Objective

1.1 Identifies a topic sentence or thesis statement

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) North and South America are large continents containing mountain ranges, various bodies of water, and deserts. (2) Both continents also have vast plains as well as fertile valleys. (3) _____________________________.

(4) The process of colonization was different in each continent. (5) Unlike North America, South America was colonized by two countries, Spain and Portugal, which were ruled by kings who had absolute power. (6) The pioneers who came to North America came to stay; their aim was to carve out new lives in the wilderness, free of European control, under a new form of government. (7) The Pilgrims came in 1620 and landed at Plymouth Rock. (8) On the other hand, most early Spanish and Portuguese explorers came to locate new resources and return home. (9) Finally, there were elements of unity in North America from the beginning that did not exist in South America. (10) Despite geographical similarities, the cultures of North and South America evolved in vastly different ways. (11) While the differences are still great, the resulting cultures of both continents have been enriched.

1. Which of the following sentences, when inserted in the blank labeled number 3, would serve as the best thesis statement for the entire passage?

A. The physical similarities between North and South America are abundant and remarkable.
B. These continents have many differences and similarities in their geographic characteristics.
C. Even though these continents have many physical similarities, a number of historical differences exist.
D. Since the time of the early fifteenth-century explorers, the natural beauty of the continents has always attracted European visitors.

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) _____________________________.

(2) Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. (3) Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. (4) Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland. (5) The drying up of the swampland reduces the supply of fresh water for South Florida residents; in addition, the alteration
2. Which sentence, if inserted in the blank labeled number 1, is the best main idea or topic sentence for the passage?

A. Citizens face several serious environmental problems.
B. Draining the swampland in Florida reduces the supply of fresh water and threatens the survival of aquatic species.
C. Florida will have fewer resources in the twenty-first century.
D. Florida’s citizens face several serious environmental problems that may leave the state with fewer resources in the twenty-first century.

1.2 Recognizes adequate support provided by generalized and specific evidence

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) North and South America are large continents containing mountain ranges, various bodies of water, and deserts. (2) Both continents also have vast plains as well as fertile valleys. (3) Even though these continents have many physical similarities, a number of historical differences exist.

(4) The process of colonization was different in each continent. (5) Unlike North America, South America was colonized by two countries, Spain and Portugal, which were ruled by kings who had absolute power. (6) The pioneers who came to North America came to stay; their aim was to carve out new lives in the wilderness, free of European control, under a new form of government. (7) The Pilgrims came in 1620 and landed at Plymouth Rock. (8) On the other hand, most early Spanish and Portuguese explorers came to locate new resources and return home. (9) Finally, there were elements of unity in North America from the beginning that did not exist in South America. (10) Despite geographical similarities, the cultures of North and South America evolved in vastly different ways. (11) While the differences are still great, the resulting cultures of both continents have been enriched.
3. Which of the numbered sentences is not supported by sufficient specific details?

A. sentence 1  
B. sentence 5  
C. sentence 9  
D. sentence 10

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) Florida’s citizens face several serious environmental problems that may leave the state with fewer resources in the twenty-first century. (2) Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. (3) Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. (4) Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland. (5) The drying up of the swampland reduces the supply of fresh water for South Florida residents; in addition, the alteration of this habitat threatens the survival of aquatic species and waterfowl. (6) A third problem results when offshore drilling fouls the coastlines and kills marine life. (7) Finally, the gravest environmental problem is the rapid rate of urban and suburban development. (8) This development results in excessive demands on the state’s natural resources, especially land and water. (9) Moreover, billboards are another source of revenue for the state. (10) Unless citizens and government officials cooperate to address these serious environmental problems, Florida’s resources soon may be inadequate to support its growing population.

4. Which sentence provides the specific support for sentence 4 in the passage?

A. Florida’s citizens face several serious environmental problems that may leave the state with fewer resources in the twenty-first century (sentence 1).  
B. The drying up of the swampland reduces the supply of fresh water for South Florida residents; in addition, the alteration of this habitat threatens the survival of aquatic species and waterfowl (sentence 5).  
C. This development results in excessive demands on the state’s natural resources, especially land and water (sentence 8).  
D. Unless citizens and government officials cooperate to address these serious environmental problems, Florida’s resources soon may be inadequate to support its growing population (sentence 10).

1.3 Arranges ideas and supporting details in a logical pattern

5. Select the arrangement of sentences 2, 3, and 4 that provides the most logical sequence of ideas and supporting details in the paragraph. If no change is needed, select option A.

A. Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland. Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water.
B. Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland.

C. Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland. Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways.

D. Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland.

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

1. Presenting the lecture for the third time that day, the professor looked obviously tired as he walked to the lectern.

2. His voice grew stronger, his gestures more emphatic.

3. The class was soon entranced because of his enthusiasm for the quantum theory of physics.

6. Which is the best placement for the sentence below to make the sequence of ideas in the paragraph clearer?

   Within moments of beginning the lecture, however, he seemed energized by the material he conveyed.

   A. before sentence 1
   B. immediately before sentence 2
   C. immediately before sentence 3
   D. after sentence 3

1.4 Identifies supporting material that is relevant or irrelevant to the topic sentence or thesis statement

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

1. North and South America are large continents containing mountain ranges, various bodies of water, and deserts. (2) Both continents also have vast plains as well as fertile valleys. (3) Even though these continents have many physical similarities, a number of historical differences exist.

4. The process of colonization was different in each continent. (5) Unlike North America, South America was colonized by two countries, Spain and Portugal, which were ruled by kings who had absolute power. (6) The pioneers who came to North America came to stay; their aim was to carve out new lives in the wilderness, free of European control, under a new form of government. (7) The Pilgrims came in 1620 and landed at Plymouth Rock.

8. On the other hand, most early Spanish and Portuguese explorers came to locate new resources and return home.

9. Finally, there were elements of unity in North America from the beginning that did not exist in South America.

10. Despite geographical similarities, the cultures of North and South America evolved in vastly different ways.

11. While the differences are still great, the resulting cultures of both continents have been enriched.
7. Which numbered sentence is least relevant to the passage?

A. sentence 4  
B. sentence 5  
C. sentence 7  
D. sentence 9

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) Florida’s citizens face several serious environmental problems that may leave the state with fewer resources in the twenty-first century. (2) Garbage litters the streets, the beaches, and the waterways. (3) Even proper disposal of this litter pollutes the state’s air, land, and water. (4) Another problem is the draining of swampland for irrigation of farmland. (5) The drying up of the swampland reduces the supply of fresh water for South Florida residents; in addition, the alteration of this habitat threatens the survival of aquatic species and waterfowl. (6) A third problem results when offshore drilling fouls the coastlines and kills marine life. (7) Finally, the gravest environmental problem is the rapid rate of urban and suburban development. (8) This development results in excessive demands on the states natural resources, especially land and water. (9) Moreover, billboards are another source of revenue for the state. (10) Unless citizens and government officials cooperate to address these serious environmental problems, Floridas resources soon may be inadequate to support its growing population.

8. Which numbered sentence is least relevant to the passage?

A. sentence 7  
B. sentence 8  
C. sentence 9  
D. sentence 10

1.5 Recognizes effective transitional devices within the context of a passage

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the questions. (Note: Intentional errors may have been included in this passage.)

(1) North and South America are large continents containing mountain ranges, various bodies of water, and deserts. (2) Both continents also have vast plains as well as fertile valleys. (3) Even though these continents have many physical similarities, a number of historical differences exist.

(4) The process of colonization was different in each continent. (5) Unlike North America, South America was colonized by two countries, Spain and Portugal, which were ruled by kings who had absolute power. (6) The pioneers who came to North America came to stay; their aim was to carve out new lives in the wilderness, free of
European control, under a new form of government. (7) __________, most early Spanish and Portuguese explorers came to locate new resources and return home. (8) Finally, there were elements of unity in North America from the beginning that did not exist in South America.

(9) Despite geographical similarities, the cultures of North and South America evolved in vastly different ways. (10) While the differences are still great, the resulting cultures of both continents have been enriched.

9. Which word or phrase, if inserted in the blank in sentence 7, would make the relationship of the ideas in sentences 6 and 7 clearer?
   A. Also
   B. Furthermore
   C. Similarly
   D. On the other hand

2.1 Chooses the appropriate word or expression in context:

DIRECTIONS: Choose the most effective word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence(s).

