Writing and Language: Question 1

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Portraits by Cameron

A woman emerges from a dark background, half in shadow. She wears a curious expression that, while it doesn’t register happiness, doesn’t entertain sadness either. She regards the viewer frankly, much as a viewer might regard her. This photograph, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was taken in 1867, so it feels immediate, as if its subject were staring back at the viewer in the present moment. It is the work of photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, who is sometimes thought of as a painter who used a camera as her canvas.

Cameron began taking pictures at the advent of photography. Whereas Victorian society was fascinated by the camera’s ability to document detail without ornament, Cameron encompassed artifice, carefully choosing her subjects and controlling each sitting to express her own unconventional, sometimes whimsical, sense of the world. She socialized with the luminaries of her time: painters, writers, and scientists. Many of whom sat for her camera in her Isle of Wight studio, where she created some of the era’s most iconic portraits. In addition to portraits, Cameron produced a series of highly theatrical, stylized, sepia-toned photographs known as tableaux, which often starred members of her family as allegorical figures meant to depict a character trait or an emotion.

Cameron was somewhat famous. Of an 1864 exhibit, Photographic Journal wrote, “In these pictures all that is good in photography has been neglected, and the shortcomings of the art are prominently exhibited.” This may seem like potent criticism, but Cameron herself might well have approved. For instance, she endeavored to highlight her medium’s limitations and to turn them into virtues. She manipulated light so that it might fall on only half a face. Her manipulation of light revealed the shadows beneath the eyes. She used a chemical process to develop her film that resulted in many blemishes—imperfections she actively sought out.
Leaving the lens open longer caused a slight blur as her subjects squirmed. Apart from the affect on the portraits (she said the blur was like capturing breath), Cameron’s unorthodox manipulations challenged expectations for what photography could be.

These choices and others resulted in pictures that fall outside of the paradigm of photography as a documentary format. Photographers who came later have appreciated what Cameron’s contemporaries could not: the camera can turn away from the material world and its literalism being an artistic interpretation of life.

A. NO CHANGE
B. while
C. although
D. since

Choice C is the best answer. The conjunction “although” correctly indicates the contrast between the fact that the photograph was taken in 1867 and the sense that “it feels immediate.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not show the contrast between the information before and after the comma. “So” incorrectly indicates that a result will follow. “While” incorrectly indicates that two things are happening at the same time. “Since” incorrectly indicates that because the photograph was taken in 1867, “it feels immediate.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Portraits by Cameron

A woman emerges from a dark background, half in shadow. She wears a curious expression that, while it doesn’t register happiness, doesn’t entertain sadness either. She regards the viewer frankly, much as a viewer might regard her. This photograph, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was taken in 1867, so it feels immediate, as if its subject were staring back at the viewer in the present moment. It is the work of photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, who is sometimes thought of as a painter who used a camera as her canvas. Cameron began taking pictures at the advent of photography. Whereas Victorian society was fascinated by the camera’s ability to document detail without ornament, Cameron encompassed artifice, carefully choosing her subjects and controlling each sitting to express her own unconventional, sometimes whimsical, sense of the world. She socialized with the luminaries of her time: painters, writers, and scientists. Many of whom sat for her camera in her Isle of Wight studio, where she created some of the era’s most iconic portraits. In addition to portraits, Cameron produced a series of highly theatrical, stylized, sepia-toned photographs known as tableaux, which often starred members of her family as allegorical figures meant to depict a character trait or an emotion.

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These choices and others resulted in pictures that fall outside of the paradigm of photography as a documentary format. Photographers who came later have appreciated what Cameron’s contemporaries could not: the camera can turn away from the material world and its literalism 11 being an artistic interpretation of life.

At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Although Cameron was born in India, for much of her adult life she lived and worked in the Isle of Wight village of Freshwater, which was then and still remains a popular seaside tourist destination.

Should the writer make this addition here?

A. Yes, because it helps explain why Cameron’s studio attracted many well-known people.
B. Yes, because it foreshadows the discussion of Cameron setting up allegorical tableaux.
C. No, because it doesn’t mention that her studio was on the Isle of Wight.
D. No, because it introduces a loosely related fact about Cameron, not about her photography.

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence should not be added. It contains information about where Cameron was born and lived, but it is not relevant to her photography, which is what the passage discusses.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the sentence should not be added. The sentence neither explains “why Cameron’s studio attracted many well-known people,” nor “foreshadows the discussion of Cameron setting up allegorical tableaux.” Choice C is incorrect because information about the location of Cameron’s studio is mentioned in the following paragraph and isn’t relevant at this point.

**Question Difficulty:** Easy
Portraits by Cameron

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A. NO CHANGE
B. enveloped
C. embraced
D. embellished

Choice C is the best answer. “Embraced” suggests that Cameron eagerly took to the practice of artfully selecting the composition of her photographs, unlike others in Victorian society who were “fascinated by the camera’s ability to document detail without ornament.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because “encompassed” and “enveloped” both suggest that Cameron enclosed artifice, which doesn’t make sense in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “embellished” suggests that Cameron decorated artifice, which doesn’t logically or accurately describe what she did.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Writing and Language: Question 4

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Portraits by Cameron

A woman emerges from a dark background, half in shadow. She wears a curious expression that, while it doesn't register happiness, doesn't entertain sadness either. She regards the viewer frankly, much as a viewer might regard her. This photograph, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was taken in 1867, so it feels immediate, as if its subject were staring back at the viewer in the present moment. It is the work of photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, who is sometimes thought of as a painter who used a camera as her canvas.

