



## HSPT Preparation Program: Complimentary Language Section Excerpt

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Thank you for downloading RedwoodPrep's complimentary Language Section Excerpt!

The following Language excerpt reviews the major rules and skills covered in the Language section of the HSPT – Capitalization, Punctuation, Usage, Spelling and Composition. In addition, these materials include a study plan, four practice quizzes, an answer key, and an in-depth explanation for each answer. This packet cannot substitute for eight or more years of language education in elementary school, but it can help students remember and review many of the key rules that will be tested on the exam.

This material is excerpted from RedwoodPrep's preparation manual; the complete version is provided to students who take RedwoodPrep's highly-popular and effective preparation program for the High School Placement Exam (or HSPT). Participating students receive best-in-class teaching and a manual which covers all five areas of the exam in addition to Language. Please visit us online at [www.RedwoodPrep.com](http://www.RedwoodPrep.com) to sign-up for this course and read the next page for more information on what our course offers.

We wish you all the best with your high school admission's process and HSPT exam,

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## **RedwoodPrep's HSPT Program – Brief Overview**

### **General Course Outline:**

Redwood's HSPT course runs for four days and is taught by some of the best local high school instructors from your area. Visit our site and click on the 'Find Your Instructor' tab to learn more about your instructors.

On Day 1, students take an assessment exam modeled on the HSPT to highlight particular areas the student needs to work on. Over the next three days, our instructors review all 5 sections of the exam - Verbal Skills, Mathematics, Reading, Language, and Quantitative Skills. Each section is broken down into three to five question types, and the students are taught the content and problem-solving skills necessary to solve each type of question. The classroom experience is high-energy, fast-paced and focused. Students receive daily homework assignments to help hone their problem solving skills and concept knowledge. Students are encouraged to take the provided full-length Practice Exam to get additional practice.

### **Key areas of emphasis include:**

#### **Time Management**

Time management is crucial for the HSPT and all standardized exams. RedwoodPrep trains students to monitor, manage and use time effectively.

#### **Problem-solving Strategies**

Using a proven, structured system, RedwoodPrep teaches students how to effectively and efficiently answer every problem on the exam. For all the HSPT's question types, RedwoodPrep offers a specific, structured strategy students can use to frame, breakdown and answer problems.

#### **Guided, Intensive Content Learning**

RedwoodPrep focuses students to deepen and strengthen their content knowledge during the four day class. In-class problems and quizzes along with daily homework assignments help drive student learning. The process helps prepare students for the exam and burnishes the skills and concepts they have learned during their academic career thus far.

#### **Practice Exams and Question Banks**

RedwoodPrep provides large question banks for every question type on the HSPT. Two full-length practice exams and answer keys provide additional preparation. In total, the preparation packet includes over a thousand representative practice problems for students to work on.

#### **Mental Preparation and Confidence Building**

Low confidence, anxiety and a high-stress mentality can de-rail a prepared student. RedwoodPrep uses in-class exercises and awareness techniques to help build mental preparation and confident so students can put their best foot forward on test day.

## **About the Authors & RedwoodPrep Founders**

### **Greg Owsley**

Greg chairs the Mathematics Department at Rockhurst High School, the Jesuit high school in Kansas City, Missouri. Greg earned a BS in Mathematics and a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Rochester, an MS in Education from the University of Missouri Kansas City and has taken a significant number of additional graduate Mathematics classes at the University of Missouri Kansas City. In addition to chairing Rockhurst's math department and running RedwoodPrep, Greg leads Rockhurst's mathematics team, chess team and juggling team. In his spare time, Greg continues to improve his juggling skills and performs in a variety of local Kansas City art shows and festivals. Greg enjoys international travel and counts his visits to South America, Europe and the Middle East as personal highlights.

### **John Nantz**

John studied at Stanford University where he earned a BA in Economics, a minor in Mathematics and an MS in Management Science and Engineering. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa. John graduated from Rockhurst High School, the Jesuit high school in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2005. While at Rockhurst, John found a passion for helping others learn. John initially tutored individual students but ended up instructing classes for standardized exams – including the SAT, ACT and HSPT – and the college admissions process. After graduating from Stanford, John worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company, a leading global consulting firm, in the company's San Francisco office. He is now working full-time on a book. For fun, John enjoys long and sometimes challenging trips which have included a bike trip across America and three month trips in Europe and Asia.

## HSPT Language Section: Instruction

The HSPT Language section contains sixty questions and lasts 25 minutes.

Written English is governed by an extensive set of grammatical rule, which the HSPT Language section tests. The section breaks questions into three general question categories: 1) Capitalization, Punctuation, and Usage, 2) Spelling, and 3) Composition.

This section of your preparation materials includes two major parts. First, we review key rules tested in each of the three sections. Not every key rule will be tested on an HSPT exam, but many will be. We also include a group of ‘Other Rules’ which show up on the HSPT exam but less than key rules. To perform well on the Language section, these rules need to be memorized and understood.

Students can test their knowledge using the four practice quizzes that follow the presentation of rules. These quizzes test all of the provided rules and are representative of the actual HSPT language section. An answer key and extensive answer explanations are provided.

These preparation materials focus on many of the key tested topics but are not completely comprehensive. Interested students are encouraged to review grammar books and / or lessons from school to sharpen their skills.

## I. Capitalization, Punctuation, and Usage

The first question type appearing in the Language section tests students' understanding of Capitalization, Punctuation, and Usage (here, *usage* can be understood to mean *grammar*). Capitalization tests when a word should and should not be capitalized. Punctuation focuses on the proper use of English punctuation including the comma (,), period (.), semicolon (;), colon (:), and quotes ("&"). Usage tests basic grammar rules.

The key to success is efficiently and effectively recognizing grammar violations. The following rules highlight some of the key violations for which you should look.

### ***Capitalization:***

The term *capitalization* refers to the convention of writing some letters in uppercase or *capital* letters (e.g. 'N') rather than lowercase letters (e.g. 'n') in order to indicate that the capitalized word has some special meaning.

#### *Key Rules:*

1. Names of holidays, days of the week, and months of the year must be capitalized.

Incorrect: I like to visit my grandparents on **christmas**.

Correct: I like to visit my grandparents on **Christmas**.

2. Titles, special roles, or occupations must be capitalized when used in conjunction with a person's name or when used in direct address.

In conjunction with person's name:

Incorrect: I was pulled over by **officer** Bradley because I was speeding.

