

SAT Writing and Language Practice Paper 12
SET 1

Bats have always seemed mysterious predators. While many other animal predators use methods **1** similar to human hunters, bats have evolved a series of unique methods of capturing prey. **2** The main curiosity among the bat's weaponry is its use of echolocation, or sonar.

[2]

Because bats hunt in the dark, they are not often able to see their prey. Instead, they use a process wherein they emit sounds and listen for the echoes. If **3** they are, say, standing atop a mountain and shout, you can figure out the distance across the canyon using the speed of sound waves and a series of precise calculations. Using its innate senses, a bat does these same **4** calculations instinctively. With extreme precision, a bat can identify its prey's location and size in the dark and capture its prey. While a bat does have relatively acute vision, **5** though not nearly as acute as some species of shrimp, its echolocation is what makes it such an effective predator.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. similar to that of human hunters
- C. similar to those of human hunters
- D. like human hunters

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. The echolocation, sonar, of the bat's weaponry is its main curiosity.
- C. The bat has a curious weaponry, main among which is its echolocation and sonar.
- D. The bat's weaponry is mainly curious in its use of echolocation of sonar.

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. they're,
- C. one is,
- D. you are,

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. calculations by instinct.
- C. calculations with its instincts.
- D. calculations.

5. The writer intends to insert a phrase or clause that emphasizes a common misunderstanding about bats' vision. Which of the following would best suit that intention?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. undermining the cliché "blind as a bat,"
- C. despite the pitch darkness in which it hunts,
- D. in addition to its incredible hearing,

[3]

However, scientists have recently discovered a species that can disrupt the bat's usually failsafe echolocation. The tiger moth, a victim of bat predation for over 50 million years, has figured out a way to "jam" 6 its system of echolocation. Most tiger moths can emit clicks that warn bats away from the moths, suggesting that the moths might be inedible toxic compounds.7

[4]

In the long history of bat research, scientists have never seen the like of these tiger moths. Although human methods of warfare have used sonic deception for as long as such warfare has existed, the tiger moth and 8 their sonar jamming provide one of the first instances of aural camouflage in the animal kingdom that scientists have discovered. It seems that no matter how ancient the conflict, bats and tiger moths continue to attack, 9 counterattack, and adapt in a war as old as time.

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the bats'
- C. the bat's
- D. the bats

7. If the writer were to delete the words *inedible* and *toxic* from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose

- A. an indication that the tiger moth is not consumed by any predators.
- B. a specific description of the compound that prevents the bat from eating the tiger moth.
- C. a detailed analysis of the mechanism of the clicks that produce this particular compound.
- D. nothing, because the information is stated elsewhere in the passage.

8.

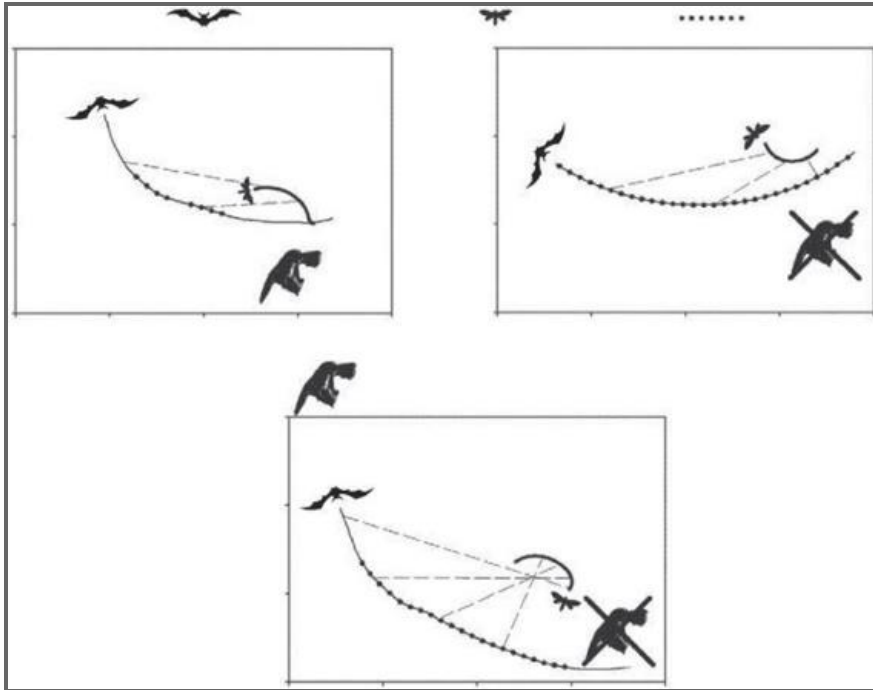
- A. NO CHANGE
- B. it's
- C. its
- D. its'