Cameron began taking pictures at the advent of photography. Whereas Victorian society was fascinated by the camera's ability to document detail without ornament, Cameron encompassed artifice, carefully choosing her subjects and controlling each sitting to express her own unconventional, sometimes whimsical, sense of the world. She socialized with the luminaries of her time: painters, writers, and scientists. Many of whom sat for her camera in her Isle of Wight studio, where she created some of the era's most iconic portraits. In addition to portraits, Cameron produced a series of highly theatrical, stylized, sepia-toned photographs known as tableaux, which often starred members of her family as allegorical figures meant to depict a character trait or an emotion.

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These choices and others resulted in pictures that fall outside of the paradigm of photography as a documentary format. Photographers who came later have appreciated what Cameron’s contemporaries could not: the camera can turn away from the material world and its literalism being an artistic interpretation of life.

A. NO CHANGE
B. scientists, many
C. scientists, but many
D. scientists: many

Choice B is the best answer. A comma is needed to connect the introductory independent clause to the clause that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect because the period is followed by a sentence fragment. Choice C is incorrect because the conjunction “but” is unnecessary and doesn’t make sense in the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the colon suggests that the information that follows is important and is being emphasized when in fact it is simply detail that further describes Cameron’s relationship to her subjects.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Portraits by Cameron

A woman emerges from a dark background, half in shadow. She wears a curious expression that, while it doesn’t register happiness, doesn’t entertain sadness either. She regards the viewer frankly, much as a viewer might regard her. This photograph, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was taken in 1867, so it feels immediate, as if its subject were staring back at the viewer in the present moment. It is the work of photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, who is sometimes thought of as a painter who used a camera as her canvas.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. highly theatrical, stylized, sepia-toned, photographs,
C. highly, theatrical, stylized sepia-toned photographs
D. highly theatrical, stylized sepia-toned, photographs

Choice A is the best answer. No change needs to be made since the commas are placed correctly to separate the three qualities of Cameron’s photographs.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they either contain misplaced commas or are missing commas.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Portraits by Cameron

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Which sentence best introduces this paragraph?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Cameron developed an interesting signature style her family didn’t like.
C. In her own time, Cameron’s photographs were roundly criticized.
D. Cameras in Cameron’s time produced very different images from those produced by today’s digital cameras.

Choice C is the best answer. This sentence introduces the main idea addressed in the paragraph, which is that although Cameron’s photographs were widely criticized during her own time, she continued to challenge “expectations for what photography could be.”

Choice A is incorrect because there is no support in the paragraph for the idea that Cameron was “somewhat famous” since “famous” suggests she was well known for positive reasons. Choice B is incorrect because there is no indication that Cameron’s family didn’t like her style. Choice D is incorrect because digital photography is not mentioned in the paragraph and is irrelevant.

Question Difficulty: Medium
Portraits by Cameron

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A. NO CHANGE
B. Besides,
C. In fact,
D. Therefore,

Choice C is the best answer. Earlier in the paragraph it is stated that in Cameron’s photography, “the shortcomings of the art are prominently exhibited.” The sentence introduced by “in fact” reiterates the idea by stating that, contrary to expectation, Cameron actually “endeavored to highlight her medium’s limitations.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not indicate the true relationship between the sentence they introduce and the information provided earlier in the paragraph. “For instance” mistakenly suggests that an example of something will follow. “Besides” mistakenly suggests that new information will follow. “Therefore” incorrectly indicates that a result or conclusion will follow.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Portraits by Cameron

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Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

A. Her way of manipulating light was that it might fall on only half a face; this would reveal the shadows beneath the eyes.

B. She manipulated light in such a way that this manipulation might cause the light to fall on only half a face; that would reveal the shadows beneath the eyes.

C. Manipulating light so that it might fall on only half a face, she was revealing the shadows beneath the eyes.

D. She manipulated light so that it might fall on only half a face, revealing the shadows beneath the eyes.

Choice D is the best answer. It most effectively combines the two sentences by eliminating repetition and creating an active sentence that focuses on Cameron manipulating light.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they either are wordy or repetitive. Additionally, choice A is passive and doesn’t focus on Cameron. Beginning with a participial phrase, as in choice C, takes the focus away from Cameron and instead focuses on the manipulation of light.

Question Difficulty: Medium
Writing and Language: Question 9

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Portraits by Cameron

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Which choice provides information about Cameron that is most in keeping with what the passage has already said about her?

A. NO CHANGE
B. that’s one reason her family wasn’t interested in helping with her hobby.
C. which is why no one knew who she was until recently.
D. which she cleaned up before displaying the portrait.

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because the information after the dash, “imperfections she actively sought out,” supports the idea presented earlier in the passage that Cameron “endeavored to highlight her medium’s limitations and to turn them into virtues.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide information that supports what is said in the passage.