Correct: I was pulled over by **Officer** Bradley because I was speeding.

Incorrect: I bought **aunt** Sarah a gray scarf.

Correct: I bought **Aunt** Sarah a gray scarf.

In direct address—to indicate that a sentence is directed at the person named:

Incorrect: May I turn my essay in late, **professor** Smith?

Correct: May I turn my essay in late, **Professor** Smith?

3. When a direct quotation contains a complete sentence, the first word of that quoted sentence must be capitalized.

Incorrect: Hayley asked, "**why** hasn't the moon risen yet?"

Correct: Hayley asked, "**Why** hasn't the moon risen yet?"

*Other Rules to Know:*

4. Capitalize the four cardinal directions only when they refer to a specific place.

Incorrect: My classmate is from the **south**.  
Correct: My classmate is from the **South**.

Incorrect: We should drive **South** for three hours.  
Correct: We should drive **south** for three hours.

5. Capitalize the first word of a complete sentence.

Incorrect: **the** car's doors were unlocked.  
Correct: **The** car's doors were unlocked.

5. Capitalize the names of countries.

Incorrect: I can't wait to visit france.  
Correct: I can't wait to visit France.

***Punctuation:***

The term *punctuation* refers to the convention of placing non-letter characters like commas (,) and periods (.) in a sentence to indicate the relationships among parts of the sentence.

*Key Rules:*

1. Punctuation of direct quotations:
  - a. When a sentence includes both quoted and non-quoted material, separate the two with commas. Commas are written outside of opening quotations and inside of closing quotations.

Incorrect: He told me "Stop by the store on your way home."

Correct: He told me, "Stop by the store on your way home."

Incorrect: He told me ", Stop by the store on your way home."

Correct: He told me, "Stop by the store on your way home."

Incorrect: "I don't remember what color her coat was", said Jessica.

Correct: "I don't remember what color her coat was," said Jessica.

- b. Periods and commas must be written inside of closing quotation marks, but colons and semicolons must be written outside of closing quotation marks.

Incorrect: He warned me, "Don't drive too fast".

Correct: He warned me, "Don't drive too fast."

Incorrect: He warned me, "Don't drive too fast;" I didn't listen.

Correct: He warned me, "Don't drive too fast"; I didn't listen.

- c. Question marks and exclamation points are written inside of closing quotation marks if a question or exclamation is being quoted. If an entire sentence (inclusive of a direct quotation) forms a question or exclamation, the question mark or exclamation point is written outside of closing quotation marks.

Incorrect: He asked, "Why is their flag yellow"?

Correct: He asked, "Why is their flag yellow?"

Incorrect: Why would he shout, "Come home now?"

Correct: Why would he shout, "Come home now"?

2. When two independent clauses are joined by a conjunction, a comma must precede the conjunction. (Note: the comma can be omitted only if both independent clauses are very short and there is no danger of confusion.)

Incorrect: I never cared about protecting myself from germs but now I am very careful.

Correct: I never cared about protecting myself from germs, but now I am very careful.

3. When two directly related independent clauses are joined into a single sentence without a conjunction, a semicolon must be used.

Incorrect: I've read three novels for my English class I didn't like any of them.

Correct: I've read three novels for my English class; I didn't like any of them.



*Other Rules to Know:*

4. Follow each word in a series with a comma, except in the case that one such word ends a sentence. (Some writers prefer to follow the second-to-last word in a series with a comma; some prefer not to do so. This is a matter of style and not of correct usage. Either is correct.)

Incorrect: I need a backpack that is big durable and waterproof.  
Correct: I need a backpack that is big, durable, and waterproof.  
Correct: I need a backpack that is big, durable and waterproof.

5. Separate appositives from surrounding text with commas. An appositive is a word or phrase that *does not include a verb* and adds some description to the relevant noun.

Incorrect: Brad a lawyer at my office hit a home run at the softball game.  
Correct: Brad, a lawyer at my office, hit a home run at the softball game.

6. Indicate the titles of short works—like poems, short stories, titles of articles, and songs—with quotation marks.

Incorrect: We read Hemingway's In Another Country in class.  
Correct: We read Hemingway's "In Another Country" in class.

7. Use a comma to separate an introductory phrase of five or more words from the rest of a sentence

Incorrect: When the chartered school bus arrived all passengers disembarked.  
Correct: When the chartered school bus arrived, all passengers disembarked.

8. Conclude abbreviations with a period.

Incorrect: Wallace Glass Co made all of these windows.  
Correct: Wallace Glass Co. made all of these windows.

***Usage:***

The term *usage* refers to the way that words are used in sentences and it is a synonym for grammar.

***Key Rules:***

1. Adverbs modify verbs. Adjectives modify nouns.

Incorrect: The horse raced **quick** along the track.  
Correct: The horse raced **quickly** along the track.

Incorrect: She is a **gracefully** woman.  
Correct: She is a **graceful** woman.

2. *Homophones* are pairs of words that are pronounced similarly but have different meanings. Be careful to use the correct homophone in each given sentence.

Incorrect: **Its** a good thing we got here early.  
Correct: **It's** a good thing we got here early.

Incorrect: We rode a **slay** across the snow.  
Correct: We rode a **sleigh** across the snow.

Incorrect: The whole team was looking for the **nurses** clipboard.  
Correct: The whole team was looking for the **nurse's** clipboard.

3. Use only objective pronouns to function as objects in sentences and subjective pronouns to function as subjects in sentences.

Incorrect: He sent the files to **he** and **I**.  
Correct: He sent the files to **him** and **me**.

Incorrect: **Her** and Darcy began the meeting.  
Correct: **She** and Darcy began the meeting.

*Other rules to know:*

4. Do not follow a negative word with a second negative word to add emphasis. (double negative).

Incorrect: There **wasn't nothing** we could have done.  
Correct: There **wasn't anything** we could have done.

5. The verb in a given sentence must be conjugated so to correspond to the number of the sentence's subject.

Incorrect: We **sells** radios at our store.  
Correct: We **sell** radios at our store.

6. A pronoun must correspond in number to the noun to which it refers.

Incorrect: An **employee** shouldn't wear **their** favorite shoes to work.  
Correct: An **employee** shouldn't wear **his** favorite shoes to work.

7. The conditional perfect tense is constructed using *wouldhave*, not *would of*.

Incorrect: He would **of** arrived on time, but it was snowing.

Correct: He would **have** arrived on time, but it was snowing.