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. counterattack, and, adapt
- C. counterattack and adapt
- D. counterattack and adapt,

[5]

One species, the tiger moth *Bertholdia trigona*, has done even better. This species emits a high-frequency clicking noise that throws off the bat's sonar altogether. While no one is certain exactly how these clicks camouflage the *B. trigona*, the clicks have been remarkably successful in defending the moths from bat attacks. Some suggest that the clicks force bats to misinterpret their sensory data, taking the moth clicks for their own echoes. As a result, bats **10** miss their prey at the moment of attempted capture, and the tiger moths flit away unharmed. **11**



This image adapted from the *Journal of Experimental Biology* © 2011.

10. Which of the following provides accurate information based on the diagrams?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. attack other animals they find easier to detect,
- C. fly after one another, bonking their heads together,
- D. hear no sounds at all,

11. In the context of the passage as a whole, the best placement for paragraph 5 would be

- A. where it is now.
- B. after paragraph 1.
- C. after paragraph 2.
- D. after paragraph 3.

SET 2

Park Rangers, Naturally

Of the many parks that are part of the American heritage, the National Park 1 Service (NPS) is easily the most majestic. From the moment of the first European settlements in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, visitors and residents alike have marveled at the natural beauty and diversity of 2 the American landscape's attractiveness. As part of a commitment to preserving these national treasures against the forward movement of industrialization, the National Park Service was founded in 1916 during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

1. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. Service, NPS,
- B. Service NPS
- C. Service—NPS—
- D. Service, abbreviated NPS,

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the pulchritudinous American landscape.
- C. the pretty American landscape.
- D. the American landscape.

Today, there are over 400 parks in the service, and these parks are run and overseen by the Department of the Interior. The day-to-day operations, 3 including maintenance and tours, are the work of park rangers. These park rangers are responsible for the upkeep of the 4 parks, their main responsibility is to maintain the balance between the wildlife and plant species and the human visitors that come to the parks every day.

5 Without park rangers, the parks would be overrun with pollution. Some are scientists who revel in the ecological aspects of maintaining the parks. Some are educators 6 helping visitors to understand the unique aspects and historical significance of the parks. Still others come from law enforcement and firefighting, given that their posts are often very far indeed from the municipal bodies that typically provide 7 them.

3. The writer wants to include a detail that will clarify the phrase "day-to-day operations." Which of the following would best fulfill this goal?

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. and some that are more long-term,
- C. often repetitive tasks,
- D. not the political decisionmaking,

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. parks their
- C. parks—their
- D. parks, their—

5. Which of the following would best introduce the topic of this paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Park rangers can come from all walks of life.
- C. Many millions visit the National Parks every year.
- D. The most successful park rangers usually have some background in ecology.

6.

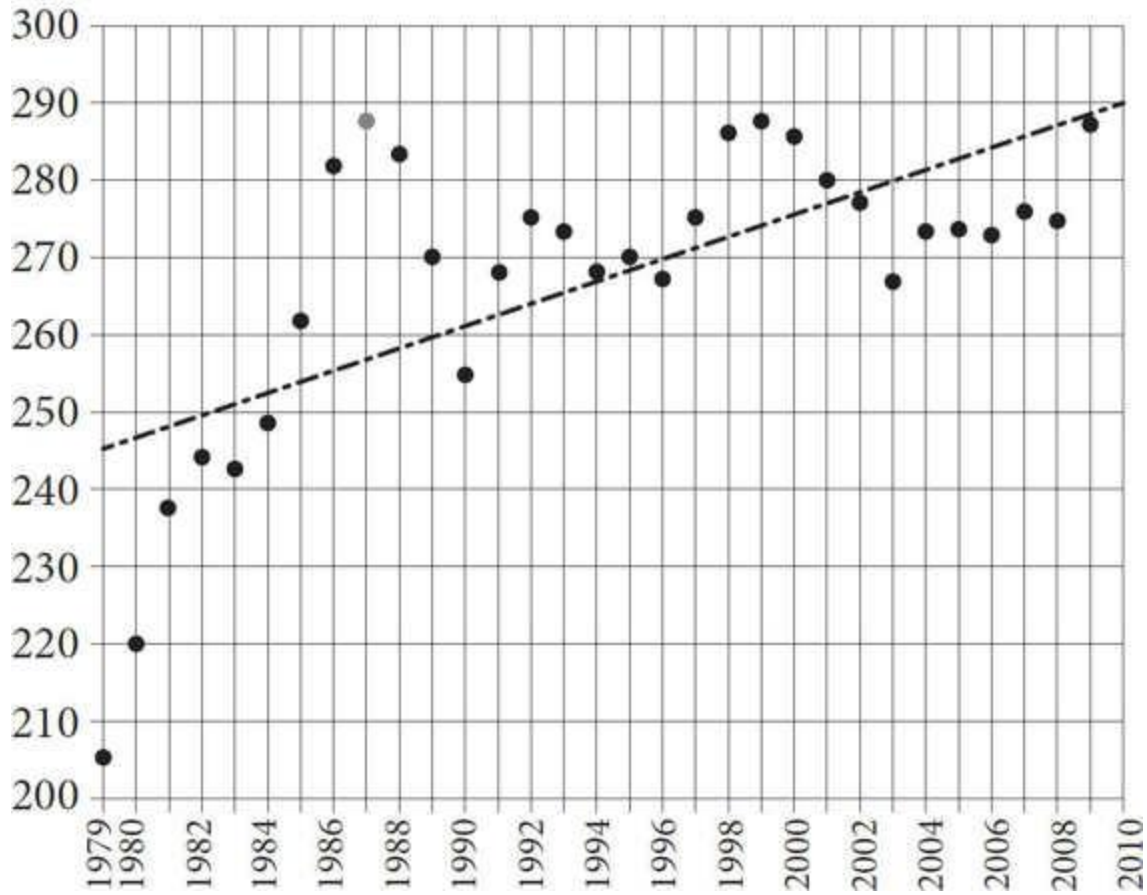
- A. NO CHANGE
- B. that are helping
- C. who are helping
- D. who help