Question Difficulty: Medium
Writing and Language: Question 10

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. A part from the affect
C. Apart from the effect
D. A part from the effect

Choice C is the best answer. “Apart from” is a prepositional phrase that is used correctly in this sentence to mean “besides.” The noun “effect” is used correctly as the object of the preposition to mean “result.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because “affect” is a verb that means “to influence” or a noun that means “affectation.” The noun “effect” is required as the object of the prepositional phrase “apart from.” Choices B and D are incorrect because “a part” can’t introduce a prepositional phrase.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Writing and Language: Question 11

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A. NO CHANGE
B. toward
C. from
D. beside

Choice B is the best answer. A contrast between the lack of appreciation Cameron’s contemporaries had for her work and the appreciation later photographers had for her work is set up in the first part of the sentence. The preposition “toward” continues the contrast when paired with the word “away.” The camera can turn “away” from the literal world and “toward” the artistic world.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide prepositions that indicate the opposite of “away from,” which is needed to describe the contrasting capabilities of a photographer’s camera.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Writing and Language: Question 12

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Speaking in Public


Cities generally 14 adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific 15 approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. 16 Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic 17 interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

After an announcer is chosen, he or she is asked to record hundreds of words or short 18 phrases that will be electronically strung together as needed to form the transit announcements that so many people hear every day. In some cases standard announcements, such as 19 these warning passengers to stay away from the platform edge, are recorded in a single, long take.

20 Once this happens, the announcer’s voice can take on a kind of celebrity of its own. Some announcers have even engaged in creating lighthearted parodies of their transit messages. In 2012, Bernie Wagenblast, one of the voices of New York City’s subway system, was asked by the New
York Times to record a number of fake subway announcements that had been suggested by readers. The messages ranged from comic to romantic, and gritty too; one reader sent in a rap, which Wagenblast duly recorded, with subway noises added to the background for effect. The recorded announcements were then published as audio files. They were published on the newspaper’s website. While parodies like these may never be played over a public announcement system for all to enjoy, they nevertheless help give previously anonymous transit announcers some of the recognition they deserve.

A. NO CHANGE
B. are
C. had been
D. will have been

Choice B is the best answer. The third person plural verb “are” agrees in number with the plural third person nouns “turns” and “tones.” The present tense of the verb is consistent with the verb tense of the other verbs in the paragraph.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they are not present tense verbs. Choice A is a past tense verb, choice C is a past perfect tense verb, and choice D is a future perfect tense verb.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Writing and Language: Question 13

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Speaking in Public


Cities generally 14 adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific 15 approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. 16 Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic 17 interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

After an announcer is chosen, he or she is asked to record hundreds of words or short 18 phrases that will be electronically strung together as needed to form the transit announcements that so many people hear every day. In some cases standard announcements, such as 19 these warning passengers to stay away from the platform edge, are recorded in a single, long take.

20 Once this happens, the announcer’s voice can take on a kind of celebrity of its own. Some announcers have even engaged in creating lighthearted parodies of their transit messages. In 2012, Bernie Wagenblast, one of the voices of New York City’s subway system, was asked by the New...
York Times to record a number of fake subway announcements that had been suggested by readers. The messages ranged from comic to romantic, and gritty too: one reader sent in a rap, which Wagenblast duly recorded, with subway noises added to the background for effect. The recorded announcements were then published as audio files. They were published on the newspaper’s website. While parodies like these may never be played over a public announcement system for all to enjoy, they nevertheless help give previously anonymous transit announcers some of the recognition they deserve.

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 7 should be placed

A. where it is now.
B. after sentence 1.
C. after sentence 4.
D. after sentence 5.

Choice D is the best answer. Sentence 7 should be placed after sentence 5 to make the paragraph logical. Sentence 5 indicates that “it might seem” that almost anyone could provide recorded public address announcements. Sentence 7 gives an example of a typical public address recording to support the idea that what public address recorders have to say appears or “seems” to be simple.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect. Placing sentence 7 anywhere else in the paragraph would result in a confusing, illogical sequence of sentences.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Speaking in Public


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A. NO CHANGE  
B. exercise great care in  
C. take their sweet time when  
D. act with the utmost gravity in

Choice B is the best answer. The phrase “exercise great care in” selecting announcers accurately matches the tone of the passage without understating or overstating the importance of selecting announcers for the transit system.

Choice A is incorrect because “hesitant pace” doesn’t make sense in the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because the tone is too colloquial for the passage. Choice D is incorrect because it exaggerates the care with which transit system announcers are chosen.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Speaking in Public


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A. NO CHANGE
B. approach; consulting
C. approach, they consult
D. approach; and consult

Choice A is the best answer. A comma is needed between the introductory independent clause and the dependent clause that follows it.

Choices B and D are incorrect because a semicolon is used to separate two independent clauses, but these choices don’t contain two independent clauses. Choice C is incorrect because the comma creates a comma splice: two independent clauses can’t be separated by only a comma.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Writing and Language: Question 16

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Speaking in Public


Cities generally [8] adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific [9] approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. [10] Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

After an announcer is chosen, he or she is asked to record hundreds of words or short phrases that will be electronically strung together as needed to form the transit announcements that so many people hear every day. In some cases standard announcements, such as these warning passengers to stay away from the platform edge, are recorded in a single, long take.

