English Test

1.D 2.G 3.D 4.G 5.A 6.G 7.B 8.F 9.A 10. J

11. D 12. F 13. D 14. H 15. C 16. H 17. C 18. H 19. B 20. F

21. B 22. G 23. C 24. J 25. B 26. F 27. D 28. H 29. D 30. H

31. A 32. G 33. D 34. H 35. D 36. J 37. C 38. G 39. A 40. J

41. D 42. F 43. A 44. H 45. C 46. F 47. C 48. J 49. C 50. F

51. D 52. J 53. B 54. F 55. D 56. G 57. C 58. H 59. A 60. H

61. C 62. G 63. A 64. G 65. C 66. G 67. A 68. G 69. D 70. F

71. B 72. F 73. D 74. F 75. B

English Test Explanations

PASSAGE I

1. The best answer is D. To maintain parallel structure within this paragraph, you need to use the past tense of the verb begin. Notice that Sentences 2 and 3 use past tense main verbs. Sentence 4 also has a clause with the main verb began. The verb forms should match tense.
2. The best answer is G. The question asks you to identify the correct punctuation surrounding the phrase, happy and healthy learning to walk and talk. The phrase contains the main clause, she was happy and healthy, and a gerund phrase, learning to walk and talk like her toddler peers. Gerund phrases are set apart with a comma. No other commas should be placed within the main clause or the gerund phrase.
3. The best answer is D. In order to eliminate the redundancy and clearly express the intended idea, omit the underlined portion.
4. ThebestanswerisG.Paragraph2illustratesthe difficulties faced by both Helen and her parents as they adapted to their new situation. Answer choice G provides the best introduction because it summarizes what is to come while providing enough detail to be complete: Helen is frustrated, and her parents are overwhelmed by her resulting tantrums (they consider sending her to an asylum).
5. The best answer is A. The underlined phrase is part of the infinitive clause, meaning, an infinitive form of a verb has to follow the to. The other choices are simply restatements of the original phrase. The most concise selection is answer choice A.
6. The best answer is G. The possessive Helen’s modifies parents. Therefore, the two words must not be separated by a comma. A comma is placed after the gerund phrase Feeling sorry for their impaired daughter to avoid misunderstanding.
7. The best answer is B. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The best word to use is unmanageable.
8. The best answer is F. The sentence as it is written is clear, gives all the necessary information, and is most concise.

9. The best answer is A. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The main idea of the paragraph is Helen’s need for self-discipline. Only the original phrase has that emphasis and is grammatically correct. The other answer choices are awkward.

10. The best answer is J. The rest of the passage is in the past tense, so to maintain parallel construction, you should use the past tense verb form was. Also, the stubbornness in question belongs to a particular person: Helen. Therefore, you should restate the antecedent for the sake of clarity.

11. The best answer is D. This question asks you to identify the correct punctuation surrounding the phrase if channeled. Because it interrupts the sentence between that and the clause beginning it would be ..., it should be set apart by commas.

12. The best answer is F. The passive verb construction was given implies that Annie is the one who is acting. The context of the passage clearly indicates that it is Helen’s parents who act; they are the ones who give permission for Annie and Helen to move to a different house. Since Annie receives the action, the verb phrase must be in the passive voice. Only the original phrase is correct.

13. The best answer is D. In this context, Annies should be possessive. Therefore, it requires an apostrophe before the s: Annie’s. Furthermore, the phrase Annie’s efforts ends the first independent clause of the sentence. The second clause, introduced by the conjunction but, should be set apart with a comma.

14. The best answer is H. This sentence continues the idea of the previous sentence chrono- logically. A contradictory relationship does not exist, as the other answer choices indicate.

15. The best answer is C. This is a main idea question. The essay focuses on Helen’s teacher, Annie Sullivan, and her professional accomplishments in working with Helen.

