

## SAT WRITING AND LANGUAGE PRACTICE PAPER

### I Object!

Crime stories are as old as narrative itself. Some of the earliest texts we have center on questions of murder, theft, and other transgressions. Still, while people often remember the crimes and criminals themselves, typically these stories will revolve around a separate issue, guilt, and innocence. Courtroom dramas in our own day attest to this correlative fascination.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. murder, theft, and, other transgressions.
- C. murder theft and other transgressions.
- D. murder: theft and other transgressions.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. issue; guilt and innocence.
- C. issue: guilt and innocence.
- D. issue: guilt, and innocence.

3. Which of the following choices would most effectively conclude this paragraph and provide an effective transition into the next?

- A. The most famous courtroom drama of all time is probably *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- B. Errol Morris has made many interesting films throughout his career.
- C. We all have our fascinations in life, and there's usually some TV show that lines up with these fascinations.
- D. One of the great modern examples of such a fascination is Errol Morris's famous documentary *The Thin Blue Line* (1988).

Morris's story takes up the real-life case of Randall Dale Adams, a Texas police officer was killed by this Ohio man allegedly. Although the evidence in the trial was thin, Adams was sentenced to life in prison. Morris's film in a sense reopens the case, interviewing many of those involved: many more people than just the defendant are involved in a case. All of the interviewees raise notable objections to Adams's murder charge, and the film concludes with a sobering message from the prosecutor's closing statement: the police are the "thin blue line" separating society from anarchy. At least they should be, the film wants us to see, but should this separation come at the expense of a man's legal rights?

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. a man from Ohio who would be convicted of the murder of Texas police officer.

- C. a Texas police officer being killed by this Ohio man allegedly.
- D. a verdict of guilty was this Ohio man's fate for the murder of a Texas police officer.

5. Which of the following choices gives the most detailed explanation of the words *those involved*, which appear before the colon?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. witnesses, attorneys, detectives, and the judge who presided over the case.
- C. he couldn't interview the victim of the crime for obvious reasons.
- D. there is nothing that says those involved can't talk after the trial has concluded.

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

- A. lawlessness.
- B. chaos.
- C. tyranny.
- D. mayhem.

Within a year of the film's 1988 release, Adams's sentence was overturned. It's not hard to see that it was Morris's film that helped to build the appeals case. Such an event is remarkable, not only because of the relative rarity of a court overturning its verdict (one that peaked in the year of Morris's film), but also because it was seemingly done outside of the courts.

The significance of *The Thin Blue Line* is again with us today with the podcast *Serial*, hosted by journalist Sarah Koenig. The podcast analyzes the records from the 1999 trial and conviction of Adnan Syed, a then-17-year-old high school student, who was convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend. While Koenig's stated purpose is merely to understand the ins-and-outs of the trial, not necessarily to get Syed's sentence overturned, she does identify a degree of uncertainty about the trial's verdict. Unlike Morris, Koenig is not quite convinced of her subject's innocence as Morris was, but she is equally interested in how the legal system determines that guilt and innocence, often showing how decidedly extralegal matters can play a serious role.