Once this happens, the announcer’s voice can take on a kind of celebrity of its own. Some announcers have even engaged in creating lighthearted parodies of their transit messages. In 2012, Bernie Wagenblast, one of the voices of New York City’s subway system, was asked by the New York Times to create a parody of a typical subway announcement. He entitled his work "The Brooklyn Bridge is out from Fourteenth Street" and recorded it in a single, long take. The announcement was later included in a Broadway show called "MTV’s Brooklyn Bowl," which featured a live performance of the parody. The parody was also recorded and released on a CD titled "NYC Transit Announcements," which became a collector’s item among transportation enthusiasts.

https://k12reports.collegeboard.org/reports?orgld=115389
York Times to record a number of fake subway announcements that had been suggested by readers. The messages ranged from comic to romantic, and gritty too: one reader sent in a rap, which Wagenblast duly recorded, with subway noises added to the background for effect. The recorded announcements were then published as audio files. They were published on the newspaper's website. While parodies like these may never be played over a public announcement system for all to enjoy, they nevertheless help give previously anonymous transit announcers some of the recognition they deserve.

Which choice provides a second example that is most similar to the example in the previous sentence?

A. The scientific approach has its merits but is not always the best method to employ.
B. Others hold open auditions and invite feedback from the general public.
C. Transit announcers can therefore take a very long time to be chosen.
D. Some never fully develop a concrete idea of what they are looking for and how to find it.

Choice B is the best answer. The previous sentence contains the example of the scientific approach of consulting screened focus groups. Choice B offers a second example of opening auditions to the general public, who provide feedback.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they don’t offer a second example. They either comment on the first example or on the process without offering another example of how announcers are chosen.

Question Difficulty: Medium
Speaking in Public


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A. NO CHANGE
B. interpretation, but they
C. interpretation, however they
D. interpretation; but

Choice B is the best answer. The comma followed by the conjunction “but” is used correctly to connect the two independent clauses.

Choice A is incorrect because a colon cannot be used to connect two independent clauses. Choice C is incorrect because “however” is not a coordinating conjunction and can’t be used to connect two independent clauses with only a comma. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon can’t be used along with a conjunction to join two independent clauses.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
Speaking in Public


Cities generally adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. 16 Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

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Which choice best expands on the information provided in the sentence?

A. phrases—not at all very lengthy—
B. phrases—such as “northbound” and “local train”—
C. phrases—and they are recorded individually—
D. phrases, with enunciation that is done carefully,

Choice B is the best answer. It best expands on the information in the sentence by adding the specific examples “northbound” and “local train.”

Choice A is incorrect because it is repetitive. “Short” and “not at all very lengthy” convey the same idea. Choice C is incorrect because it adds information that is irrelevant and doesn’t expand on the information already provided. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn’t expand on the information already provided, and it adds new information that isn’t related specifically to information already provided.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Speaking in Public


Cities generally 14 adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific 15 approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. 16 Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic 17 interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

After an announcer is chosen, he or she is asked to record hundreds of words or short 18 phrases that will be electronically strung together as needed to form the transit announcements that so many people hear every day. In some cases standard announcements, such as 19 these warning passengers to stay away from the platform edge, are recorded in a single, long take.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. them
C. this
D. those

Choice D is the best answer. The plural demonstrative pronoun “those” functions as an adjective modifying the noun “announcements.” Idiomatically, “those” is used correctly to refer to people, places, things, or ideas that are at a distance or are being referred to in a general way.

Choice A is incorrect because the demonstrative plural pronoun “these” is usually used to modify people, places, things, or ideas that are nearby or at hand. Choice B is incorrect because the third person personal pronoun “them” can’t be used to introduce a clause. Choice C is incorrect because “this” is the singular form of the plural demonstrative pronoun “these.”

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
Speaking in Public


Cities generally adhere to a hesitant pace when selecting announcers for their transit systems. Some take a scientific approach, consulting carefully screened focus groups to help them decide which voice best suits their population. 16 Selection committees are typically looking for a voice that strikes a certain balance—one that sounds authoritative enough to inspire passengers’ trust and obedience but friendly enough to make passengers feel comfortable riding a bus or subway. The messages themselves may be quite perfunctory and provide little scope for dramatic interpretation: but they still must be read with just the right intonation and emphasis.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. After this,
C. However, sometimes
D. Once the recordings go live,

Choice D is the best answer. This option connects the previous paragraph to this one and clearly identifies what action is taking place: the recordings of the announcements are going live.

Choices A and B are incorrect because of the vagueness of the pronoun “this,” which doesn’t have a clear antecedent. Choice C is incorrect because the conjunction “however” indicates that what will follow will be an exception to what has already been said, not an example.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
Writing and Language: Question 21

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Speaking in Public


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A. NO CHANGE
B. to romantic to gritty;
C. to romantic, and to gritty ones;
D. messages, as well as romantic and gritty;

Choice B is the best answer. The semicolon is used correctly between two independent clauses. The use of the preposition “to” before “romantic” and “gritty” shows the progression of the range of messages and creates parallel structure in a concise manner.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn’t show the progressive range of messages, and the word “too” is unnecessary and confusing. Choice C is incorrect because it’s wordy and contains an unnecessary comma. Furthermore, it doesn’t provide parallel structure. Choice D is incorrect because the wordiness lessens the impact of the sentence. Furthermore, it isn’t parallel in structure.