## II. Spelling

The second question type appearing in the Language section tests English spelling. Each question presents four sentences. Your job is to identify the one sentence that contains a misspelled word. The key to succeeding in this section is being able to recognize misspelled words, or violations of common patterns of spelling. We recommend mastering some key patterns in standard English, presented below, before trying to memorize the correct spelling of individual words.

### *Key Rules:*

1. Generally, to make a word that ends in –s, -z, -x, -sh, -ch, or –ss plural, add –es to the end.

Singular form: class

Incorrect: classs

Correct: classes

2. Generally, to make a word that does not end in –s, -z, -x, -sh, -ch, or –ss plural, add –s to the end.

Singular form: pallet

Incorrect: palletes

Correct: pallets

3. To pluralize a word that ends in a consonant followed by –y, change the –y to –i and add –es.

Singular form: lady

Incorrect: ladys

Correct: ladies

4. To pluralize a word that ends in a vowel followed by –y, add –s.

Singular form: day

Incorrect: daies

Correct: days

5. To form a gerund from most verbs that ends in *-ie*, replace the *-ie* with *y* before adding *-ing*.

Word: lie  
Incorrect: lieing  
Correct: lying

6. Generally, *i* before *e*, except after *c*, or when sounded like *ay*, as in *neighbor* and *weigh*.

Incorrect: niether  
Correct: neither

Incorrect: recieve  
Correct: receive

Incorrect: biege  
Correct: beige

### III. Composition

The third question type tests proper *composition*. These questions test one’s ability to relate ideas to each other using written English. Fundamentally, composition questions test 1) one’s ability to relate two adjacent ideas using well-chosen words or phrases, and 2) one’s ability to develop an idea in a focused manner over the course of a paragraph. The most common question formats – and how we recommend approaching them – appear below.

*Choose the word that best joins the following thoughts.*

This question type presents a compound sentence or a pair of sentences and asks you to choose a word to fill in a blank joining the two sentences. You will have four words to choose from.

To answer this type of question correctly, first, determine the relationship between the two given ideas, and second, choose the potential answer that matches that relationship. For example:

1. The two senators from Maryland supported the bill, \_\_\_\_\_ the citizens of their home state opposed the bill.  
  
(A) and  
(B) but  
(C) furthermore  
(D) therefore

In this case, the correct answer is *B*. The senators *support* the bill, but the citizens *oppose* it. Support and opposition are opposites, and *but* is the only word among the potential answers that that indicates a relationship of opposites. Below are some commonly used connecting words and phrases and the type of relationship they imply.

| <u>Connector</u> | <u>Relationship</u>                     |
|------------------|---|
| And              | similarity                              |
| Also             | similarity                              |
| But              | opposites                               |
| However          | opposites                               |
| Nonetheless      | opposites                               |
| Nevertheless     | opposites                               |
| Whereas          | different, but not necessarily opposite |
| Furthermore      | continuation                            |
| In addition      | continuation                            |
| Therefore        | cause and effect                        |
| Consequently     | cause and effect                        |
| Though           | contrast                                |

*Which version of this sentence expresses the idea more clearly?*

Questions that ask you to “best” complete a sentence or express an idea “clearly” each offer four potential formulations of the same sentence. The correct answer is grammatically correct, most concise, and least confusing. For example:

2. Which sentence expresses the following idea most clearly?

- (A) The doctors, having achieved the impossible.
- (B) Impossible, the doctors have achieved it.
- (C) The doctors have achieved the impossible.
- (D) Achieving the impossible, doctors.

In this example, the correct answer is C. Potential answers A and D are not grammatically correct. The placement of *impossible* at the beginning of potential answer B makes the sentence circuitous and makes the antecedent of *it* unclear. Familiarity with the rules governing capitalization, punctuation, and usage is the best preparation to succeed with this question format.

*Questions about paragraphs:*

The HSPT may ask you several questions about different aspects of a well-written paragraph. Several examples of this question type appear below.

*Which topic is best suited for a one-paragraph composition?*

The characteristic of a topic that determines whether or not it is suitable for a one-paragraph composition is its *scope*. If a topic attempts to address too much information, it cannot be articulated effectively in one paragraph.

3. Which topic is best suited for a one-paragraph composition?

- (A) The Rise of Julius Caesar
- (B) Epic Poems and Greek Mythology
- (C) The Steam Age in American Technology
- (D) The Proper Method for Baking Traditional Brownies

In this example, the correct answer is D. Topics A-C all seek to address topics whose scopes are too broad.

*Which sentence would belong in a composition with the title “\_\_\_\_\_”?*

This question format also touches on the idea of scope so bear in mind the example above. For a sentence to belong in a composition, that sentence must express an idea that falls within the scope of the paragraph’s title.

4. Which sentence would belong in a composition with the title “New Sports at the 2010 Winter Olympics”?
- (A) Every four years, the Olympic Committee considers adding new sports to the schedule of competition.
  - (B) Athlete safety is paramount for members of the Olympic Committee.
  - (C) The Summer Olympics include such diverse sports as basketball, BMX biking, and table tennis.
  - (D) One of Spain’s traditional sports is a game called *Jai Alai*.

In this example, answers B-D do not fit under the title because they reference ideas that are not introduced in the given title: B) athlete safety, C) Summer Olympics, and D) traditional Spanish sports. Answer A, on the other hand, introduces an idea that is within the scope of the title: how the Olympic Committee chooses the Winter Olympics’ new sports.

*Select the best topic sentence for the following paragraph.*

The purpose of a topic sentence is to introduce the overarching theme that unifies the information expressed in all of the paragraph’s following sentences. To choose a good topic sentence, first examine the given paragraph and decide what theme unifies its sentences. Then, choose the topic sentence that introduces this theme.

5. Select the best topic sentence for the following paragraph.

Some jackets have very thin lining, but they are made with waterproof material. Other coats contain a very thick, warm lining, but are made from material that absorbs moisture. If you do not choose the outerwear appropriate for your journey outdoors, you may end up freezing or soaked.

- (A) The Midwest contains several different climates.
- (B) Men’s outerwear style has evolved over the past year.
- (C) Boots, jackets, and hats are all hiking necessities.
- (D) When planning an excursion outdoors, one must choose appropriate outerwear.

In this example, for topic sentences A-C to be appropriately addressed, the following paragraph would have to also mention A) the Midwest, B) style, or C) boots and hats. Topic sentence D represents all of the sentences in the given paragraph while not requiring that additional unmentioned information be fully addressed.