PASSAGE II

1. The best answer is H. The phrase for the first time is idiomatic. Answer choice F can be eliminated because it contains redundancy. Answer choices G and J are awkward (not idiomatic) and can be eliminated.
2. The best answer is C. The adverb enthusiastically correctly modifies the verb anticipating. Answer choice A includes the redundant pronoun you, which requires a different verb form.
3. The best answer is H. Notice that the paragraph uses the words begin and buy, both of which are present tense. To maintain parallel structure within this paragraph, you need to use a present tense verb; therefore, answer choices G and J can be eliminated. Answer choice F is in present perfect tense. With a critical part of the holiday as the subject of the sentence, this answer choice does not make sense. Answer choice H is best because it uses is to equate the two noun phrases a critical part of the holiday and shopping for gifts.
4. The best answer is B. The phrase not wanting to be rushed with last-minute purchases is a gerund phrase and needs to be separated from the main clause by a comma.
5. The best answer is F. To maintain parallelism in the paragraph, all of the verb forms must match. The passage states that you ‘‘buy’’ and you ‘‘compliment’’ (present tense). Therefore, you ‘‘find’’ the ghost figurine.
6. The best answer is B. You’re is the contraction of you are. Since the sentence already has a main verb, you’re is grammatically incorrect. The correct form is the possessive pronoun your. Also, in this context the introductory phrase this year could be set off by a comma or left without punctuation; however, it would never be followed by a colon. Therefore, only answer choice B is correct.
7. The best answer is G. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. Only this answer choice is a fully formed clause in standard word order.
8. The best answer is C. This choice eliminates the redundancy.
9. The best answer is J. Semicolons and periods separate complete sentences. While the first half of this sentence could stand on its own, the second half could not. It does not have a subject or a finite verb in the main clause. The comma is used to separate gerund phrases from the clauses they modify.
10. The best answer is B. One way to approach this question is by process of elimination. The sentence as it is written doesn’t include a legitimate verb form. So, eliminate answer choice A. The passage has consistently been in the present tense, which means the sentence requires a present verb form. This eliminates answer choice D. Answer choice C does not have tense, so the sentence would be incomplete. This leaves answer choice B, has become, which is in the present perfect tense.
11. The best answer is F. In this case, the transition is from Paragraph 4 to Paragraph 6. Paragraph 4 ends with the author discovering that she is running out of time to buy gifts and that no one is available to help her. She must solve this problem on her own and act quickly. Answer choice F best captures this sentiment. The choice is supported by the first sentence in Paragraph 6, which emphasizes her frantic shopping.
12. The best answer is D. To maintain parallel structure within this paragraph, you need to use a present tense form of the verb trudge. Notice that the paragraph uses verbs such as dart, give up and are, all of which are present tense. The verb forms should agree, that is, have the same tense. Finally, answer choice D is more concise than answer choice C, which makes it stylistically the better choice.
13. The best answer is H. To maintain parallel structure within this paragraph, you need to use a present tense form of the verb ask. Because the subject (‘‘your son’’) is in the third person singular, the correct form is asks, answer choice H.
14. The best answer is D. The passage as a whole describes one person’s holiday stress building as it gets closer to Christmas. Paragraph 6 has the story’s climax, as the author breaks down as she realizes that she will never finish her tasks in time. A hug from her son helps to remind her of the joy of the season, and she decides to rest instead of doing the next thing on her list. Answer choice D indicates her frustration and her ultimate decision to relax. This best captures the function of Paragraph 6 in relation to the rest of the passage.

30. The best answer is H. Paragraph 5 serves as a temporal marker: it tells the reader that, at this point in the narrative, it’s the beginning of November with six more weeks before Christmas. Logically, it should be placed after Paragraph 2, with its reference to Halloween, and before Paragraph 3, with its reference to Thanksgiving (late November).

