

# PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION<sup>Q&As</sup>

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.

Lockers in schools are often dilapidated, making student's valuables susceptible to theft.

- A. making student's valuables susceptible to theft
- B. which makes student's valuables susceptible to theft
- C. that makes student's valuables susceptible to theft

Correct Answer: A

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### QUESTION 2

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.

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### QUESTION 3

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

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#### QUESTION 4

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

They hopped down off the table; and went to go pick up the napkins.

- A. No error
- B. off the table: and went
- C. off the table, went
- D. off the table and went
- E. off the table, and went

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: There is no need for punctuation to separate these two continuous actions.

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#### QUESTION 5

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

High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.

- A. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- B. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- C. Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- D. Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.

E. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider yourselves successful.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it uses the passive voice and a mistaken pronoun to refer to people (i.e. that). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" and choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" change the passive voice to the active voice by writing that the alumni commit the action, rather than writing that the action was committed by the alumni. Also, choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" mistakenly changes "alumni" (plural) to "alumnus" (singular). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" is the best choice because "alumni" is plural as it should be based on the logic of the sentence (not just one person looks forward to high school reunions) and the active voice is properly implemented.

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### QUESTION 6

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Lester, a giant for his age; was respected by all the other children.

- A. Lester
- B. a giant for
- C. age; was
- D. other children.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

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

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### QUESTION 7

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

Without making a sound Geoffrey crept down the stairs.

- A. No error
- B. sound; Geoffrey crept
- C. sound, Geoffrey crept
- D. sound, crept Geoffrey
- E. sound Geoffrey, crept

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The dependent clause needs to be separated with a comma.

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### QUESTION 8

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

Fraternities are a great way to make friends and learn important lessons of loyalty and compassion.

- A. are a great way to make friends and
- B. is a great way to make friends and
- C. will have been a great way to make friends and
- D. will be a great way to make friends and
- E. is a great way to make friends however

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The original sentence is correct as written. There is no need to change the verb form or tense.

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### QUESTION 9

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

It went on raining, and every day it got a little higher.

- A. No error
- B. on raining: and every day
- C. raining on, and every day
- D. on raining, every day
- E. raining on; and every day

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The original sentence is correct.

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### QUESTION 10

Identify the error in the following sentence: "This book is amazing," she sighed contented.

- A. "This

- B. amazing,"
- C. she sighed
- D. contented.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer would be contentedly.

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#### QUESTION 11

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

The final two competitors were Susan, that was considered the challenger, and Gail, the defending champion.

- A. No error
- B. Susan, whom was considered the challenger,
- C. Susan, which was considered the challenger,
- D. Susan, considered the challenger,
- E. Susan, who was considered the challenger,

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: Susan is a person, so the appropriate pronoun is who.

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#### QUESTION 12

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

In many cultures, they consider fish eggs a delicacy.

- A. In many cultures they consider fish eggs a delicacy.
- B. In many cultures fish eggs are considered a delicacy.
- C. In many cultures a delicacy is considered to be fish eggs.
- D. Fish eggs, a delicacy in many cultures.
- E. They consider fish eggs to be a delicacy in many cultures.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: "In many cultures they consider fish eggs a delicacy" is tempting, but the pronoun "they" is vague. "They

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consider fish eggs to be a delicacy in many cultures" has the same vague pronoun problem. "In many cultures a delicacy is considered to be fish eggs" is just weird all over. "Fish eggs, a delicacy in many cultures" is a fragment.

### QUESTION 13

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Every farmer knows that baling wet grass is dangerous because heat can build in a tightly packed bale and starts a fire.

- A. Every
- B. baling
- C. tightly
- D. starts
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is "starts" because the tense of the verb "starts" doesn't agree with the rest of the sentence, even though it may seem to agree with "knows" at first glance. Note, however, that "know" has to agree with "farmer" while "starts" describes the action of "heat" and must agree with that noun instead. Changing "starts" to "start" will correct the problem.

### QUESTION 14

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

McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department.

- A. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department
- B. McCarthyism was an ideology, an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century, targeted communists in the United States state department
- C. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted Communists in the United States state department
- D. McCarthyism will be an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States
- E. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States State department

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The original choice is wrong strictly for the lack of capitalization of "State Department." Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology, an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century, targeted

communists in the United States state department" complicates problems more than "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department" by deleting certain words that turn the sentence into a run-on sentence. Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted Communists in the United States state department" fails to capitalize "State Department" (it needs to be capitalized because it is a proper noun -- the United States State Department, not just "a state department"). Although choice "McCarthyism will be an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States" corrects the capitalization error, it changes "was" to "will be," which is an illogical verb tense (i.e. future) because later in the sentence it is stated that the ideology arose "in the middle of the twentieth century," which has already passed. Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States State department" corrects the capitalization error and leaves the sentence as it is. Sometimes just minor changes are needed.

### QUESTION 15

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

The argument between Paarin and me about the dent in his car continued until the early morning.

- A. between Paarin and me about the dent in his car continued
- B. between Paarin and I about the dent in his car continued
- C. about the dent in his car continued for Paarin and I
- D. on the dent in his car between Paarin and me continued
- E. between Paarin and I on the dent in his car continued

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "between Paarin and I about the dent in his car continued", "about the dent in his car continued for Paarin and I", and "between Paarin and I on the dent in his car continued" all have pronoun case errors: when the pronoun is the object of a preposition like "between," you need to use the objective case. "on the dent in his car between Paarin and me continued" is awkward, especially in its misused idiom: "argument on."

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