*Select the best concluding sentence for the following paragraph.*

The purpose of a concluding sentence is to summarize the preceding paragraph or to give the last step in the chronological telling of a story.

6. Select the best concluding sentence for the following paragraph.

The President of the United States possesses several powers over the government's budget. The president can veto a budget proposed by the Congress. The president's executive office also executes all of the expenditures included in the budget. The crucial power that the executive lacks is the power to decide what funding is allotted to each budget item; that power is reserved to the Congress.

- (A) The president's powers give him extensive, but not total, control over the government's purse.
- (B) The President of the United States is more well-known than any other head of state in the world.
- (C) The president should be granted more extensive powers.
- (D) The United States budget is an unwieldy policy instrument.

In this example, answer B discusses an unmentioned topic: presidential popularity. Answer C would be appropriate for a more argumentative paragraph in which costs and benefits of greater powers had been discussed. Answer D discusses an unmentioned subject: policy effectiveness. Answer A is correct because it summarizes the preceding paragraph.

*Select the best order for the following sentences.*

Questions of this format ask you to assemble a given set of sentences into the order most appropriate for a paragraph. A well-organized paragraph needs a topic sentence and a concluding sentence. Based on the guidance above, you know how to pick out a good topic and good concluding sentence. The remaining sentences need to be put in such an order that each builds on the previous sentence, developing the idea introduced in the topic sentence in a step-by-step way.



7. Select the best order for the following sentences:

(1) This price spike made fuel efficiency a higher priority characteristic of the cars they drove, resulting in increased purchases of fuel-efficient cars. (2) Over the last year, fuel-efficient cars have become more popular. (3) Many of the cars built and sold over the previous decade were sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and light trucks, each of which featured many desirable characteristics but consumed a lot of fuel. (4) In the last eighteen months, fuel prices spiked to unprecedented levels and have remained somewhat volatile since.

- (A) 1, 2, 3, 4
- (B) 2, 4, 1, 3
- (C) 4, 3, 2, 1
- (D) 2, 3, 4, 1

In this example, the correct answer is D. In this example, sentence 2 makes a good topic sentence, and sentence 1 makes a good concluding sentence. Sentences 3 and 4 develop the idea introduced in sentence 2 in an orderly way.

*Which sentence does not belong in the following paragraph?*

The above example discusses the way that sentences in a paragraph should relate to each other. For this question format, you need to find the sentence that either refers to an idea outside of the scope of the paragraph's topic sentence, or fails to develop the ideas discussed in the preceding sentences.

8. Which sentence does not belong in the following paragraph?

(1) Many more professional football players than others suffer from late-onset brain conditions like Alzheimer's. (2) Although players wear helmets, many players suffer concussions during the course of a season. (3) To help prevent long-term injury to players, the National Football League (NFL) is developing stricter guidelines for the treatment of players with concussions. (4) Another problem with standard football equipment is that many players forgo kneepads, risking injury to ligaments and tendons.

- (A) sentence 1
- (B) sentence 2
- (C) sentence 3
- (D) sentence 4

In this example, sentences 1-3 develop the idea of late-onset brain conditions in football players caused by injury. Sentence 4, on the other hand, introduces a new idea: the general topic of sports injury in football. Because sentence 4 is the sentence that deviates from the scope of the rest of the paragraph, sentence 4 should be removed.

## **Personal Study:**

Four practice quizzes follow. Each presents practice questions of the types above in a frequency generally corresponding to an actual HSPT exam. After finishing a quiz, you can check your answers and read explanations; this information follows the four quizzes.

We recommend reviewing the above rules and then taking the first practice quiz to determine what question types challenge you most. Study the types of questions that challenge you using the rules presented above and other grammar materials you have received during your educational career. Make sure to observe the time limit specified for the quiz – time management is an important aspect of the actual HSPT test experience and should be practiced.

After you have reviewed your weaker areas, take another quiz and then go through the above process again. This process of reviewing material and then testing yourself will be the most effective way for you to improve.

We encourage you to review these quizzes and this material a few days before your actual HSPT exam.

## Language Section : Quiz 1

### 8 Minutes

Directions: In questions 1-13, look for errors in capitalization, punctuation, or usage. If you find no mistake, mark (D) on your answer sheet.

1.

- (A) Three years ago, I visited my aunt in Mexico.
- (B) Will you go to see the play with me?
- (C) Each houses front door is a different color.
- (D) No mistake.

2.

- (A) I would prefer to celebrate christmas at my house rather than at my grandfather's apartment.
- (B) Lasagna takes a long time to cook.
- (C) Neither of the boys brought his baseball glove with him.
- (D) No mistake.

3.

- (A) Dave is going to visit his favorite place in Barcelona the old Catholic church.
- (B) The waitress accidentally spilled a tray full of food on us!
- (C) Almost sixteen people could sit around the enormous dining room table.
- (D) No mistake.

4.

- (A) If they are coming to visit, we should cook some food.
- (B) He asked, "What time is it?"
- (C) She dances very graceful in high heels.
- (D) No mistake.

5.

- (A) I love your new car; it's a beautiful color.
- (B) Janice, my sister, is as tall as I am.
- (C) Jason confused his backpack with mine.
- (D) No mistake.

6.

- (A) It has been twelve years since I left the country.
- (B) I don't understand this book, but I am enjoying it.
- (C) The painters need to give their final estimate to she and I.
- (D) No mistake.

7.

- (A) I would had called you if I had known you needed help.
- (B) Eleven of us plan to get pizza after the game.
- (C) I would rather not wait around for you to pick me up.
- (D) No mistake.

8.

- (A) The whole office is hoping that your plane isn't delayed.
- (B) Given the immense amount of various knickknacks and unnecessary things I have I need to clean out my basement.
- (C) Today, Jessica insisted, "Three weeks is plenty of time!"
- (D) No mistake.

9.

- (A) It has snowed here every day for a month.
- (B) It seems like a long way to walk, but I'm sure we can get there by nightfall.
- (C) McCallan Auto Parts sponsors that baseball team.
- (D) No mistake.

10.  
(A) Him and I have been friends since middle school.  
(B) "It's taking you forever to get ready!" he exclaimed.  
(C) I've never seen a fish in this pond.  
(D) No mistake.

11.  
(A) Remember to bough to your partner before the dance.  
(B) I majored in linguistics, the study of language, in college.  
(C) He hasn't come into the store since Saturday.  
(D) No mistake.

