

## SAT Writing and Language Practice Paper

### For Figs? The Chimps

Aren't Chumps Sometimes as you fall asleep, you're thinking about what to eat for breakfast the next morning. "When I get up, I'll go to the fridge. I'll have an egg, [1] a piece of toast, and a few strips of bacon while I'm making coffee." Even though you may know where your food is coming from, you plan breakfast as a way to plan the day.

Our species may have been doing this kind of breakfast planning long before refrigerators, long before our species was even our species. A team of researchers recently followed groups of chimpanzees through three periods of fruit scarcity in West Africa. [2] For a chimpanzee, every day during a fruit-poor season can be like Black Friday, where all the "shoppers" want the same hot item.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. a piece of toast, and a few strips of bacon,
- C. a piece, of toast, and a few strips, of bacon,
- D. a piece of toast and a few strips of bacon

2. At this point, the author wants to add a sentence that accurately summarizes the scientists' research in a way that is consistent with other information in the passage. Which sentence would most effectively achieve that goal?

- A. They wanted to see whether the chimps would prefer new, high-yield fruits like figs to their traditional diet of bananas.
- B. They wanted to discover where chimps spent the time between waking and sleep.
- C. They wanted to know how the chimps acquired highly sought-after fruits, like figs, when the trees that bear these fruits are depleted so quickly.
- D. They wanted to uncover the secrets of human evolution and how chimps would operate in a retail environment.

[3] Why does everyone freak out during Black Friday when the deals aren't even that good? If you want to be sure to get the new, say, plasma TV, what do you have to do? Camp out in front of the store! Well, that's exactly what the researchers found the chimpanzees to do with the coveted fruits. In fruit-poor seasons, [4] the nomadic chimpanzees set up their campsites within striking distance of the ripe

fruits. When the fruits were [5] " \_\_\_\_\_," or quick to disappear, the female chimpanzees set up their sleeping nests more pointedly in the direction of the fruit [6] than the fruit was plentiful. Moreover, in order to ensure that the fruit supply would not be [7] gobbled by the time the chimps got there, they woke up early, often before sunrise, when the forests were still dark.

3. Which of the following would provide the best transition from the previous paragraph and introduction to this paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. The similarity to Black Friday shoppers goes even a bit further than this.
- C. For a monkey, every day of the year is like Black Friday, but without Thanksgiving.
- D. Black Friday is the day after the American Thanksgiving, and it is often characterized by heavy retail traffic.

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the nomadic chimpanzee sets up their
- C. the nomadic chimpanzee sets up its
- D. the nomadic chimpanzees set up its

5. Which of the following provides the most precise word given the definition that immediately follows?

- A. lively
- B. desiccated
- C. ephemeral
- D. eternal

6.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. then the
- C. than if the
- D. than when the

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. depleted
- C. chomped
- D. ate

The findings about the chimp [8] has led scientists to reopen a number of heated questions. The first has to do with animals' existence outside the present moment: how much do they remember, and how much do they plan? In other words, is "consciousness" really only [9] the province of humans? The other set of questions has to do with the lines of evolution. It has been firmly established that chimpanzees are our evolutionary ancestors, but now we have to wonder if we've inherited even more [10] than we thought from them initially. Have the lives of chimpanzees conditioned the small, day-to-day patterns of our own lives?

While such questions may seem purely academic and conceptual, they actually have a good deal to do with our lived experience. We learn more and more about what we share with other animals—and with each discovery, we learn a new way to relate to the world around us.

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. have lead
- C. have led
- D. has lead

9.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. the providence of humans?
- C. the provenance of humans?
- D. providential for humans?

**10.**

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. from them than we initially thought.
- C. then initially thought.
- D. than we had been thinking from them initially.

**11.** Suppose the author's goal had been to present an argument that suggests Black Friday shopping is an animalistic behavior. Would the information in this essay support that argument?

- A. Yes, this essay establishes a parallel between humans and chimpanzees and explores it in detail.
- B. Yes, this essay suggests that chimps have adapted Black Friday behavior easily.
- C. No, this essay suggests that chimpanzees are more advanced than most Black Friday shoppers.
- D. No, this essay is more concerned with describing a behavior of chimpanzees than in passing judgment on humans.