

### 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:

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 2**

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

A shockingly indelible moment, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I found out that Kurt Cobain had died.

- A. A shockingly indelible moment,
- B. A shocking, indelible moment,
- C. It was a shocking and indelible moment;
- D. Shocked and indelible,
- E. Shocking and I will never forget it,

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: "A shockingly indelible moment,", "A shocking, indelible moment,", "Shocked and indelible,",

and "Shocking and I will never forget it," all have dangling modifier errors, because they aren\\'t describing

what comes after the comma.

Indelible means not able to be erased; you wouldn\\'t say that about a person in this context.

#### **QUESTION 3**

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



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the correct option.

Until you learn the intricacies of the trade, one cannot be qualified to make a judgment.

A. No error

B. you can not be qualified

C. one can\\'t be qualified

D. you cannot be qualified

E. one can not be qualified

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: In order to agree with the first part of the sentence, you must be used.

#### **QUESTION 4**

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

Fleeing the horde of zombies on foot, an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

A. an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

B. the terrified couple spotted a building that looked safe.

C. a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple.

D. the terrified couple\\'s luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building.

E. their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: "an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple", "a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple", "the terrified couple\\'s luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building", and "their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building" are all dangling modifiers. Who was fleeing the horde? The terrified couple was.

#### **QUESTION 5**

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

Firefighters and police officers risk their lives often by stepping into the way of danger physically; therefore, professionals such as doctors and lawyers have an equally significant impact on individuals\\' lives medically and legally. Therefore, but nevertheless as a result and Firefighters and police officers risk their lives often by stepping into the way of danger physically; therefore, professionals such as doctors and lawyers have an equally significant impact on individuals\\' lives medically and legally.



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A. therefore

B. but

C. nevertheless

D. as a result

E. and

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The first clause (everything before the semi colon) definitely does not cause what is explained in the second clause (everything after the semi colon), so "therefore" is an inappropriate transition. This sentence is presenting contrasting professions (firefighter/police officer and doctor/lawyer) since two are viewed as blue-collar (working class) and the others are white-collar (professional); therefore, a contrasting conjunction is needed. Choice "therefore", choice "as a result" and choice "and" do not present contrasting conjunctions. In this sentence "but" is not your best option for a conjunction. A semi-colon is used, so the three simple conjunctions (and/but/yet/etc.) are not as appropriate as the complex conjunctions (therefore/however/nevertheless/etc.). If just a comma was used, then "but" would have been appropriate (i.e. "...into the way of danger physically, but professionals such as doctors..."). So now it\\'s down to "nevertheless." Choice "nevertheless" is the best answer.

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