Question Difficulty: Hard
Speaking in Public


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Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

A. The recorded announcements were then published as audio files, and they were published on the newspaper’s website.
B. The recorded announcements, published as audio files, were then published on the newspaper’s website.
C. The recorded announcements were then published as audio files on the newspaper’s website.
D. The newspaper’s website then published the audio files, which were what the announcements were recorded as.

Choice C is the best answer. It clearly and concisely combines the two sentences without repetition or unnecessary words.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they all contain words that either repeat what has already been said, such as “published” in choices A and B, or they contain words that are unnecessary.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

In most Caribbean coral reefs, sponges are replacing the corals that have long characterized those environments. Sponges are colorful and provide a habitat for other organisms, but they do not contribute to the backbone of a reef like corals do. Corals are made up of and linked together by calcium carbonate, which gives a reef its mechanical strength. The changing balance of life on a reef has attracted the attention of 23 scientists, who are concerned with the important role reefs play in protecting our shorelines.

Sponges compete with other 24 organisms, including other sponges, to occupy space on a reef. One strategy sponges use to compete is the production of chemical compounds that deter the growth of nearby competitors. Until recently, because of reefs’ inaccessibility, scientists have struggled to study the chemical interactions of these organisms.

[1] Sebastian Engel and Joseph Pawlik, 25 biologist’s at the Center for Marine Science, developed a way to investigate the chemical interactions between sponges and their competitors in a more accessible location. [2] The biologists designed small (15 × 15 centimeter) gel 26 plates, 15 cm on each side, each with nine square wells arranged like the squares on a tic-tac-toe board. [3] Two experimental wells in each plate were filled with a gel-like growth medium containing an extract derived from sponges, and two control wells in each plate 27 were filled with only the growth medium. [4] At the end of twenty-one days, they measured the competitor’s overgrowth—the percent of the wells’ surface covered by the competitor. [5] The biologists then attached a small segment of a competing organism to the empty center well and submerged the plate just below the surface of the ocean to facilitate easy retrieval and data collection. 28

After testing many combinations of sponge extracts and competitors, Engel and Pawlik found that 30 percent of the sponge extracts tested have...
chemical detergents inhibiting competitor growth. 29 Extracts of the sponge species Dysidea etheria and Ectyoplasia ferox deterred the growth of all three competitors that were 30 tested Tedania ignis, Lissodendoryx isodictialis, and Haliclona hogarthi. The competing organism L. isodictialis, 31 for example, showed approximately 4 percent overgrowth onto 32 experimental wells containing extract of E. ferox, compared with approximately 42 percent overgrowth onto the plate’s control wells.

Adapted from Sebastian Engel and Joseph R. Pawlik, “Allelopathic Activities of Sponge Extracts.” ©2000 by Inter-Research.

Engel and Pawlik’s gel plates allowed scientists to better understand the emerging role of sponges as 33 dominant organisms in Caribbean coral reefs. This creative experiment outside of a reef environment was a small but important step toward understanding how sponges compete for space on coral reefs.

A. NO CHANGE
B. scientists who are concerned with
C. scientists: who are concerned with
D. scientists; concerning

Choice B is the best answer. Combining the independent and dependent clauses without punctuation correctly indicates that the restrictive clause that follows “scientists” is essential to the sentence.
Choice A is incorrect because it contains a sentence fragment that begins with the word “who.” Choice C is incorrect because the colon is not followed by a quotation or list, which is typical information that follows a colon in a sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a semicolon is used between two independent clauses, not between an independent and dependent clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Easy
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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![Competitor Overgrowth on Gel Plates](image)

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A. NO CHANGE
B. organisms including other sponges;
C. organisms, including other sponges
D. organisms: including other sponges,

Choice A is the best answer. The two commas are used correctly to set off a nonrestrictive clause.
Choice B is incorrect because a semicolon is used to separate two independent clauses. Choice C is incorrect because it is missing the second comma after “sponges,” which is needed to set off the nonrestrictive clause. Choice D is incorrect because the colon serves no function in this sentence, and it can’t be used with the comma to set off the nonrestrictive clause.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

In most Caribbean coral reefs, sponges are replacing the corals that have long characterized those environments. Sponges are colorful and provide a habitat for other organisms, but they do not contribute to the backbone of a reef like corals do. Corals are made up of and linked together by calcium carbonate, which gives a reef its mechanical strength. The changing balance of life on a reef has attracted the attention of 23 scientists, who are concerned with the important role reefs play in protecting our shorelines.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. biologists,
C. biologists
D. biologists’

Choice C is the best answer. The plural word “biologists” correctly refers to Engel and Pawlik in the appositive contained within the commas: “biologists at the Center for Marine Science.”
Choices A and D are incorrect because no possessive form of “biologists,” whether singular or plural, is needed in the sentence because nothing in the following phrase belongs to either or both of the biologists. Choice B is incorrect because no comma is needed to separate “biologists” from the descriptive prepositional phrase that follows it.

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The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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Sponges compete with other 24 organisms, including other sponges, to occupy space on a reef. One strategy sponges use to compete is the production of chemical compounds that deter the growth of nearby competitors. Until recently, because of reefs’ inaccessibility, scientists have struggled to study the chemical interactions of these organisms.

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After testing many combinations of sponge extracts and competitors, Engel and Pawlik found that 30 percent of the sponge extracts tested have...
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Adapted from Sebastian Engel and Joseph R. Pawlik, “Allelopathic Activities of Sponge Extracts.” ©2000 by Inter-Research.