12.  
(A) Arch's makes the best ice cream in town!  
(B) Over the last three years, he has written some ridiculous books.  
(C) I need you to buy some nails a hammer, and three sheets of plywood.  
(D) No mistake.

13.  
(A) Everyone asked me to tell you to relax.  
(B) Alex and Kendall are worried about the sign that their trying to paint.  
(C) The final exam lasted for only an hour and forty-five minutes.  
(D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 14-16, look for mistakes in spelling only.

14.  
(A) He ordered a cheeseburger without mustard.  
(B) Sarah is ready to submit her colege applications.  
(C) Every member of the basketball team was exhausted.  
(D) No mistake.

15.  
(A) The other students had already boarded the bus.  
(B) How many cans of chicken soup will we need for the reciepe?  
(C) I'm afraid that I won't recognize him after so many years.  
(D) No mistake.

16.  
(A) Ms. Brown hung a fresh pine garlend above her mantelpiece.  
(B) Every time we eat at this restaurant we make a mess for our waitress.  
(C) Her singing voice has really matured.  
(D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 17-20, look for errors in composition. Follow the directions for each question.

17. Which of these expresses the idea most clearly?  
(A) He was of people I have known ever, the most talented.  
(B) Most talented, he was, I've ever known, of all the people.  
(C) He was the most talented I've ever known, of all the people.  
(D) Of all the people I've ever known, he was the most talented.

18. Which is the most appropriate topic for a one-paragraph composition?  
(A) Quick Tips for Avoiding the Common Cold.  
(B) The Development of Evangelical Christianity in America.  
(C) Brass Instruments and their Role in an Orchestra.  
(D) Grisham's Early Years.

19. Which sentence does not belong in this paragraph?

(1) In 2001, Argentina suffered a massive economic crisis. (2) The Argentine government was unable to pay back its loans from other countries and private banks. (3) Loans have played a role in the economic crises of countries in South America, Africa, and Asia over the last fifty years. (4) Argentina defaulted on its loans, and inflation skyrocketed.

- (A) Sentence 1
- (B) Sentence 2
- (C) Sentence 3
- (D) Sentence 4

20. Choose the best word to join these thoughts together:

The Labour Party lost a large percentage of their seats in Parliament in the most recent elections, \_\_\_\_\_ the party's rank-and-file are clamoring for a change in leadership.

- (A) and
- (B) nonetheless
- (C) whereas
- (D) but

## Language Section: Quiz 2

### 8 Minutes

Directions: In questions 1-13, look for errors in capitalization, punctuation, or usage. If you find no mistake, mark (D) on your answer sheet.

1.  
(A) Yesterday evening, I talked to my mother's aunt.  
(B) I went to the beach, but I forgot my towel.  
(C) Mom said "Go back to the house."  
(D) No mistake.
2.  
(A) The dogs collar was brown and dirty.  
(B) I went to the front door; mom yelled to me, "go back inside, dear."  
(C) Their house was only a few years old but seemed worn and broken.  
(D) No mistake.
3.  
(A) The elderly lady said; "Hey, Jim, it's really good to see you."  
(B) The doctor had seen a lot of patients today, but this was by far his worst.  
(C) The brown, homely dog looked his age.  
(D) No mistake.
4.  
(A) The Visitation parish the one on St. Elder's street was being remodeled.  
(B) "Honey," I said, "do you know where Delilah is?"  
(C) The office workers headed to their cars.  
(D) No mistake.
5.  
(A) Fifteen years had passed, and the man was finally returning home.  
(B) Mr. Owsley was known for his wry sense of humor.  
(C) Patrick felt a little uneasy but could not figure out what was bothering him.  
(D) No mistake.
6.  
(A) The man leaned back and smiled.  
(B) Her words flew out fitful.  
(C) Where did all the birds go?  
(D) No mistake.
7.  
(A) Computer sales were happening at almost every store in the mall!  
(B) The car halted, and a man jumped.  
(C) Its high time you moved to a new town.  
(D) No mistake.
8.  
(A) The Kwanzaa celebration had quite a few participants this year.  
(B) The horses runned to the corral.  
(C) Finally, his time had arrived.  
(D) No mistake.
9.  
(A) The carpenter looked quite tired; that made sense to me.  
(B) She cat preferred milk to water.  
(C) Time is passing us by.  
(D) No mistake.
10.  
(A) You will like your RedwoodPrep course.  
(B) Your mothers intuition told her it would be helpful; the initial practice packet provided evidence.  
(C) That being said, you never want to count your chickens before they hatch.  
(D) No mistake.

11.  
(A) The elementary school yard seemed deserted during the school day.  
(B) During recess, the yard fills with people.  
(C) "I wonder," you asked, "should we play football or soccer today?"  
(D) No mistake.
12.  
(A) Twelve times a day is just to much.  
(B) Spain offered a great combination: attractive people and affordable prices.  
(C) The car looked pretty bad after the wreck.  
(D) No mistake.
13.  
(A) Halloween was his favorite holiday.  
(B) Sixteen times a day, I run to the cabinet.  
(C) Why do you prefer lions to tigers?  
(D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 14-16, look for mistakes in spelling only.

14.  
(A) The play ran over two hours long and just started to seem tedious.  
(B) The drama fasinated my mother; most things do.  
(C) Why are all middle-aged people so upset all the time?  
(D) No mistake.
15.  
(A) The final movment just seemed too short.  
(B) She walked down the hall, past the skyscraper, into the bakery, and then into the mausoleum.  
(C) "That was quite a jaunt," I told her.  
(D) No mistake.

16.  
(A) Her fingers ran down the dress quietly; she preferred satin to silk.  
(B) The canoe tipped over before the trip started.  
(C) That is quite unseemly in my opinion.  
(D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 17-20, look for errors in composition. Follow the directions for each question.

17. Which of these expresses the idea most clearly?  
(A) Her tale was quick and to the point; it may have been the most interesting I have ever heard.  
(B) I was quite interested by the quick tale; she told it rather quickly but did a very good keeping it to the point.  
(C) She told me one tale, and I have heard many; her tale was to the point and quick and very interesting.  
(D) I prefer stories that are quick and she told me one; I would guess that this to-the-point tale may be one of the most interesting I have ever heard.
18. Which is the most appropriate topic for a one-paragraph composition?  
(A) Investigating the Historical And Social Forces of Apartheid.  
(B) How to Make a Dog's Bath  
(C) The Origins of Salad Dressing  
(D) An In-Depth Investigation of American Fraud

19. Which sentence does not belong in this paragraph?

(1) The battle began early in the morning. (2) General Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, knew his chances of winning would be slim. (3) General Lee had been born more than fifty years before. (4) He gave his final order; the battle had commenced.