PASSAGE III

1. The best answer is A. The paragraph starts with a reference to ‘‘popular opinion.’’ The next sentence refers back to that by using the phrase beginning with ‘‘this same.’’ That means the sentence needs a subject noun that is a synonym for popular opinion. The word culture captures that sense more accurately than either emotion or specimen.
2. The best answer is G. To answer this question, you should first recognize that physical fitness is a singular noun phrase. In order to maintain parallel structure within the sentence, you should use societal fitness, a singular noun phrase. Eliminate answer choices F and J. The word societal is an adjective, describing the noun fitness, so it should not show possession. Eliminate answer choice H.
3. The best answer is D. The writer is setting up a line of reasoning parallel to that of the preceding sentence; physical exercise is compared to social activity. In both cases, the writer argues that if it hurts, don’t do it; you’re probably doing something wrong. Answer choice D best completes the parallel relation.
4. The best answer is H. The author states that pain receptors exist to limit physical injury. Guilt, the writer implies, is a psychological pain receptor that helps us ‘‘limit injury to others.’’ Repeating the phrase limit injury allows the author to emphasize the parallel nature of the processes. The other answer choices either fail to mark the parallel or are too wordy.
5. The best answer is D. The word attempting is modifying the verb turn. In this usage, turn needs to be in the infinitive, that is, the sentence needs to read ‘‘attempting to turn.’’
6. The best answer is J. The focus of the paragraph is social interaction. Information about the time it takes to stop a car is irrelevant and should be deleted.
7. The best answer is C. This question requires you to correctly punctuate the underlined portion. The pronoun yourself is the object of the verb find, and driving is the verb without tense linked to yourself. Therefore, no commas should separate them.

38. The best answer is G. Because manner describes a behavior, the sentence requires a verb that denotes action (acts), not a state of being (is). Answer choices H and J are wordy and can be eliminated.

39. The best answer is A. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The phrase legal penalties is concise and complete. Adding detailed descriptions of those penalties would only distract from the focus of the paragraph, social behavior.

40. The best answer is J. The first clause of the sentence begins with although, making it a dependent clause. Therefore, a subject and a verb of the main clause is needed here. Answer choice J is also the most clear, simple option.

41. The best answer is D. The underlined phrase is redundant because it repeats the meaning of insanity. It should be omitted.

42. The best answer is F. The transition word however suggests a contrast between the idea contained in the preceding sentence and the idea contained in this sentence. This is, in fact, the case, so answer choice F is correct.

43. The best answer is A. The paragraph implies that it is human nature to avoid pain, including the pain of guilt. The writer suggests there are two ways to do this: avoid making mistakes and avoid accepting responsibility for mistakes. The first is impossible. That leaves the second. The way to mark this type of logical progression is with the adverb therefore, indicating that one thing is the result of another.

44. The best answer is H. The phrase if improperly managed is an interrupting phrase in the sentence and should be set off by commas. The comma at the beginning of the phrase is a clue to the reader to expect a second comma at the end. A semicolon would require a complete sentence preceding it. Eliminate answer choice F. The relative pronoun which would create a sentence fragment. Eliminate answer choice G. The pronoun it would create a run-on, so eliminate answer choice J.

45. The best answer is C. This question requires you to punctuate the underlined portion correctly. The relative clause that they never move on is one unit and should not be broken up by commas or any other punctuation. Nor should a comma separate the clause from the conjunction that which precedes it.

PASSAGE IV

1. The best answer is F. The sentence as written implies that Kennedy’s public image was of a healthy person and that Kennedy himself was tall and trim, which makes sense in the context of the paragraph. Answer choice G or H would create a run-on. Answer choice J would make the first sentence a fragment.
2. The best answer is C. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The focus of this paragraph is the contrast between Kennedy’s appearance of health and his actual state of chronic illness. Answer choice C best captures this dynamic. The sentence as written is a run-on, so eliminate answer choice A. Answer choice B has three grammatically correct sentences, but their structure is rigid and plain. It is not the best answer. The word order of answer choice D is awkward, so it can be eliminated.
3. The best answer is J. It is idiomatic to use the phrase ‘‘began with’’ in this context.
4. The best answer is C. The best way to provide more detail is to offer a better description. Paragraph 2 continues from Paragraph 1 by describing in more detail the effects of Addison’s disease on Kennedy. A list of the symptoms of the disease would help the reader gain a more complete understanding of the disease.
5. The best answer is F. The sentence is best as written. The clause has standard subject- verb-object word order. The rest of the information follows in logical order. The prepositional phrase in his back comes immediately after the noun phrase anesthetic injections, which it modifies. The prepositional phrase up to six times a day modifies the whole clause and can be placed at the end.
6. The best answer is D. The information given by the phrases in answer choices A, B, and C is already implied in the verb hide. Therefore, all these answer choices are redundant and can be eliminated.
7. The best answer is J. Always try answer choices that do not contain punctuation. In this case, a dash would be unnecessary, and a semicolon would be incorrect before a fragment. In addition, commas should not be placed before or after conjunctions or unless they link independent clauses or the last two elements in a series of three or more elements.

