

SAT Diagnostic Test pages 33-35 Writing Skills and Critical Reading

1. C is correct. "As well" should read "as well as."
2. E is correct. The sentence contains no errors.
3. E is correct. The sentence contains no errors.
4. A is correct. "Which" should be changed to "whom." This is the appropriate way to address a person.
5. C is correct. Third person singular (she/he) must be continued through the sentence. "You," which is second person singular, must be replaced with the singular subjective pronoun "she" or "he."
6. C is correct. Because the sentence refers to "neither of the companies," the appropriate pronoun must be singular and possessive. The replacement would be "its."
7. B is correct. Rephrasing the underlined portion to "abundantly wealthy" corrects awkward phrasing. The replacement could be "possessed abundant wealth."
8. D is correct. Again, it is the use of "neither" ('neither one, nor the other') that makes the singular form of the verb correct. "Are" should read "is."
9. E is correct. This sentence contains no errors.
10. C is correct. "Him" is in a subject position, thus needs to be changed to the subjective form "he."
11. D is correct. Since the pronoun "I" is the object of this sentence, it must be changed into the objective first person singular pronoun "me."
12. E is correct. This sentence contains no errors.
13. D is correct. This is an example of a homophone mix-up. "There," which refers to a place, must be replaced with "their," the plural possessive pronoun.
14. D is correct. The possessive form is necessary (the sale belongs to the store), and the proper pronoun in reference to the store is "it." However, the possessive form of it is "its." "It's" serves only as a contraction for "it is."

15. D is correct. "Would of been" must be replaced with "would have been," the correct past participle conjugation of the verb "to be."

16. B is correct. "Whom" must be replaced with the subjective form "who." Check for correct form by comparing the use of another subjective pronoun (he believed they had hurt or humiliated him) to an objective pronoun (he believed them had hurt or humiliated them).

17. C is correct. "Lie," which means to recline on a surface, should replace "lay," which means to put or place.

18. A is correct. This sentence contains no errors.

19. C is correct. This is an example of inappropriate vocabulary and a usage error. "Submit," which means to surrender, should replace "submerge," which means to immerse. The appropriate preposition is then "to," as opposed to "under."

20. B is correct. In referring to a group of people, the size of the group is referred to by "number."

21. E is correct. "Nor" must be used with "neither."

22. D is correct. Because only two candidates are being compared, the superlative form (often ends in -est, used with groups of three or more) is inappropriate. The superlative form "best" should be changed to the comparative form "better."

23. C is correct. Referring to "neither" one package "nor" the other makes this reference singular. "Have" should be changed to "has."

24. E is correct. "None of which he ever finished" is the only option without awkward phrasing.

25. A is correct. The sentence contains no errors.

26. A is correct.

27. B is correct.

28. E is correct. (2P) This paragraph eliminates all of the choices except E -- he was not a soldier in the American army during the Revolution.

29. E is correct. (3P, 2S) "In 1785 property on the farm at Guilford was destroyed by a wealthy White neighbor."

30. C is correct. She was a pioneer in a variety of fields such as writing, justice, and public speaking.

31. D is correct. (2P, 3P and 4P) Each paragraph describes the latest theory of geological processes.

32. E is correct. Age (4P, Last S); Thickness (3P, 1S); and Compositional complexity (3P, Last S)

33. A is correct. (4P, 3S) "If the oceanic crust forms at ridge crests at one centimeter per year, the resulting sideways spreading would have been sufficient to produce the Atlantic basin within the past 200 million years."

34. C is correct. A is confirmed in (Last P, Last S); B is confirmed in (Last P, 1S); D is confirmed in (3P, 2 & 3 S), and E is confirmed in (4P, 1S).

35. D is correct. A is confirmed in (First P, Last S); B is confirmed in (3P, 1S); C is confirmed in (4P, 2S); E is confirmed in (Last P, Last S). The passage does not reveal the effect of earthquake tremors on oceanic crust.