- (A) Sentence 1
- (B) Sentence 2
- (C) Sentence 3
- (D) Sentence 4

20. Choose the best word to join the two following thoughts.

The man asked for a reprieve \_\_\_\_\_ he had absolutely no chance of getting one.

- (A) nonetheless
- (B) whereas
- (C) forever
- (D) though



## Language Section – Quiz 3

### 8 Minutes

Directions: In questions 1-13, look for errors in capitalization, punctuation, or usage. If you find no mistake, mark (D) on your answer sheet.

1.

- (A) The man's coat seemed far too long.
- (B) There house went up in smoke.
- (C) Finally, I found someone to go to Africa with me.
- (D) No mistake.

2.

- (A) The sullen faces pretty much said everything—we had lost.
- (B) The baker checked the cookies and realized they needed about five more minutes.
- (C) "Look into the drawer," she said.
- (D) No mistake.

3.

- (A) The cattle seemed upset for some reason.
- (B) Why can't we go to the grocery store now?
- (C) The church bell, a relic from olden times, rang forty times a day.
- (D) No mistake.

4.

- (A) I notice it but had no idea what to do.
- (B) Thoughts can be very confusing sometimes.
- (C) The car looked two hundred years old.
- (D) No mistake.

5.

- (A) I was once told to speak softly but to carry a big stick.
- (B) At five in the morning tomorrow afternoon she will leave.
- (C) Of course, who really likes Teddy Roosevelt?
- (D) No mistake.

6.

- (A) His grandfather had fought in italy during World War II.
- (B) There are a lot of reasons to be a proud American; I think my grandfather is one.
- (C) On July 4<sup>th</sup>, my mom always has a barbeque for the neighborhood.
- (D) No mistake.

7.

- (A) Different religions tend to have different rituals and holidays.
- (B) Her and I went to store to pick up a guitar.
- (C) I prefer Indian food when I have that option.
- (D) No mistakes.

8.

- (A) Mr. Nantz tended to work very hard especially when it came to grammar.
- (B) "Why do you put in the effort?" a student asked his teacher.
- (C) I prefer excellent work to mediocre work.
- (D) No mistake.

9.

- (A) The tribe had wandered for forty years but had finally found a home.
- (B) You think you are wrong but I guarantee that your answer is right.
- (C) Yes, that was a self-referential comment.
- (D) No mistake.

10.  
(A) The man asked President Lincoln what the men should do.  
(B) The men walks to the road.  
(C) I believe that you should think twice before referencing apocryphal historical events.  
(D) No mistake.

11.  
(A) The sweatshirt told quite a story; the man had gone to Berkeley for school.  
(B) I prefer this side of the bay to that side.  
(C) "You need to stop inserting stories into questions" the student uttered.  
(D) No mistake.

12.  
(A) You need to respect your elders and focus on your work.  
(B) "Quite a response," the man said to his friend, "to a complaint that has no merit."  
(C) If they had to work as hard as I have, they would know I can and should do what I want.  
(D) No mistake.

13.  
(A) I think we should move on to more scientific issues.  
(B) My father says that innovation and scientific discovery drive the improvement of our fundamental quality of life.  
(C) I tend to agree with my father.  
(D) No mistake.

**Directions: For questions 14-16, look for mistakes in spelling only.**

14.  
(A) I have a funny feeling that a narrative has been driving this secret story.  
(B) Do not invetigate things such as that.  
(C) You are probably just anxious.  
(D) No mistake.

15.  
(A) Feelings tend to get more confusing and obnoxious during holidays.  
(B) The man's childish machinations came to nothing.  
(C) They say that the vast majority of people love the course.  
(D) No mistake.

16.  
(A) Forify this territory before you advance.  
(B) How many animals need to be absconded with before we take action?  
(C) Frugal living has come into vogue in the last few months.  
(D) No mistake.

**Directions: For questions 17-20, look for errors in composition. Follow the directions for each question.**

17. Which is the most appropriate topic for a one-paragraph composition?  
(A) The Biological Roots of Greed  
(B) Different Cultural Approaches to Cakes  
(C) How to Hold a Baseball Bat  
(D) Forty Years at War in Alaska

18. Which is the most appropriate topic for a one-paragraph composition?  
(A) The 'Light on a Hill' Concept – Finding America's Roots  
(B) Investigating American Investment Patterns  
(C) My Morning in a Nutshell  
(D) The Evolution of the Wedding Ceremony

19. Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?

(1) On December 6, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked the American fleet. (2) The battle involved hundreds of planes and naval craft from both sides. (3) At the time, my grandmother lived in Kansas. (4) The United States suffered significant losses by the day's end.

- (A) Sentence 1
- (B) Sentence 2
- (C) Sentence 3
- (D) Sentence 4

20. Choose the best word to join these two thoughts together. The revolution had started with the promise of no bloodshed \_\_\_\_ by the year's end over two thousand citizens had been killed.

- (A) and
- (B) though
- (C) but
- (D) whereas

## Language Section: Quiz 4

### 8 Minutes

Directions: In questions 1-13, look for errors in capitalization, punctuation, or usage. If you find no mistake, mark (D) on your answer sheet.

