gloves.
- E. and napkins from the coffee shop, there were no gloves.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: “and there were a few napkins from the coffee shop, but not any gloves” break the parallelism of the list of things in the glove compartment. “And napkins from the coffee shop, no gloves were there” and “and napkins from the coffee shop, there were no gloves” are run-ons.

QUESTION 3

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Concerns about global warming have grown into actual efforts sanctioned by non-governmental organizations and governments that not only work to understand global warming and also to prevent it.

- A. understand global warming and also to prevent it.
- B. understand global warming but also to prevent it.
- C. understand global warming yet also to prevent it.
- D. understand global warming but also to prevent its growth.
- E. understand global warming yet also to prevent it's growth.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: The original underlined portion is incorrect because of the improper use of the “not only...but also...” structure. Only choice “understand global warming but also to prevent it” and choice “understand global warming but also to prevent its growth” use this structure, but choice “understand global warming but also to prevent its growth” accurately adds “to prevent its growth.” The sentence began by discussing growth because global warming is a dynamic problem that has not just stagnated; it continually has changed. Choice “understand global warming but also to prevent its growth” corrects the structure and also uses the proper possessive form of it (i.e. its).

QUESTION 4

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Even though I have seen the movie countless times, I still laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.

- A. laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.
- B. laugh when the sheriff throws his mug.
- C. laugh when the sheriff threw his mug.
- D. laughed whenever the sheriff throws his mug.
- E. laugh when the sheriff will throw his mug.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: “laughed when the sheriff throws his mug”, “laugh when the sheriff threw his mug”, “laughed whenever the sheriff throws his mug”, and “laugh when the sheriff will throw his mug” all have verb tense mismatches.

QUESTION 5

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.

- A. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- B. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- C. Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- D. Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- E. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and

now consider yourselves successful.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it uses the passive voice and a mistaken pronoun to refer to people (i.e. that). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" and choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" change the passive voice to the active voice by writing that the alumni commit the action, rather than writing that the action was committed by the alumni. Also, choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" mistakenly changes "alumni" (plural) to "alumnus" (singular). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" is the best choice because "alumni" is plural as it should be based on the logic of the sentence (not just one person looks forward to high school reunions) and the active voice is properly implemented.

QUESTION 6

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then tried to act as I did so on purpose.

- A. Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then
- B. Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I
- C. I fell down the stairs yesterday, I
- D. After I fell down the stairs yesterday; I
- E. Falling down the stairs; I

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

Explanation: "Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I" and "I fell down the stairs yesterday, I" are run-ons. D and E misuse their semicolons: the parts before them are not independent clauses.

QUESTION 7

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Lockers in schools are often dilapidated, making student's valuables susceptible to theft.

- A. making student's valuables susceptible to theft
- B. which makes student's valuables susceptible to theft
- C. that makes student's valuables susceptible to theft

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

Explanation/Reference:

QUESTION 8