Engel and Pawlik’s gel plates allowed scientists to better understand the emerging role of sponges as 33 dominant organisms in Caribbean coral reefs. This creative experiment outside of a reef environment was a small but important step toward understanding how sponges compete for space on coral reefs.

A. NO CHANGE
B. plates,
C. plates, only 15 cm to a side,
D. plates, having a small size,

Choice B is the best answer. It’s concise and eliminates repetition of the parenthetical information “(15 × 15 centimeter).”
Choices A and C are incorrect because they both contain ideas that are repeated unnecessarily. Choice D is incorrect because it's vague and doesn’t add new information to the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
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![Graph: Competitor Overgrowth on Gel Plates](image)

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A. NO CHANGE
B. filled
C. was filled
D. is filled

Choice A is the best answer. The plural verb “were filled” agrees in number with the plural subject of the independent clause, “wells.” The past tense is consistent with the other past tense verbs in the paragraph.
Choice B is incorrect because it doesn’t create a complete sentence and doesn’t follow the passive voice used in the first part of the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because it’s a singular verb. Choice D is incorrect because the verb tense is present instead of past.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

A. where it is now.
B. after sentence 1.
C. after sentence 2.
D. after sentence 5.

Choice D is the best answer. Sentence 4 should be placed after sentence 5 because sentence
5 continues the description of the experimental process started in sentence 3, and sentence 4 describes the last step in the experimental process.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the steps of the experimental process explained in the paragraph need to be in chronological order. Placing sentence 4 in any of these places in the paragraph would not describe a chronologically logical process.

Question Difficulty: Medium
**The Chemical Defense of the Sponges**

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![Graph showing overgrowth](image)

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Engel and Pawlik’s gel plates allowed scientists to better understand the emerging role of sponges as 33 dominant organisms in Caribbean coral reefs. This creative experiment outside of a reef environment was a small but important step toward understanding how sponges compete for space on coral reefs. At this point, the writer is considering using the figure to support the claim made in the previous sentence. Based on the data in the figure, would this be an effective choice?
A. Yes, because the data show that approximately 30 percent of the experimental wells on both gel plates were covered by competitor overgrowth.

B. Yes, because the data show that control wells on the gel plate with extract of E. ferox deterred the growth of L. isodictialis.

C. No, because the data show that all of the extracts tested have a chemical deterrent.

D. No, because the data do not show numbers or percentages of the total number of sponge extracts tested having the chemical deterents.

Choice D is the best answer. The figure shouldn’t be used to support the claim made in the previous sentence because “the data do not show numbers or percentages of the total number of sponge extracts tested having the chemical deterents.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because the figure shouldn’t be used since the figure doesn’t have “data [that] show numbers or percentages of the total number of sponge extracts tested having the chemical deterents.” Choice C is incorrect. Although the figure shouldn’t be used, it isn’t because the data “show that all of the extracts tested have a chemical deterrent.”

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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A. NO CHANGE
B. tested,
C. tested;
D. tested:

Choice D is the best answer. The colon is used correctly to set off the list of all three competitors that were tested.
Choice A is incorrect because it contains no punctuation that sets off or emphasizes the list of competitors in the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because the comma doesn't emphasize the list of competitors and adds confusion to the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because a semicolon is used to connect two independent clauses, which isn't the case here.

**Question Difficulty**: Medium
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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A. NO CHANGE
B. to point out,
C. in addition,
D. however,

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because the phrase “for example” correctly indicates that the organism L. isodictialis is being offered as an example of the organisms that were used as competitors in the experiment.
Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not show the true relationship between L. isodictialis and the sentence it is being used in. “To point out” does not make sense in the context of the sentence. “In addition” incorrectly indicates that another example was previously given. “However” incorrectly indicates a contrast between the ideas in this sentence and the previous sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
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Questions 23-33 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.
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A. NO CHANGE
B. control wells on the gel plate with extract of E. ferox,
C. control wells on the gel plate with extract of D. etheria,
D. experimental wells containing extract of D. etheria,

Choice D is the best answer. “Experimental wells containing extract of D. etheria” is the most
accurate description of data in the figure.

Choice A is incorrect because approximately 4 percent overgrowth occurred on the experimental wells containing extract of D. etheria, not E. ferox. Choices B and C are incorrect because the 4 percent overgrowth was on experimental wells, not on control wells.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
The Chemical Defense of the Sponges

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A. NO CHANGE
B. the living bosses
C. organisms in charge
D. the alive dominators

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed because “dominant organisms” clearly identifies the sponges, and the tone of the expression is consistent with that of the formal tone used in this passage about a scientific experiment.
Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are neither clear nor concise. The correct expression “dominant organisms” conveys the idea that the sponges exercise the most influence or control on their environment not purposefully, but by virtue of their nature. “The living bosses” and “organisms in charge” convey the idea that the sponges have human qualities. “The alive dominators” (choice D) is awkward and unidiomatic in the context.