10. Although down by 21 points at halftime, the Bills ________ and won by a field goal.
   A. intervened
   B. persisted
   C. relented

11. Motivated by _____, she insisted on changing the flat tire herself.
   A. self-admiration
   B. conceit
   C. pride

2.2 Recognizes commonly confused or misused words or phrases:

Examinee will respond to test items that measure the ability to discriminate among words and phrases including but not limited to the following:

- a, an
- accept, except
- advice, advise
- affect, effect
- all ready, already
- alright, all right
- alot, a lot
- among, between
- amount, number
- are, our
- capital, capitol
cite, site, sight
course, course
complement, compliment
explicit, implicit
good, well
idea, ideal
its, it's
loose, lose
passed, past
precede, proceed
principal, principle
right, rite, write
sense, since
set, sit
should of, should have
stationary, stationery
suppose to, supposed to
than, then
there, their, they’re
threw, through
to, too, two
weather, whether
were, where
who’s, whose
your, you’re
SAMPLE FLORIDA BASIC SKILLS EXIT PRACTICE TEST  WRITING

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in an underlined portion. If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

12. The students a whose art projects were on display were eager to see how b their paintings would c effect the audience.

A. who’s 
B. there 
C. affect 
D. No change is necessary.

13. Everyone a except the b principal is c suppose to attend the meeting.

A. accept 
B. principle 
C. supposed to 
D. No change is necessary.

3.1 Places modifiers correctly:
DIRECTIONS: Choose the sentence in which the modifiers are correctly placed.

14. A. Paul bought a donut from the local bakery filled with his favorite fruit. 
B. Filled with his favorite fruit, Paul bought a donut from the local bakery. 
C. Paul bought a donut filled with his favorite fruit from the local bakery. 

15. A. Attempting to replace the faulty wiring in the old building, a fire quickly started in the basement. 
B. As the electricians attempted to replace the faulty wiring in the old building, a fire quickly started in the basement. 
C. A fire quickly started in the basement attempting to replace the faulty wiring in the old building.

3.2 Uses coordination and subordination effectively
DIRECTIONS: Choose the most effective word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence(s).

16. The tennis players worked hard in practice; _______, they didn’t win the tournament.

A. however 
B. furthermore 
C. therefore 
D. accordingly

DIRECTIONS: Choose the sentence that expresses the thought most clearly and effectively and that has no errors in structure.

17. A. Because it was raining, we left the beach and went to a movie. 
B. Although it was raining, we left the beach and went to a movie. 
C. It was raining because we left the beach and went to a movie.
3.3 Recognizes parallel structure

DIRECTIONS: Choose the sentence that has no errors in structure.

18.  
A. People need to feel wanted and as if they are accepted.
B. People need to feel wanted and accepted.
C. People need to feel wanted and accepting.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct word or phrase within the context suggested by the sentence.

19. Even in this era of video games, most children still like to climb trees, run races, and ____________ in the pool.
   A. swim
   B. swimming
   C. they swim
   D. being able to swim

3.4 Avoids fragments, comma splices, and fused sentences

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

20. In *The Joy Luck Club*, a national bestseller, Amy Tan explores the world of Chinese-American families, and we realize how similar all families are.
   A. Club a national
   B. —seller, Amy
   C. families and
   D. No change is necessary.

21. Makita tapped the ball softly into the cup, with that action she won the Southeastern Women’s Amateur Golf Tournament.
   A. cup, and with
   B. cup and with;
   C. cup and, with
   D. No change is necessary.

22. Helen glanced at her watch four times during the lecture time seemed to crawl rather than fly.
   A. during the lecture, time
   B. during the lecture; time
   C. during the lecture time,
   D. No change is necessary.

4.1 Uses standard verb forms

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

23. Because the teacher had assigned a research paper, the student should have went to the library instead of watching television.
   A. have gone
   B. had went
   C. of gone
   D. No change is necessary.
24. The paramedics A**lay** the accident victims on the stretchers and B**waited** for the demolished vehicles C**to be removed** from the intersection.

   A. laid  
   B. waiting  
   C. to remove  
   D. No change is necessary.

4.2 Avoids inappropriate shifts in verb tense

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

25. In the 1800s, cotton was A**produced** almost entirely by manual labor. In this century, it is B**grown** scientifically; few workers but large quantities of supplies and sophisticated equipment C**were needed**.

   A. produce  
   B. growing  
   C. are needed  
   D. No change is necessary.

26. Since its founding over a decade ago, Habitat for Humanity helped to build homes for the poor throughout the country.

   A. helps  
   B. is helping  
   C. has helped  
   D. No change is necessary.

27. I A**realized** later that Bill B**was** the repairperson who accidentally C**had broken** my kitchen window.

   A. had realized  
   B. will be  
   C. had broke  
   D. No change is necessary.

4.3 Maintains agreement between subject and verb

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

28. The report that A**covers** the results of several months of investigation B**are** in the blue folders that the clerk C**has** already filed.