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. these services.
- C. those.
- D. it.

There are nearly 4,000 park rangers in service with the NPS today. ⁸ Visitors are on the rise, poising that number for growth. ⁹ Although park visitation numbers peaked in 1987, the general trend has been a steady rise. The numbers continue to be high, with over 270 million visitors in 2013. It seems that as economic conditions in the country as uncertain, more and more people turn to parks for economical, educational, and enlightening alternatives to the more costly tourist activities and trips. Now, too, that climate science has ¹⁰ foretold difficult times, the NPS is seen to be protecting the last vestiges of our green world before it slips away.

Visitors to America's National Parks, 1979–2009 (in millions)



8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Visitation numbers are poised on the rise for significant growth.
- C. That number is poised to grow, as visitation numbers are on the rise.
- D. Poised on the rise, visitation numbers are growing.

9. Which of the following gives accurate information based on the graph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Park visitation peaked in the mid-1980s and has tapered off since then.
- C. Park visitation reached record highs in 2009.
- D. Park visitation has risen in a linear progression since the late 1970s.

10. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

- A. predicted
- B. stated
- C. anticipated
- D. forecast

11 The park-ranger workforce is so diverse, there are actually a few common attributes among park rangers. Park rangers need at least a two-year degree and some experience working in parks. Many seasonal park workers and volunteers go on to become park rangers. Ultimately, attaining work as a park ranger is less about a skill-set than a particular mindset. Park rangers must honor and revere the natural world: they spend their entire careers learning about and living in the places they work. Park rangers have special jobs, so it naturally takes a group of special people to do those jobs.

11.

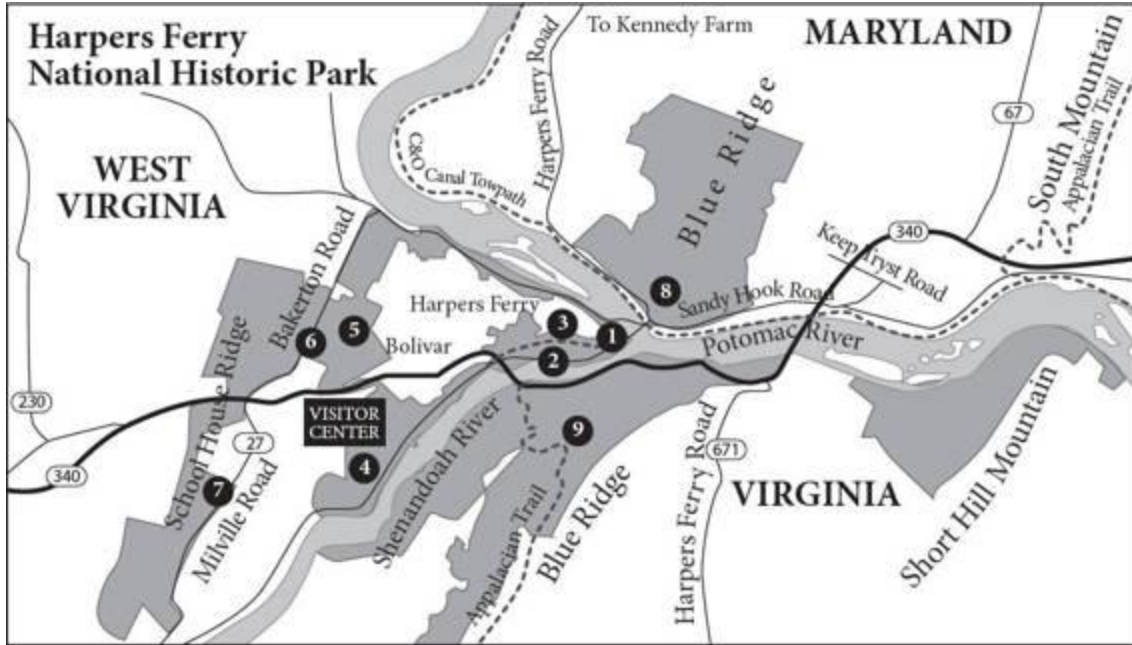
- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Truly, the park-ranger
- C. Because the park-ranger
- D. Although the park-ranger