Figure 2C: Direct Appeal Reversal Rate  
by Year of Review, 1973-1995

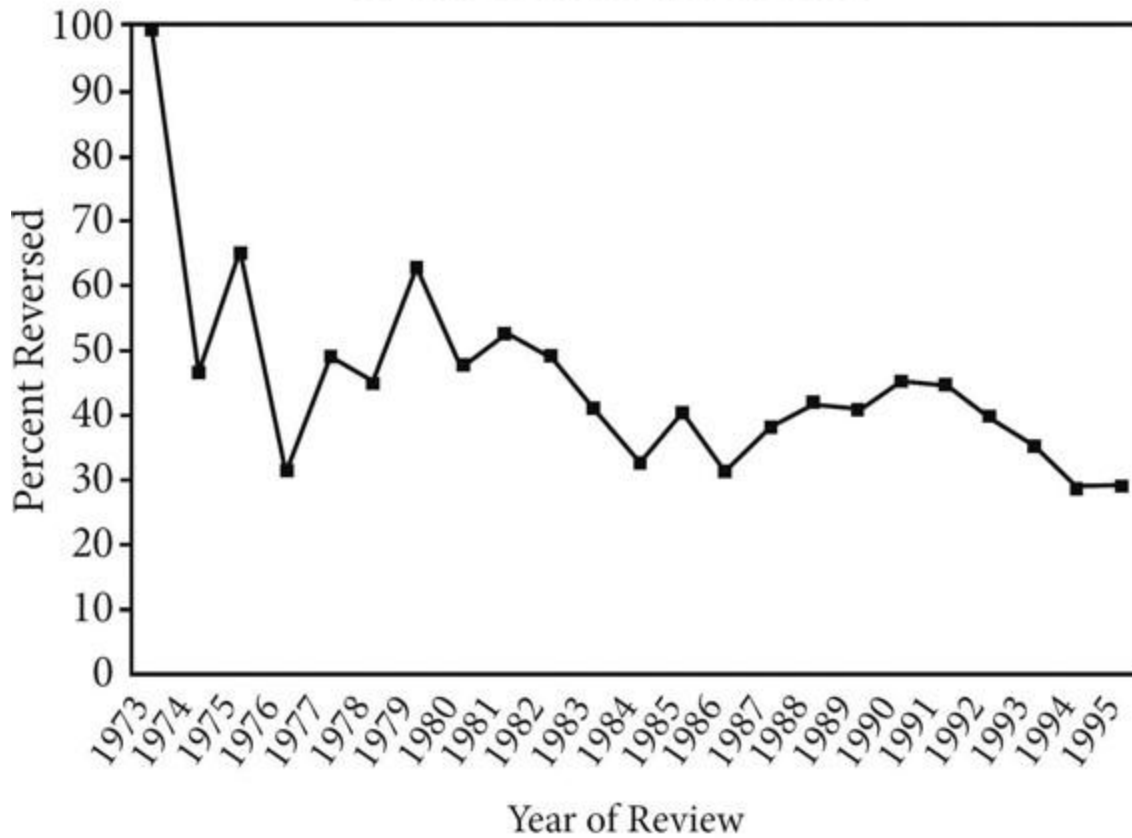


Image courtesy of Columbia Law School

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

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. (the data do not account for repeated attempts to overturn verdicts),
- C. (in 1989, the direct-appeal reversal rate was approximately 14%),
- D. (one that actually trended downward in the years after Morris's film),

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Koenig's stated purpose
- C. Because Koenig's stated purpose
- D. However, Koenig's stated purpose

9. The author is considering deleting the phrase as *Morris was*, placing the comma after the word *innocence*. Should the phrase be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because the contrast with Errol Morris's project is not clear without it.
- B. Kept, because Koenig is clearly interested in duplicating Morris's work in the podcast format.
- C. Deleted, because the information is given elsewhere in the sentence.
- D. Deleted, because it is not reasonable to suppose that a film and a podcast could be usefully compared.

Morris's film and Koenig's podcast both raise some serious questions about the legal system. For instance, how conclusive does the evidence have to be to prove someone's guilt? And how can questions of innocence or guilt ever be determined by so many imperfect human actors? They both remind us that even though justice itself may be blind, and the U.S. court system prides itself on legal objectivity, such a thing may not be possible, especially as it promises that all of those on trial are innocent until proven guilty.

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the podcast of Koenig's
- C. the podcast Koenig is making
- D. Koenig's

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Koenig and Morris
- C. The two
- D. DELETE the underlined portion (beginning the sentence at the word *Both*).

## Working from Home: Too Good to Be True?

It can be hard to break into your desired field, whether that's advertising, medicine, or technology. New graduates usually have to start at entry-level positions, where salaries are low. Meanwhile, the cost of rent can be high, and if you live with your parents to save on rent, perhaps in the suburbs, then you might have a costly commute.

It may be tempting to take a position that promises high income for working at home. But don't be tempted. Many of these advertised "work-from-home" positions are outright scams. Of the 8,192 complaints filed with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2010 involving work-at-home business opportunities, the FTC estimates that only 1 in every 55 cases involved any real business.

The scams come in many forms, but one thing they have in common is the promise of thousands of dollars per week, with no skills, experience, or degree required. That sounds too

good to be true—precisely because it is. The other thing it has in common is that they require a fee for the materials to get you started, everything from lists of phone numbers to registration with bogus agencies.

Victims often find the paperwork difficult to complete. The certification fee is supposed to get you marketing materials, software, and a training session. But once the company has your money, the training sessions are postponed indefinitely, and the materials never arrive. You don't earn a cent.

