

PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION Q&As

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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QUESTION 1

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

the correct option.
Listen to you\\'re parents; they know more than you might think.
A. No error
B. you\\'re parents
C. you\\'re parents, "
D. your parents,"
E. your parents;
Correct Answer: E
Explanation: The contraction for you are is inappropriate. Also, the two clauses express slightly different ideas and should therefore be separated by a semi-colon.
QUESTION 2
Identify the error in the following sentence:
Until you sit down and talk to a person, you don\\'t really know them.
A. No error
B. you don\\'t know them really.
C. you do not really know them.
D. you do not really know him.
E. you don\\'t really know him or her.
Correct Answer: E
Explanation: A person is singular, so the words him or her are appropriate.

QUESTION 3

Identify the error in the following sentence: Boxing is arguably the most physically demanding sports as professional boxers must have strength, agility and accuracy; without these skills, a boxer will just be someone that you never heard of.

A. arguably

B. as



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C. strength, agility

D. of

E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: This sentence tests how you apply prepositions to sentences. No sentence may end with a preposition, which includes "out," "under" and especially "of." This sentence would need to read something like "...without these skills, a boxer will be unknown." At all costs, avoid placing "of" at the end of a sentence -- especially on college and scholarship applications.

QUESTION 4

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

Natural disasters have been increasingly effecting nearly every part of the world in the past decade with catastrophic tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis.

- A. have been increasingly effecting
- B. has been increasingly effecting
- C. have been increasingly affecting
- D. will be increasingly effecting
- E. will be increasingly affecting

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The only problem with the underlined portion of this sentence is the use of the word "effecting" instead of "affecting." When an object/s undergoes changes, these changes are effects such as in the following sentence: John\\'s excellent attendance at school has had positive effects on his education. However, in the verb form, "effects" turns into "affects" such as in the following sentence: John\\'s excellent attendance has affected his education. Noun (effect) vs. verb (affect). Only choice "have been increasingly affecting" and choice "will be increasingly affecting" properly used "affecting" but choice "will be increasingly affecting" uses the future tense when the sentence clearly describes an occurrence of the past ("...in the past decade...").

QUESTION 5

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

Suddenly she, laughed as she remembered a story she had been told.

- A. No error
- B. laughed as she
- C. she laughed; as she



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D. she laughed as she

E. she laughed as, she

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: No punctuation is necessary.

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