

1. **B** is correct. The implied message of “heads wagging in agreement” *is* yes; it is unnecessary to clarify this with “yes.” To add the description “affirmatively” is also redundant, and to refer to wagging as “up and down” is inaccurate.
2. **F** is correct. In comparing two or more entities, the comparative form, “more” is correct. The superlative form, “most,” would be appropriate when comparing three or more entities.
3. **B** is correct. The author’s playful, witty tone is enhanced by his or her use of this and other figurative language to describe dog lovers.
4. **G** is correct. “While,” meant to indicate that both statements are true at the same time, is correct. Use of “while” makes the use of “but” unnecessary. Although Option J seems technically correct, it does not imply that both statements are simultaneously true. To use the transition “however” indicates a contradiction or exception, which is not the purpose of the statement.
5. **D** is correct. The sentence is in present tense, so “combines,” the present form of the verb, is correct.
6. **G** is correct. As is, the sentence is awkward and redundant. “Granted gainful employment” is the best rephrasing. To add “productivity” or “work” after this phrase would also be redundant.

**Remember:* The best way to say something is typically the shortest way.
Eliminate words that serve no purpose.

7. **C** is correct. A comma is the correct means to join the two clauses in this compound sentence, because each is complete and could form a sentence on its own. Use of a semicolon would require elimination of “and,” and would not be appropriate anyway, since the second clause does not seem to lead naturally from or be tied logically to the first. To put a comma after “priestly” serves no purpose. Note how awkward it is to pause at this comma when the sentence is read out loud. This is a clue to its misplacement.
8. **H** is correct. This is another instance of redundancy. A cat after death is, by definition, dead.
9. **B** is correct. Use of a pronoun is correct because the noun “the cat” is already mentioned in the sentence. The proper pronoun is “it,” because it refers to “the cat,” which is singular. The possessive form of “it” is “its” (no apostrophe).
10. **G** is correct. “While,” which could mean “although” or “at the same time,” is inappropriate to the meaning of this sentence; it must be eliminated. It is unnecessary to begin the sentence with “therefore” because the point being made is not a logical conclusion of the preceding point. It *is*, however, necessary to begin a new paragraph. Each paragraph must stick together as a cohesive discussion of only one main idea.
11. **D** is correct. “Than” is a conjunction used in comparisons (“then” is an adverb that indicates time), therefore “than” is correct. It is unnecessary to include “do” at the end of the sentence.
12. **G** is correct. “Mistaking” is the appropriate form of the verb. Think of the statement as saying “*they are mistaking.*”
13. **D** is correct. “Claw” is a cat-specific action and continues the use of figurative language. The expression “claw their way to the top” is a recognizable saying and appropriate to the meaning of the sentence.
14. **F** is correct. As referenced in #11, “than” is appropriate for making comparisons.

15. **B** is correct. It is most accurate to say that the tone of this passage is informal. It communicates everyday information and humorous anecdotes through easy-to-understand, conversational language. Although some elements of the passage may include sarcasm or irony, the tone clearly is not bitter or serious. Although the passage may hint at cat superiority or the overindulgences of pet owners, it is meant primarily as entertainment. It is lighthearted and descriptive -- definitely not a strict logical argument.
16. **F** is correct. The quoted words and phrase provide examples of what the author is about to discuss. This is an effective way to introduce the essay.
17. **C** is correct. Although there are three expressions, reference to "each" is singular, thus the singular verb "is" must be used.
18. **H** is correct. To add that phrases are made up of words is redundant.
19. **A** is correct. "As language evolves" is a parenthetical phrase, a thought interjected mid-sentence. It must be set apart with commas before and after. Again, note how the commas are located at points where you would naturally pause when reading the sentence.
20. **G** is correct. "For example" is also a parenthetical phrase, thus it needs to be set apart by commas.
21. **A** is correct. "And thus" indicates correctly that this information is a conclusion to the points made earlier in the paragraph. "Nevertheless" and "however" indicate a contradiction or exception. "And so, then" is cumbersome and informal.
22. **J** is correct. Eliminating the word "that" makes the sentence into a direct, complete statement. Including the word "that" makes it read like a sentence fragment. Replacing "that" with "which" or "were" poses the same problem.
23. **C** is correct. The comma after "freshmen" is unnecessary since "At one time" is an introductory clause, which is preceded by a comma. "Registering freshmen" is not a parenthetical phrase.
24. **J** is correct. Use of the transition word "thus" indicates that the point made in this sentence is the conclusion of one or more earlier points. It follows directly from the point made in sentence #7.
25. **B** is correct. Because of its appearance at the end of the passage, a qualifier like "first" does not make sense. Since the example that follows is not a summarizing or main (primary) point, "finally" works best.