



PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The day after the dance: he called her up at her parents\' house and asked her to dinner.

- A. dance:
- B. he called her
- C. parents\'
- D. to dinner.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: A comma should be used rather than a semi-colon.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

I was so worried about the test results that came back yesterday afternoon, but as it turns out Maria was more worried than me.

- A. so worried
- B. that came
- C. but
- D. me
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: "Me" can be used if it is an object that is affected, but not if an action is being performed. At the end of this sentence, the word that replaces me (i.e. I) needs to be "worried." Which sounds more correct, "Me was worried." or "I was worried."? Oftentimes questions such as these identifying the error writing questions on the test will demand you to apply critical thinking and place the word in a different context than its original context in order to test the meaning and how the word fits. Change "me" to "I" in order to fix this sentence.

QUESTION 3

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



Concerns about global warming have grown into actual efforts sanctioned by non-governmental organizations and governments that not only work to understand global warming and also to prevent it.

- A. understand global warming and also to prevent it.
- B. understand global warming but also to prevent it.
- C. understand global warming yet also to prevent it.
- D. understand global warming but also to prevent its growth.
- E. understand global warming yet also to prevent it's growth.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The original underlined portion is incorrect because of the improper use of the "not only...but also..." structure. Only choice "understand global warming but also to prevent it" and choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" use this structure, but choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" accurately adds "to prevent its growth." The sentence began by discussing growth because global warming is a dynamic problem that has not just stagnated; it continually has changed. Choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" corrects the structure and also uses the proper possessive form of it (i.e. its).

QUESTION 4

Identify the error in the following sentence: "But it's important!" Hannah exclaimed.

- A. "But
- B. it's
- C. important!"
- D. exclaimed.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The sentence is correct as written.

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The sale ends at 11:00, so you should get there quick if you want to take advantage of the discount prices.

- A. sale
- B. you
- C. there
- D. quick



E. No error

Correct Answer: D

The correct answer is "quick" because "quick" is an adjective and should not be used to describe a verb. In this sentence "quick" is the manner in which the person should get to the store. To correct the problem, simply substitute the adjective "quick" with the adverb "quickly."

QUESTION 6

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

Who knows who will be the winner?

- A. No error
- B. Whom knows who
- C. Who knew whom
- D. Who knows whom
- E. Whom knows whom

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Since in both cases who is being used as the subject of a clause, this form is correct.

QUESTION 7

Identify the error in the following sentence:

To who should I mail the payment for our new refrigerator and stove?

- A. who
- B. I
- C. and
- D. stove?
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is "who" because "who" is the object of this sentence. Remember that "who" is the correct pronoun choice for the subject of a sentence, while "whom" is always an object. While the object generally comes closer to the end of most sentences, questions are often structured with the object near the beginning. To correct this sentence, just substitute "whom" for "who." Another hint that this sentence requires "whom" rather than "who" is that the word falls after the preposition "to." Therefore, even if you didn't recognize "who" as the object of the sentence, you could still see that it's the object of a preposition and needs to be changed to "whom."



QUESTION 8

Identify the error in the following sentence:

If only he had listened to the words of his mother, he wouldn't be in this silly situation.

- A. If only he had
- B. of his mother
- C. he wouldn't be
- D. this silly situation.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

QUESTION 9

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although Neal loves almost everything about living in the forest, he does dislike raking the tree's leaves that blanket his lawn each fall.

- A. Although
- B. does
- C. tree's
- D. fall
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is "tree's" because there are many trees that shed all those leaves each fall. To show that a singular noun owns something, the apostrophe goes in front of the "s." To show that a plural noun own something, the apostrophe goes in after of the "s." Changing "tree's" to "trees'" would correct the error in this sentence by reflecting that the leaves in Neal's yard come from many trees, not just one.

QUESTION 10

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

When he emerged from the pool, wondering how good he had done, he immediately looked to the clock.



- A. wondering if he had done good,
- B. No error
- C. wondering how well he had done,
- D. wondering well, had he done good,
- E. done wondering he had done well,

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Since it is being used as the object of he had done, the correct form is well.

QUESTION 11

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The only person who can make that decision is the president of the United States.

- A. The only person
- B. who can
- C. that decision
- D. the president
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: When referring to a specific individual, this word needs to be capitalized.

QUESTION 12

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

Since the work force is becoming increasingly competitive in light of technological advances and outsourcing, therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

- A. therefore, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- B. moreover, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- C. but, it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- D. so it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.
- E. it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree.

Correct Answer: E



Explanation: This sentence is a run-on sentence and can be fixed with the deletion of one word: "therefore." By beginning with a conjunction such as "Since" the sentence already has a descriptive clause in motion and just needs to be followed by a succinct (brief) statement of what the background of the first clause was describing. All of the choices except choice "it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree." use this erroneous second conjunction (i.e. therefore, moreover, but, so), so they must be eliminated. Choice "it is even more basic for students to complete high school and attain at least a bachelor's degree" is grammatically sound.

QUESTION 13

Identify the error in the following sentence:

If he weren't so mean, Jamal would have agreed to loan his car to his twin brother weeks ago.

- A. he
- B. weren't
- C. would have agreed
- D. to loan
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

The correct answer is "he" because the pronoun "he" has no clear antecedent. In other words, the reader cannot be sure if Jamal or his twin brother is mean. A simple way to correct this problem would be to replace the first "he" with either "Jamal" or "Jamal's twin brother," depending on the writer's intent.

QUESTION 14

Identify the error in the following sentence:

At long last the doctor – a total stranger; showed up at the house.

- A. At long last
- B. – a
- C. stranger;
- D. at the house.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Another dash, rather than a semi-colon, is appropriate here.

QUESTION 15



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

Lindsey knows that the reason people dislike her is because of her being a Philadelphia Phillies fan.

- A. is because of her being a
- B. is because she is a
- C. is that she is a
- D. is her being a
- E. is that of her being a

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: "is because of her being a", "is her being a", and "is that of her being a" all use "being" incorrectly. "is because she is a" is redundant and therefore not concise: you don't need to say "the reason" and "because," one or the other will do.

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