1.  
(A) The man looked around to see if his wife of twenty years had come home.  
(B) I prefer the kwanzaa celebration.  
(C) Jack thought the time had come for a nice, peaceful day.  
(D) No mistake.
2.  
(A) The man looked for the woman man and dog, but he could not find them.  
(B) Needless to say, I won the game.  
(C) "I really do not like braggarts," I told Suzie, "but I cannot do anything about it."  
(D) No mistake.
3.  
(A) The trip ended badly; twenty minutes after it started.  
(B) "Hello," I said, "can you hear me?"  
(C) The sister knew her brother's favorite pastime was reading.  
(D) No mistake.
4.  
(A) The little church, founded in the fifteenth century, had withstood a variety of upheavals.  
(B) The couch seemed a little beaten up to me, but mom really wanted to buy it.  
(C) The dogs bark simply did not work.  
(D) No mistake.
5.  
(A) The man gave I the best food he had.  
(B) Finally, the man arrived with our table.  
(C) Jingoism can be quite a problem.  
(D) No mistake.
6.  
(A) Its time to head home.  
(B) "I feel sad," she told me forlornly.  
(C) If you work a lot on grammar, you will definitely get better.  
(D) No mistake.
7.  
(A) Some social critics think that America needs to serious revamp its education system.  
(B) I tend to agree with pundits—why not?  
(C) Did you know that Comedy Central has been running programs for over a decade?  
(D) No mistake.
8.  
(A) I heard that senator Graham may have aspirations for the presidency.  
(B) "Why do you follow politics so much?" I asked Bill.  
(C) The future is full of surprises and upsets.  
(D) No mistake.
9.  
(A) You need to think very carefully about this.  
(B) "Would you please stop making self-referential comments?" I asked; it bothers me.  
(C) John can do whatever he wants, and he does.  
(D) No mistake.
10.  
(A) "What do you think Greg will think when he reads this over?" I asked.  
(B) Mr. Owsley tended to be very level-headed and fair; I would expect him to be open-minded about it.  
(C) That being said, making constant references to oneself is a little bizarre.  
(D) No mistake.

- 11.
- (A) There are about twenty-six students in each class.
  - (B) I have a lot of hopes, and that is one of them.
  - (C) "Gosh," I said, "General Patton was a pretty incredible man."
  - (D) No mistake.

- 12.
- (A) I have twenty dogs in the last ten years.
  - (B) Success favors the prepared.
  - (C) I get all my values from Hollywood, and I am very proud of that.
  - (D) No mistake.

- 13.
- (A) The Greek city-states were the first to develop the concept of democracy.
  - (B) Of course, America does not apply that concept directly.
  - (C) History tells us that countries that vainly put hope in an unconstrained will of the majority tend to violate basic human rights.
  - (D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 14-16, look for mistakes in spelling only.

- 14.
- (A) The witch watched bitterly as the children escaped her trap.
  - (B) The gossamer surface completely enthralled the students.
  - (C) The litle girl knew it was time.
  - (D) No mistake.

- 15.
- (A) Forget everything you have ever learned.
  - (B) Patrick had worked very hard, and now it was time for a break.
  - (C) Casey could not believe what he heard; there was more to do.
  - (D) No mistake.

- 16.
- (A) The computer terminal had been vanalized by the gang.
  - (B) Drink lots of water and orange juice when you get sick.
  - (C) My mother has much wise, helpful advice, but I tend to do as I please.
  - (D) No mistake.

Directions: For questions 17-20, look for errors in composition. Follow the directions for each question.

17. Which of these most clearly expresses the idea?
- (A) She was of all the students I ever taught, the most intelligent.
  - (B) She was the most intelligent I've ever taught, of all the students.
  - (C) She was very intelligent and, of all the students I ever taught, she was the most intelligent.
  - (D) Of all the students I have ever taught, she was by far the most intelligent.

18. What is the most appropriate topic for a one-paragraph composition?
- (A) Examining Music History
  - (B) The Three Ways to Kick a Ball
  - (C) The Antecedents of the Egyptian Military Campaign
  - (D) One Family's Journey to the American West.

19. Which sentence does not belong in this paragraph?

(1) My mother baked lots of cakes when I was young. (2) The cake concept was first invented in sixteenth century France. (3) Nobility at the time wanted a new desert to celebrate successful hunts. (4) Though the origins are not known with certainty, most experts believe the cake concept originated around the city of Nantz.

- (A) Sentence 1
- (B) Sentence 2
- (C) Sentence 3
- (D) Sentence 4

20. Choose the best word to join these thoughts together:

The soldiers had fought a long campaign and had been promised a break, \_\_\_\_\_ the general ordered them back to the front.

- (A) and
- (B) but
- (C) nonetheless
- (D) whereas

## Language Quiz Answer Keys and Explanations

### Quiz 1

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. D
10. A
11. A
12. C
13. B
14. B
15. B
16. A
17. D
18. A
19. C
20. A

1. The correct answer is C. The plural noun *houses* should be replaced with the possessive form *house's*.

2. The correct answer is A. The names of holidays are capitalized. The word *Christmas* should be capitalized.

3. The correct answer is A. Appositives are separated from the object they modify by a comma. A comma should precede “the old Catholic church.”

4. The correct answer is C. The adjective *graceful* should be replaced with the adverb *gracefully*.

5. The correct answer is D. No mistake.

6. The correct answer is C. The words “she and I” occupy the place of the indirect object in this sentence. The subject pronouns *she* and *I* should be replaced with the object pronouns *her* and *me*.

7. The correct answer is A. “I would had...” is an incorrect formation of the conditional perfect tense. The sentence should read “I would have...”

8. The correct answer is B. The dependent clause “Given the immense amount of various knickknacks and unnecessary things I have” should be followed by a comma to introduce the independent clause.

9. The correct answer is D. No mistake.

10. The correct answer is A. “Him and I” occupies the place of the subject in this sentence. The object pronoun *him* should be replaced with the subject pronoun *he*.

11. The correct answer is A. The word *bough* means “a branch of a tree” but is pronounced the same as the word that should replace it, *bow*, which means “to bend at the waist.”

12. The correct answer is C. To punctuate the series correctly, a comma should follow the word *nails*.

13. The correct answer is B. The word *their* occupies the place of the subject in the adjective clause “that their trying to paint.” *Their* should be replaced by the homophone contraction of the subject pronoun *they* and the verb *are*—*they're*.

14. The correct answer is B. The correct spelling is *college*.

15. The correct answer is B. The correct spelling is *recipe*.

16. The correct answer is A. The correct spelling is *garland*.

17. The correct answer is D. In (A), the prepositional phrase follows the verb but is not set off by commas. Answer (B) is totally garbled. In (C), “I’ve ever known” is disconnected from “all the people,” mis-specifying the population to which the sentence aims to compare *him*.

18. The correct answer is A. The other three topics are much too broad to be adequately addressed in a one-paragraph composition.

19. The correct answer is C. Sentence C interrupts the chronological development of the paragraph, and references continents outside of the scope of the preceding sentences.

20. The correct answer is A. The two sentences are connected by a cause-and-effect relationship. *And* comes closest to implying this, while (B), (C), and (D) imply that the two sentences are unrelated.