**Question Difficulty:** Easy
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

The term “artisan” has justifiably been adopted by food producers who create their foods in small batches, have an intimate knowledge of their ingredients, and 34 the use of techniques that have been handed down for generations. Staff at the Davidovich Bakery in New York City, 35 instead, roll their artisan bagels by hand and boil them in kettles rather than steam them in large batches. Many consumers find artisan foods appealing because of these foods’ high quality and association with tradition. However, because there is no official definition of artisan food, a number of corporations have begun to exploit the term’s prestige by using the term 36 indiscriminately. one national restaurant chain did in 2011 when it promoted its mass-market “Artisan Pizza.” Such unregulated use of the term “artisan” diminishes the integrity of the word and the concept behind it.

A solution to this increasing co-optation of “artisan” by the mainstream food industry is to regulate the labeling of artisan foods in a manner similar to that used for organic foods. For any product to be labeled with the US Department of Agriculture organic seal, it must 37 harmonize with standards set by the USDA and contain 95 percent or more organic content. 38 Certification agencies periodically 39 verify that producers are following USDA organic regulations. Although some consumers and farmers feel that the certification process is not rigorous enough, organic labeling regulations allow consumer groups and small organic producers to bring challenges when they believe the label has been misused.

Creating an official “artisan seal” and regulating businesses that wish to use this seal would similarly help prevent or rectify inappropriate use of the term “artisan.” Admittedly, 41 manufacturers would have to absorb the costs of the certification process. Just as manufacturers today can describe a product without the USDA organic seal as “organic,” so too could industrial producers label a product without an official artisan seal as “artisan.”
Consumers would nonetheless benefit from the existence of a regulated artisan seal, as many companies would be 42 motivated, if not by ethics, at least by a desire to avoid public backlash—to adhere to the new guidelines. Legitimate artisan producers would benefit as well: not only would many industrial producers be 43 dissociated from using the term “artisan” inappropriately, but true artisans (and the consumer groups that support them) could also seek relief when the artisan regulations were violated. Whatever dubious benefits industrial producers gain by labeling their foods “artisan” are more than outweighed by the disadvantages of this practice to consumers and actual artisan producers. 44

A. NO CHANGE
B. use
C. by using
D. are using

Choice B is the best answer. The present tense verb “use” is parallel in structure to the other verbs in the sentence, “create” and “have.”

Choice A is incorrect because “the use” is a noun phrase and a verb is needed to make the list parallel. Choice C is incorrect because “by using” is a prepositional phrase and a verb is needed to make the list parallel. Choice D is incorrect because “are using” is a present progressive verb tense form that is not parallel to the other verbs in the sentence.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
Writing and Language: Question 35

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

The Art of (Mis)Labeling

The term “artisan” has justifiably been adopted by food producers who create their foods in small batches, have an intimate knowledge of their ingredients, and the use of techniques that have been handed down for generations. Staff at the Davidovich Bakery in New York City, instead, roll their artisan bagels by hand and boil them in kettles rather than steam them in large batches. Many consumers find artisan foods appealing because of these foods’ high quality and association with tradition. However, because there is no official definition of artisan food, a number of corporations have begun to exploit the term’s prestige by using the term indiscriminately, one national restaurant chain did in 2011 when it promoted its mass-market “Artisan Pizza.” Such unregulated use of the term “artisan” diminishes the integrity of the word and the concept behind it.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. for example,
C. on the other hand,
D. moreover,

Choice B is the best answer. The prepositional phrase “for example” correctly indicates that the food production techniques employed by the Davidovich Bakery are representative of “artisan” food production.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not show the true relationship between the Davidovich Bakery and artisan food production. “Instead” indicates that one thing is taking the place of something else, which doesn’t make sense in this sentence. “On the other hand” incorrectly indicates that something opposite to what has already been said will follow. “Moreover” incorrectly indicates that something besides or beyond what has already been said will follow.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

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Choice B is the best answer. The word “as” correctly indicates that an example of a corporation that exploits the prestige of the term “artisan” will follow it.

Choice A is incorrect because the comma creates a comma splice. Choice C is incorrect because “while” begins a sentence fragment. Choice D is incorrect because the prepositional phrase “in which” is unidiomatic in this context.

**Question Difficulty**: Medium
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A. NO CHANGE
B. keep pace with
C. blend with
D. conform to

Choice D is the best answer. “Conform to” is idiomatic in this context and means that something is consistent with a set of predetermined rules or specifications. In this case, for any product to be labeled “organic,” it must follow a set of predetermined specifications.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not make sense or are not idiomatic when talking about a product being labeled in a specific way.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

The term “artisan” has justifiably been adopted by food producers who create their foods in small batches, have an intimate knowledge of their ingredients, and 34 the use of techniques that have been handed down for generations. Staff at the Davidovich Bakery in New York City, 35 instead, roll their artisan bagels by hand and boil them in kettles rather than steam them in large batches. Many consumers find artisan foods appealing because of these foods' high quality and association with tradition. However, because there is no official definition of artisan food, a number of corporations have begun to exploit the term’s prestige by using the term 36 indiscriminately, one national restaurant chain did in 2011 when it promoted its mass-market “Artisan Pizza.” Such unregulated use of the term “artisan” diminishes the integrity of the word and the concept behind it.

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At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence.

Because of the complex factors involved in monitoring farming systems, the USDA has not yet been able to develop regulations for the organic label “pasture raised.”

Should the writer make this addition here?

A. Yes, because it qualifies the claim made about the USDA in the paragraph.
B. Yes, because it can be used to challenge the effectiveness of the USDA.
C. No, because it does not detail any of the complex factors it mentions.
D. No, because it diverts attention from the paragraph’s more general discussion of organic labeling.

