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# PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION<sup>Q&As</sup>

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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### QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

After the brilliant team that developed the atomic bomb for the United States government finished testing and realized the apocalyptic consequences of use, each member of the team felt remorseful and adamant urged the government to reach peace.

- A. that
- B. apocalyptic
- C. use
- D. adamant
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: This sentence tests your knowledge of adverbs. Adverbs alter and describe the meaning of a verb, hence the name adverb as it represents an "adjective" for a "verb." Adverbs are most easily recognized by an "-ly" at the end such as "quickly," "shrewdly" and "nicely." In this sentence because the scientists "urged" against use of the atomic bomb, the adjective "adamant" must be modified to an adverb and be "adamantly."

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### QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

As Titus looked at the full shelves of his clock shop, he realized that it would take hours to find the clock who lost the tiny spring he found on the floor.

- A. looked at
- B. he
- C. it
- D. who
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is "who" because "who" should only be used to describe people, not things. Since a clock is clearly a thing, this sentence would be correct if "who" were changed to "that." Note that "who" can sometimes be used to refer to personified things to emphasize their human qualities. For example, that cartoon features a clock named Frank who sings, dances, and talks to the people in the village. In this case, the writer uses "who" to convey the clock's similarity to a person. By comparison, the clock in Titus's clock shop is just a clock.

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### QUESTION 3



Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although the lion's share of oil wells is owned by large oil companies, there are individuals who earn their living by selling the oil from their own, private wells.

- A. is
- B. there
- C. who
- D. their
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The correct answer is "No error" because this sentence contains no errors. Although the phrase "lion's share of oil wells is" may sound strange because "is" doesn't agree with "wells," it is grammatically correct. The true subject of the sentence is not the plural "wells": it's the singular "share." "Of oil wells" is simply a prepositional phrase that modifies "lion's share."

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#### QUESTION 4

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

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

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

Correct Answer: C

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

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#### QUESTION 5



Identify the error in the following sentence:

It is ineffective for high school administration to make policy without even asking for student input; banning flip flops and enforcing strict dress codes has merit but there must be a happy medium in school policy.

- A. ineffective
- B. administration
- C. student
- D. has
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

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