## Quiz 2

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B
11. D
12. A
13. D
14. B
15. A
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. C
20. D

1. The correct answer is C. Quotations introduced mid-sentence must be introduced with a comma. Thus, the sentence should read ‘Mom said, “Go back to the house.”’
2. The correct answer is A. The collar belongs to the dog. Thus, the construction needs to be *dog’s*, not *dogs*. One needs to use the apostrophe s construction (’s) to indicate possession.
3. The correct answer is A. Mid-sentence quotes need to be introduced with commas (,) not semicolons (;).
4. The correct answer is A. ‘the one on St. Elder’s Street’ is an appositive describing Visitation parish and thus needs to be offset using commas. The correct construction is: The Visitation parish, the one on St. Elder’s street, was being remodeled.
5. The correct answer is D. No mistake.

6. The correct answer is B. *fitful* is incorrect. The word functions as an adverb and thus the correct form is *fitfully*.
7. The correct answer is C. *Its* is incorrect and should be *It’s*. *It’s* is a conjunction for it is. *Its* reflects possession. In this sentence, *it’s* is the correct form.
8. The correct answer is B. The verb should be *ran* or *run*, not *runned*. *Runned* is not a word.
9. The correct answer is B. *She* should be *Her* since the word needs to indicate possession of the cat and *her* indicates possession. *She* acts only as a subject.
10. The correct answer is B. *mothers* needs to be *mother’s* as the -’s construction indicates your mother’s possession of intuition.
11. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
12. The correct answer is A. The word *to* needs to be replaced with its homophone *too*. When indicating excessiveness, as in answer A, the correct word is *too*.
13. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
14. The correct answer is B. The word *fasinated* is misspelled. The correct spelling is *fascinated*.
15. The correct answer is A. The word *movment* is misspelled. The correct spelling is *movement*.
16. The correct answer is B. The word *tiped* is misspelled. The correct answer is *tipped*.
17. The correct answer is A. B refers to quick twice and creates a sense of ambiguity. C is an incoherently structured sentence. D uses an unnecessarily complex structure and obscures the sentence’s meaning.

18. The correct answer is B. The other three topics are much too broad to be adequately addressed in a one-paragraph composition.

19. The correct answer is C. General Lee's date of birth has no relation to the rest of the short paragraph, which discusses the beginning of a battle.

20. The correct answer is D. *Though* implies contrast. This corresponds to the contrast between the man's hope for a reprieve and the certainty of not receiving it.

### Quiz 3

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. B
10. B
11. C
12. D
13. D
14. B
15. D
16. A
17. C
18. C
19. C
20. C

1. The correct answer is B. *There* is incorrect and should be *their*. *Their* represents that the house is possessed by them; *there* does not.
2. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
3. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
4. The correct answer is A. *Notice* is incorrect and should be *noticed*. The phrase 'had no idea what to do' indicates that the initial verb needs to be in the past tense. *Noticed* is the past tense form of *notice*.

5. The correct answer is B. The initial dependent clause – 'At five in the morning tomorrow afternoon' – needs to end with a comma. The correct form is 'At five in the morning tomorrow afternoon, she will leave.'
6. The correct answer is A. *france* needs to be capitalized because it refers to a country.
7. The correct answer is B. *Her* is incorrect and needs to be *she*. *Her* is the possessive form; *she* is the subjective form. In this context, the subjective form is correct since nothing is being possessed.
8. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
9. The correct answer is B. The sentence is missing a comma. The correct form is 'You think you are wrong, but I guarantee that your answer is right'. The two parts of the sentence contain a subject and verb and must be separated by a comma followed by a conjunction.
10. The correct answer is B. *Walks* is incorrect and should be *walk* since men is plural.
11. The correct answer is C. The quote needs to conclude with a comma. Thus, ' "You need to stop inserting stories into questions," the student uttered.'
12. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
13. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
14. The correct answer is B. *investigatéis* misspelled and should be *investigate*.

15. The correct answer is D. No mistake.

16. The correct answer is A. *Forifjyis* misspelled and should be *Fortify*.

17. The correct answer is C. The other three topics would require more than a paragraph to address.

18. The correct answer is C. The other three topics would require more than a paragraph to address.

19. The correct answer is C. The third sentence is completely tangential to the other three sentences and does not belong in the paragraph.

20. The correct answer is C. The word *but* is used to indicate a contrast between two ideas. In answer C there is a contrast between the initial promise of the revolutionaries and the eventual results of their revolution.

#### Quiz 4

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. A
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. D
16. A
17. D
18. B
19. A
20. B

1. The correct answer is B. *kwanzaa* is a holiday and needs to be capitalized.
2. The correct answer is A. The sentence is missing commas which must be used to separate more than two items in a series. Thus, 'The man looked for the woman, man, and dog, but he could not find them.'
3. The correct answer is A. This sentence's use of a semicolon is incorrect. No punctuation mark is needed to connect the adverbial clause 'twenty minutes after it started' to the rest of the sentence. Had the adverbial clause begun the sentence, however, a comma would have been required following the clause.

4. The correct answer is C. *Dogs* is incorrect and should be *dog's* to indicate possession of the bark.
5. The correct answer is A. The sentence's use of *I* is incorrect. The sentence should use the objective pronoun *me*.
6. The correct answer is A. *Its* is incorrect and should be *It's* which can be used instead of it is.
7. The correct answer is A. Because *serious* modifies *revamp*, the adjective *serious* is incorrect and needs to be replaced with the adverb *seriously*.
8. The correct answer is A. Both Senator and Graham need to be capitalized since the first is an occupation used in conjunction with a name.
9. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
10. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
11. The correct answer is A. *Their* indicates possession and is incorrect in this context. *There* would be the correct word.
12. The correct answer is A. The verb *have* should be *had*. The phrase 'in the last ten years' is a reference to the past and thus the past form of have – had – should be used.
13. The correct answer is D. No mistake.
14. The correct answer is C. *Littleis* misspelled and should be *little*.
15. The correct answer is D. No mistake.

16. The correct answer is A. *Vandalized* is misspelled and should be *vandalized*.

17. The correct answer is D. Sentence A is barely comprehensible. Sentence B includes a comma splice before the preposition ‘of all the students.’ Sentence C is unnecessarily wordy.

18. The correct answer is B. The other three topics have to broad a scope to be effectively written about in a paragraph.

19. The correct answer is A. The paragraph focuses on the invention of cakes. Sentence 1 is a tangential reference to the speaker’s mother’s cake baking.

20. The correct answer is B. The two ideas are in contrast since the soldiers had been promised a break but now must return to the front. Given this contrast, *but* is the best connecting word.