53. The best answer is B. The subject he is implied in the second half of this compound sentence. Answer choice B is clear, concise, and grammatically correct. As it is written, the sentence contains a comma splice. Both a period and semicolon must be followed by independent clauses, which is not the case in answer choices C and D.

54. The best answer is F. The question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The idea that Kennedy was able to ‘‘act healthy’’ is developed by the sentence, which explains exactly what that means: he was able to hide crippling pain from everyone except his doctors and relatives. These three distinct groups (doctors, relatives, and the public) should be kept together in the sentence because they comprise three parts of one audience. In other words, the author implies that Kennedy is trying to fool all of them, but it only works with the public. Answer choice F includes all of that information while also being the most concise choice.

55. The best answer is D. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. Answer choice D is complete and the most concise. The other answer choices are awkward and wordy.

56. The best answer is G. To maintain parallel structure within this paragraph, you need to use the past tense of the verb attribute, which is attributed. Notice the use of the verbs was and looked. The verb forms should agree in tense. Furthermore, Kennedy is deceased, so his actions have past tense.

57. The best answer is C. The last two sentences of this paragraph clarify its focus, which is proving that Kennedy’s illness did not negatively affect his ability to govern. Answer choice C asks the question that the last two sentences answer. Therefore, it is the best response.

58. The best answer is H. Like the positive pairing either ... or, neither ... nor are usually used together. Therefore, to maintain the parallelism, the underlined portion should be nor the drugs.

59. The best answer is A. The sentence as it stands gives us the most important information first: what he did (‘‘performed’’), followed by how he did it (‘‘at the highest level’’). This order makes logical sense and is the most concise option.

60. The best answer is H. This question requires you to determine the main idea of the passage. Although the passage does describe Addison’s disease in some detail, its primary focus is the effect of Addison’s disease on President Kennedy. For example, the reader is not told if Kennedy’s experience of the disease is common among Addison’s sufferers. Likewise, the reader is also not told if treatment has changed since the early 1960s. Therefore, the essay would not be a good general description of Addison’s disease and its treatment. Eliminate answer choices F and G. While the essay does describe symptoms of the disease, this is not the main focus, so eliminate answer choice J.