SET 3

The Ferry Godfather

[1] For much of the early part of American history, Pennsylvania and Virginia, two major early colonies and states, shared a border. [2] This part of Virginia became the modern state of West Virginia on June 20, 1863. [3] Then came the Civil War. [4] Amid the furor of secession and conflict, President Abraham Lincoln granted a special provision for that part of Virginia that was loyal to the Union.¹

Although this region is not in the news quite so often today, in America's early history one part of it was on the tip of everyone's tongue. The town of Harpers Ferry played a crucial role in pre-Civil War era. George Washington proposed that the United States station one of ² their two major armories there, and by 1799, Harpers Ferry became ³ one of the major industrial towns in the United States. Its position about 60 miles from Washington, D.C., and Baltimore put it close enough to major cities, but its place ⁴ in the hills at the meeting of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers made it difficult to access and easy to defend.



1. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, sentence 2 should be placed

- A. where it is now.
- B. before sentence 1.
- C. after sentence 3.
- D. after sentence 4.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. they're
- C. its
- D. it's

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. one, of the major industrial towns, in the United States.
- C. one, of the major industrial towns in the United States.
- D. one of the major industrial towns in the United States.

4. Which of the following gives accurate information based on the map?

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. approximately 20 miles northeast of the town of Bolivar
- C. across the Shenandoah River from Maryland
- D. at the foot of the Adirondack Mountains

Because it was situated on the borderline between the Union and the Confederacy, and because its armory was full of the weapons being manufactured to fight the Civil War, **5** the Confederacy took it four times and the Union did also. and both sides saw it as a pivotal strategic base.

In the popular imagination today, Harpers Ferry is still seen as a crucial **6** place of great importance during the Civil War but mainly for events that occurred there before the war had even started. In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a raid on Harpers Ferry, seeking to free slaves and begin a guerilla campaign to free slaves all over the country. While Brown's raid was ultimately a dismal failure and Brown was executed for treason, **7** his raid began a national conversation. Abolitionists in the North saw him as a hero and a freedom fighter while those in the South saw him as a **8** filthy terrorist. **9** The Civil War and the nation's movement towards it used John Brown's name as both sides' rallying cry.

5.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the war saw Harpers Ferry change hands eight times,
- C. Harpers Ferry changed hands eight times during the war,
- D. eight was the number of times Harpers Ferry changed hands,

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. place
- C. place that was important
- D. place where a great deal happened

7. The writer wants to include an idea here that shows that Brown's raid still had major importance. Which of the following true ideas would best fulfill this goal?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Hermann Melville's poem about John Brown is very well-known.
- C. the raid was based on some earlier well-known slave revolts.
- D. he could not have chosen a more central location.

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. heroic
- C. janky

- D. vile

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Brown's name became a rallying cry for both sides as the nation moved toward Civil War.
- C. Brown's cry was the rally that both sides named as the Civil War moved in on the nation.
- D. both sides used Brown's name as the nation's Civil War was moving toward it.

Today, Harpers Ferry is a sleepy town in the mountains of West Virginia. Much of its heritage remains **10** intact. Historical tours run every day. Above all, Harpers Ferry is a living reminder that the crucial events in history are not limited to the big places and the major players. Without the catalyzing effect of this small **11** town: American history as we know it might have been much different.

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. intact, historical
- C. intact historical
- D. intact; and historical

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. town; American
- C. town. American
- D. town, American