Stuffing envelopes, assembling crafts, and entering data are all schemes that promise easy dollars for performing simple work. In each case, the company collects your setup fee and never provides any work. There is no service department (with which to lodge complaints), and there are no refunds.

The lure of money is very powerful, but people entering the job market for the first time need to understand that earning a substantial income is something that comes from skill, education, and hard work. They're are no shortcuts in life or in business, and anyone who thrills at the thought of getting something for nothing, or who loves the idea of working in pajamas, should learn that fast tracks to wealth are a distortion.

Besides, you'll get more satisfaction out of performing real work that uses real skills than you would stuffing envelopes. Starting in a career field, building your experience and skills will earn you bigger dividends in the future. That's a guarantee that no work-from-home scam can match.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. high
- C. high:
- D. high—

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. complaints
- C. compliments
- D. complements

3. Which sentence adds supporting information to this paragraph?

- A. Victims of scams should contact their local or state consumer affairs agency.
- B. Sadly, most cases are not covered by fraud protection policies offered by banks.
- C. Therefore, work-from-home opportunities have increased over the last decade.
- D. That means that 98 percent of the time, these "opportunities" are traps set to steal your cash.

4.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. they have
- C. one has
- D. it has

5. Which choice provides the most effective topic sentence for this paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Training sessions are often long and tedious.
- C. One scam involves a fee to process insurance claims for doctors.
- D. Many people are naive enough to believe that fraud can't happen to them.

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. registration
- C. conclusion
- D. termination

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Envelope stuffing, assembling crafts, and data entry
- C. Envelope stuffing, craft assembly, and entering data
- D. Stuffing envelopes, craft assembly, and entering data

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. department—with which to lodge complaints,
- C. department with which to lodge complaints,
- D. department, with which to lodge complaints,

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. They
- C. Their
- D. There

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. an impression
- C. an illusion
- D. an apparition

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Just starting in a career field, building experience
- C. If starting in a career field, building your experience
- D. When you are starting in a career field, building your experience

## Is Gluten-Free the Way to Be?

A lot of people suffer from celiac disease and find it hard to control the symptoms. Most of these people, however, are not doing so because of medical necessity. Gluten is not an absolutely essential nutrient, so no one is harmed by following a gluten-free diet. In fact, it may be a good idea to try going gluten-free, as it may reveal some health issues that might have gone undiagnosed.

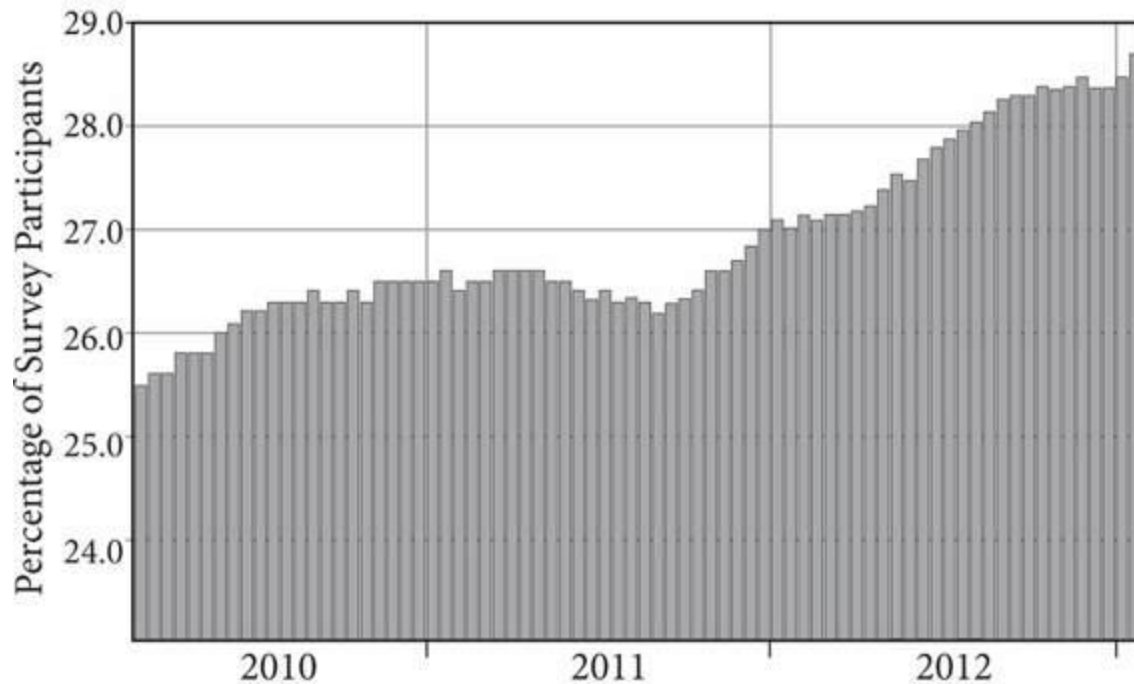
Studies indicate that about 1 percent of Americans have celiac disease, meaning that eating even standard amounts of gluten will make them ill. Gluten is a protein composite found in wheat, barley, rye and a few other related grains, and it contains amino acid sequences that trigger immune responses in people with celiac disease. Tissues in the small intestine react as if the protein belonged to a harmful virus or bacteria. They become inflamed. This inflammation prevents nutrients from being properly absorbed in the small intestine, resulting in a variety of serious conditions. It also causes gas and bloating, cramps, and diarrhea or constipation.