   A. cover  
   B. is  
   C. have  
   D. No change is necessary.

29. There A**has been** several bike accidents on that street since the stop sign B**was removed** and the carelessness of bikers C**has increased**.

   A. have been  
   B. is removed  
   C. have increased  
   D. No change is necessary.
4.4 Maintains agreement between pronoun and antecedent

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

30. The United States Attorney in Miami has filed suit against the State of Florida for violating their own pollution laws.

A. its
B. his
C. her
D. No change is necessary.

31. Residents and their state representative are concerned about the pollution of the coastal areas. As urban development increases, they fear the sea turtle will lose their habitat.

A. his
B. he fears
C. its
D. No change is necessary.

4.5 Avoids inappropriate pronoun shifts

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

32. When the birdwatcher is observing in the field, they must keep still for long periods of time.

A. we
B. it
C. she
D. No change is necessary.

33. Tourists can travel to Costa Rica by flying from Miami to the capital, San Jose. Once there, they can rent a car, but you may find taking the train will add to their adventure.

A. you
B. they
C. your
D. No change is necessary.

4.6 Maintains clear pronoun references

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

34. Scott, an environmental studies major, is concerned about the vanishing wilderness; they are building miles of new roads and converting acres of woodland to shopping malls.

A. developers are building
B. he is building
C. it is building
D. No change is necessary.
35. Dr. May told Susan Chen, her assistant, that she would have to complete the experiment before leaving, no matter how long it took.
   A. their
   B. she, Susan,
   C. they
   D. No change is necessary.

4.7 Uses proper case forms

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

36. Although Barbara and me had reserved seats for the concert, we found two friends sitting in them instead.
   A. I
   B. us
   C. theirs
   D. No change is necessary.

37. My little sister sat between Andrea and me as we watched the team defend its title.
   A. I
   B. us
   C. it
   D. No change is necessary.

4.8 Uses adjectives and adverbs correctly

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

38. Their shocking behavior upset us deeply.
   A. shockingly
   B. badly
   C. deep
   D. No change is necessary.

39. The large hound dog with wide, sad eyes looked dolefully at us.
   A. sadly
   B. sadder
   C. saddest
   D. No change is necessary.

4.9 Uses appropriate degree forms

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

40. Jack is the tallest of the two athletes.
   A. taller
   B. more tall
   C. most tall
   D. No change is necessary.
SAMPLE FLORIDA BASIC SKILLS EXIT PRACTICE TEST  

WRITING

DIRECTIONS: Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

41. He finished the test ______ than anyone else in the class.

A. quickest
B. more quickly
C. most quickly
D. No change is necessary.

4.10 Uses standard spelling

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

42. Colin’s college graduation was a momentous occasion for the whole family.

A. occasion
B. ocassion
C. occasion
D. No change is necessary.

43. She was ^hopping to ^receive her ^acceptance into the graduate program by March.

A. hoping
B. receive
C. acceptance
D. No change is necessary.

4.11 Uses standard punctuation

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

44. A Although Natalie and I had reserved seats for the B concert we found the seats were already C occupied when we arrived.

A. Although, Natalie
B. concert, we
C. occupied, when
D. No change is necessary.

45. The members of the international ^club, and their dates went to an outdoor ^concert, but a ^sudden thunderstorm ruined the event.

A. club and
B. concert but
C. sudden, thunderstorm
D. No change is necessary.

46. Basketball players clearly need ^speed, size, and endurance; ^however, without quick ^thinking, they will not be effective.

A. speed size
B. however without
C. thinking; they
D. No change is necessary.
DIRECTIONS: Choose the sentence that is correctly punctuated.

47. 
A. The mens floors in three dorms were repainted by the time school began in August.
B. The men’s floors in three dorms’ were repainted by the time school began in August.
C. The mens’ floors in three dorms were repainted by the time school began in August.
D. The men’s floors in three dorms were repainted by the time school began in August.

4.12 Uses standard capitalization

DIRECTIONS: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

48. Students in Professor Garcia’s Algebra class should seek help in the learning center, located in the west end of the building.

A. professor Garcia’s
B. Algebra
C. West
D. No change is necessary.

49. Notre Dame Cathedral, built before the Renaissance, was mother’s favorite historical site to visit.

A. cathedral
B. renaissance
C. Mother’s
D. No change is necessary.

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