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence should not be added because the topic of the paragraph is a general discussion of organic labeling and this sentence has to do with the fact that the USDA “has not yet been able to develop regulations for the organic label ‘pasture raised.’”

Choices A and B are incorrect because the sentence should not be added for any reason since it is not relevant to the paragraph. Choice C is incorrect because the fact that no details of the “complex factors” are mentioned doesn’t matter since the sentence is irrelevant to the paragraph.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

The term “artisan” has justifiably been adopted by food producers who create their foods in small batches, have an intimate knowledge of their ingredients, and the use of techniques that have been handed down for generations. Staff at the Davidovich Bakery in New York City, roll their artisan bagels by hand and boil them in kettles rather than steam them in large batches. Many consumers find artisan foods appealing because of these foods' high quality and association with tradition. However, because there is no official definition of artisan food, a number of corporations have begun to exploit the term’s prestige by using the term indiscriminately, one national restaurant chain did in 2011 when it promoted its mass-market “Artisan Pizza.” Such unregulated use of the term “artisan” diminishes the integrity of the word and the concept behind it.

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A. NO CHANGE
B. authorize
C. authenticate
D. ratify

Choice A is the best answer. No change is needed since the word “verify” is used correctly to indicate that certification agencies periodically check to see that production methods follow the labeling regulations.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not make sense within the context of the sentence. “Authorize” means to give permission, “authenticate” means to identify something as real, and “ratify” means to pass something such as a law.

**Question Difficulty:** Medium
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A. NO CHANGE
B. enough, Organic
C. enough; organic
D. enough, organic

Choice D is the best answer. The comma is used correctly to separate the introductory dependent clause from the independent clause that follows it.

Choices A and C are incorrect because neither a colon nor a semicolon can be used to separate a dependent clause from an independent clause. Choice B is incorrect because it creates a sentence fragment before the period.

Question Difficulty: Medium
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

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Which choice most effectively sets up the explanation provided in the next sentence?

A. NO CHANGE
B. consumers would benefit from the enhanced knowledge that official seals guarantee.
C. the creation of such a seal would not eliminate unauthorized uses altogether.
D. regulated seals would limit the possibility of misleading advertisements.

Choice C is the best answer. It indicates that creating an official “artisan seal” would not “eliminate unauthorized uses altogether.” The next sentence gives an example of a similar regulation that has not eliminated all unauthorized use of the label “organic.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not relate to the next sentence. Choice A mentions the cost of the certification process, choice B deals with the benefits of labeling to consumers, and choice D has to do with misleading advertisements.

Question Difficulty: Hard
The Art of (Mis)Labeling

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A. NO CHANGE
B. motivated—if not by ethics—
C. motivated. If not by ethics,
D. motivated—if not by ethics,

Choice D is the best answer. The dash after “motivated” is needed as the first dash in the pair of dashes that is used to set off the nonrestrictive clause beginning with “if” and ending with “backlash.”

Choice A is incorrect because a dash is needed after “motivated” to pair with the one after “backlash” to set off the nonrestrictive clause. Choice B is incorrect because the dashes do not include the entire nonrestrictive clause, which should begin with “if” and end with “backlash.” Choice C is incorrect because the period creates sentence fragments.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
Writing and Language: Question 43

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

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A. NO CHANGE  
B. dissuaded  
C. dispelled  
D. disseminated

Choice B is the best answer. The word “dissuaded” means to be persuaded not to do something. This makes sense in the context of persuading producers to properly label their products. Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not make sense in the sentence. “Dissociated” means separated or removed from association, “dispelled” means ridded one’s mind of, and “disseminated” means scattered widely. None of these choices conveys the idea of persuading someone not to do something.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard
The term “artisan” has justifiably been adopted by food producers who create their foods in small batches, have an intimate knowledge of their ingredients, and the use of techniques that have been handed down for generations. Staff at the Davidovich Bakery in New York City, instead, roll their artisan bagels by hand and boil them in kettles rather than steam them in large batches. Many consumers find artisan foods appealing because of these foods’ high quality and association with tradition. However, because there is no official definition of artisan food, a number of corporations have begun to exploit the term’s prestige by using the term indiscriminately, one national restaurant chain did in 2011 when it promoted its mass-market “Artisan Pizza.” Such unregulated use of the term “artisan” diminishes the integrity of the word and the concept behind it.

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The writer is considering adding this sentence as a conclusion to the passage.

After all, market researcher Datamonitor found that between 2008 and 2011, more than 800 new food products were labeled “artisan” in some way.

Should the writer make this addition here?

A. Yes, because it helps the reader understand the magnitude of the labeling issue the passage discusses.

B. Yes, because it substantiates claims made in the passage about how widespread the use of the “artisan” label is.

C. No, because neither the specificity of the information nor its relationship to what is presented earlier is appropriate.

D. No, because it does not distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate artisan labels.

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence should not be added as a conclusion to the passage because the information provides details that are too specific and add nothing necessary to the information already presented in the passage. A conclusion should restate or summarize the passage in general.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the sentence should not be added as a conclusion to the passage for any reason. Choice D is incorrect because the reason offered is not accurate. The sentence should not be added because it is too specific and does not appropriately conclude the passage.

**Question Difficulty:** Hard