[1] Although a small percentage of Americans have celiac disease, a much higher percentage report that they try to eat a gluten-free diet or are trying to eat less gluten. [2] According to one survey, some 20 percent of people are trying to avoid or cut back on gluten. [3] Why are so many people following, or trying to follow, a gluten-free diet if they have not been diagnosed with celiac disease? [4] In some cases, they might feel better on the diet because they have celiac disease but have never been diagnosed. [5] People who suspect they have celiac disease because a gluten-free diet made them feel better still need to get diagnosed, but they might never have suspected they had the disease if going gluten-free had not become so popular.

A lot of people who have been found not to have celiac disease still feel better when they follow a gluten-free diet. Researchers have carefully tested groups of these people, giving them a diet that omitted gluten and then adding gluten back into their diet in pill form, some felt no difference when gluten was added back into their diets. Some, moreover, were affected by gluten, which suggests that there might be other health conditions related to gluten besides celiac disease. These conditions affect only a small percentage of people, so the conditions might not have been noticed and studied if gluten-free diets had not become so popular.

Although it will not necessarily improve the health of everyone who tries it, a gluten-free diet does no harm and definitely benefiting more people than doctors and researchers originally .

## Positive Responses to Statement “I’m trying to cut back/avoid gluten in my diet.”



Adapted from The NPD Group's consumer product research ([www.npd.com](http://www.npd.com)).

1. Replacing the first sentence with which of the following best introduces the main topic of the paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Today, many people try different diets to see which ones they like the best.
- C. Gluten can cause gastric trouble if people who eat it are allergic to it.
- D. More and more people are trying to remove gluten from their diet.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the very most essential
- C. an essential nutrient
- D. a very essential nutrient

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. nonexistent
- C. strong



- D. trace

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. wheat, barley, rye, and a few other related grains
- C. wheat barley, rye and a few other related grains
- D. wheat, barley, rye, and, a few other related grains

5. Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A. bacteria as they become inflamed.
- B. bacteria and become inflamed.
- C. bacteria, however they become inflamed.
- D. bacteria; become inflamed.

6. Which choice revises the sentence with accurate data based on the graphic?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. According to one survey conducted in 2012, over 28 percent of people were trying to cut back or avoid gluten.
- C. According to one survey conducted in 2011, about 25 percent of people were trying to cut back or avoid gluten in 2011.
- D. According to one survey, just under 29 percent of people are trying to cut back or avoid gluten.

7. Which sentence, if added after sentence 4, would best support the claim made in sentence 4?

- A. A recent study estimates that many Americans with celiac disease do not know they have it.
- B. A recent study estimates that Americans do not always know they have celiac disease.
- C. A recent study estimates that about 5 out of every 6 Americans with celiac disease do not know they have it.
- D. A recent study estimates that a high percentage of Americans with celiac disease do not know they have it.

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. pill form. Some felt

- C. pill form some felt
  - D. pill form consequently some felt
- 9.**

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. despite
- C. however
- D. for instance

**10.**

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. benefits
- C. is benefiting
- D. did benefit

**11.**

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. wanted
- C. tested
- D. suspected