PASSAGE V

1. The best answer is C. The contraction we’re represents the subject pronoun we and the auxiliary verb are, indicating that the next verb form should be a gerund to form the present progressive tense: We are traveling.
2. The best answer is G. The sentence is awkward as written. A relative pronoun could link the two clauses; where is best because it refers to a place, Southern California.
3. The best answer is A. The author is comparing personal warmth, or genuine friendliness, to the outdoor temperature. She implies that the people of Tromso demonstrate the former. Being helpful is an excellent way to show friendliness. The other answer choices incorrectly refer to literal warmth.
4. The best answer is G. The passage states that Tromso residents are very helpful to foreigners. This best matches answer choice G. While answer choice F describes polite behavior, it is not as strong an example.
5. The best answer is C. The verbs twirling, flipping, and twisting are synonyms of spinning and could replace spinning in the sentence without changing its meaning. The verb throwing does not fit the context, and it is NOT acceptable.
6. The best answer is G. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The current sentence is wordy and redundant (it’s unnecessary to repeat Tromso in this context). Answer choice G sets up a concise contrast between what other towns claim to do and what Tromso actually does.
7. The best answer is A. The paragraph that follows indicates that, instead of working or sitting, the writer spent much of his time hiking. The phrase at all is appropriate here, because it makes a connection between the idea that the writer thought his time in Norway would drag and the fact that his visit was actually very enjoyable.
8. The best answer is G. The best introductory sentence will be one that shows a transition from Paragraph 3 to Paragraph 4. Since Para- graph 3 discusses some of Tromso’s attributes (mild weather and friendly people) it makes sense that Paragraph 4 should start out with another of Tromso’s characteristics. Sentence 2 does this best. Therefore, the correct sequence of sentences will begin with Sentence 2. Furthermore, there is a strong link between Sentences 1 and 5, and only answer choice G places them together.
9. The best answer is D. The sentence introduces the idea of boots and blisters to the paragraph. Since this is not echoed elsewhere, it is irrelevant and should be omitted. Eliminate answer choices B and C for the same reason.
10. The best answer is F. The first part of the sentence indicates that hiking is so popular in Norway, that the government passed regulations allowing anyone to hike across wilderness areas. The question stem says expand hikers’ rights, which mirrors adding designated areas in answer choice F.
11. The best answer is B. Answer choice B is the only one with descriptive adjectives that help create a vivid image of the ‘‘many beautiful scenes.’’ The other answer choices are either too general or contain irrelevant information.
12. The best answer is F. The sentence is complete and concise as it stands. The addition of a transition word or phrase is not necessary, so eliminate answer choices G, H, and J.
13. The best answer is D. The sentence requires the possessive form of Tromso, a singular noun. The correct form adds an apostrophe and an s to create Tromso’s.

74. The best answer is F. This question requires you to express the idea clearly and simply. The phrase a view that has been described as world class is a singular view. This implies that the author is referring to only one vantage point: Mount Storsteinen. This eliminates answer choice G. Answer choices H and J are wordy and awkward, so eliminate them.

75. The best answer is B. As written, it’s is the contraction of it is. A better choice would be the possessive form its. However, the antecedent of its would be unclear. (It is not vista, Mount Storteinen, northern lights, or midnight sun.) When an antecedent is too distant or unclear, use an expressed noun in possessive form instead, as in answer choice B.

Helen Keller

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scale Score** | **English Raw Score** | **Math Raw Score** | **Reading Raw Score** | **Science Raw Score** |
| **36** | 75 | 59—60 | 40 | 40 |
| **35** | 73–74 | 57–58 | 39 | 39 |
| **34** | 71–72 | 55–56 | 38 | 38 |
| **33** | 70 | 54 | — | 37 |
| **32** | 69 | 53 | 37 | — |
| **31** | 68 | 52 | 36 | 36 |
| **30** | 67 | 50–51 | 35 | 35 |
| **29** | 66 | 49 | 34 | 34 |
| **28** | 64–65 | 47–48 | 33 | 33 |
| **27** | 62–63 | 45–46 | 32 | 31–21 |
| **26** | 60–61 | 43–44 | 31 | 30 |
| **25** | 58–59 | 41–42 | 30 | 28–29 |
| **24** | 56–57 | 38-40 | 29 | 26-27 |
| **23** | 53–55 | 36–37 | 27–28 | 24–25 |
| **22** | 51–52 | 34–35 | 26 | 23 |
| **21** | 48–50 | 33 | 25 | 21–22 |
| **20** | 45–47 | 31–32 | 23–24 | 19–20 |
| **19** | 42–44 | 29–30 | 22 | 17–18 |
| **18** | 40–41 | 27–28 | 20–21 | 16 |
| **17** | 38–39 | 24–26 | 19 | 14–15 |
| **16** | 35–37 | 19–23 | 18 | 13 |
| **15** | 33–34 | 15–18 | 16–17 | 12 |
| **14** | 30–32 | 12–14 | 14–15 | 11 |
| **13** | 29 | 10–11 | 13 | 10 |
| **12** | 27–28 | 8–9 | 11–12 | 9 |
| **11** | 25–26 | 6–7 | 9–10 | 8 |
| **10** | 23–24 | 5 | 8 | 7 |