

SAT Writing and Language Practice Paper 18

SET 1

**The Other Steel City**

[1]

1 Set on the banks of Monocacy Creek, the area that is now Bethlehem, PA, was inhabited by a rich 2 diversity of indigenous peoples. [A] By the time of that contact, the area was primarily one of the Algonquian-speaking Lenape tribe and its various divisions. 3 They traded with many settlers in the mid-Atlantic region.

1. Which of the following best introduces the historical tone of this essay?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Home to over 700,000 people,
- C. Long before European contact,
- D. About 50 miles north of Philadelphia,

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

- A. variety
- B. arrangement
- C. assortment
- D. multiplicity

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. It
- C. Some
- D. These groups

[2]

While many groups in other regions were systematically exterminated and relegated to smaller plots of land, the Lenape 4 went on to continue to be a contributing factor to the landscape of the early region. Even after the initial European settlement on Christmas 5  Eve in 1741, the Lenape trading continued, though the written history primarily follows the progress of white settlers.

[3]

These settlers, a group of Moravians led by David Nitschman and Count Nicolas von Zinzendorf, called the region Bethlehem, after the birthplace of Jesus Christ. The Moravians set up missions to convert the

Lenape and non-English-speaking Christians to the tenets of Moravianism, **6** a practice widely criticized for its ignorance of local traditions. [B] Although the group was relatively small and its religious influence did not reach as far as **7** other groups, the Moravians had a lasting cultural influence on the shape of the early United States. With their strong ties to Germany and musical bent, the annual Moravian Bach festival was one of the first places for people to hear the music from overseas that would become so internationally influential. [C]

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. continued going on
- C. went on
- D. continued

5.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Eve in 1741 the Lenape trading continued
- C. Eve in 1741 the Lenape trading continued,
- D. Eve, in 1741, the Lenape trading continued,

6. Which of the following true choices helps to maintain the focus on the way the Moravian settlers have been characterized throughout the essay?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. using diplomacy rather than force.
- C. a cornerstone of European colonizing missions in Africa and Asia.
- D. which helped to bring European literacy and economics to many outside of Europe.

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. some other
- C. those other
- D. that of some other

[4]

In the twentieth century, Bethlehem became known all over for the world for something much different: steel. Bethlehem Steel was founded in 1857 amid the industrial revolution, and by the 1940s, **8** its factory was providing substantial amounts of armor and steel for troops in World War II, in addition to providing the metalwork for bridges and structures all over the country. The plant ceased operations in 1995, but its blast furnaces, those reminders of past industrial glory, **9** remains.

[5]

Some cities might have been laid low by the death of a major industry, but Bethlehem has emerged seemingly unscathed. Although locals know it as the "Christmas City," for the many decorations and activities there in December, Bethlehem is also a significant culture center for the region, and its former steel mill has been repurposed to host all variety of events. [D] The contributions of Bethlehem have changed from century to century, so it should be no surprise that the twenty-first century should bring to the city something **10** no one's ever seen the like of.

8.

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

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. is remaining.
- C. remain.
- D. are remaining.

10. Which of the following would best conclude the essay by preserving its style and tone?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. to *steel* its reputation as a real *blast*!
- C. it hasn't seen before.
- D. everyone pretty much expects by now.

11. Upon reviewing this essay and concluding that some information has been left out, the writer composes the following sentence:

After these many years of education, Bethlehem became a Moravian stronghold, with the Moravian Academy and College still a nucleus of intellectual life in the region.

The best placement for this sentence would be at point

- A. [A] in paragraph 1.
- B. [B] in paragraph 3.
- C. [C] in paragraph 3.
- D. [D] in paragraph 5.

SET 2

## Look It Up!

[1] Imagine you're texting someone, and the two of you get into a heated debate. [2] They correct our spelling. [3] Finally, to prove your point once and for all, you write a voluminous, paragraph-long text, only to see that your interlocutor has responded, "TL; DR." [4] Now, you might know that this means "too long, didn't read," but what if you don't? [5] Well, Urban Dictionary can save the day. [6] Just type the phrase into Google and see what turns down. [7] Dictionaries have a way of showing up in every facet of our digital lives. [8] They translate pages in foreign languages. [9] They define words that we think we know and those we've never heard of. [10] Dictionaries are everywhere.

1. The writer is considering deleting the phrase *what if you don't?*, and adjusting the punctuation accordingly. Should this phrase be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because it adds variety to a paragraph full of declarative sentences.
- B. Kept, because it poses a question that is answered in the following sentence.
- C. Deleted, because it is a rhetorical question to which the answer is already implied.
- D. Deleted, because no part of the paragraph goes on to answer it.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. in.
- C. back.
- D. up.

3. The best placement for sentence 2 would be

- A. where it is now.
- B. at the beginning of the paragraph.
- C. after sentence 5.
- D. after sentence 8.

In fact, dictionaries are so prevalent that it's easy to forget that they have not always existed. The word "dictionary" was in fact not coined until John of Garland published his *Dictionarius* in 1220 to help readers with their Latin *diction*. Furthermore, numerous dictionaries appeared throughout the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period; the first noteworthy English dictionary came from Samuel Johnson, whose *Dictionary of the English Language* was published first in 1755. Johnson's opus remains the first modern dictionary, containing consistent spellings, variant definitions, textual usages, and alphabetical arrangements. Johnson's dictionary was the law of the lexicon until 1884, when the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) began its reign, which continues today.

4.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. were not
- C. did not
- D. did not have

5. The writer is considering replacing the word *diction* with *pronunciation*. Should the writer make the change or keep the sentence as is?

- A. Make the change, because *pronunciation* is the more commonly used word.
- B. Make the change, because *diction* has an imprecise meaning in the sentence.
- C. Keep the sentence as is, because *diction* helps to explain the term given earlier in the sentence.
- D. Keep the sentence as is, because *pronunciation* means something contrary to *diction*.

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. indeed, numerous dictionaries
- C. a number of dictionaries
- D. while numerous dictionaries

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. usages, and, alphabetical
- C. usages, and alphabetical
- D. usages and alphabetical,

Johnson's American counterpart was Noah Webster, who published his first dictionary in 1806. Webster's best-known **8** work *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, was published in 1828. The text was based in large part on Johnson's dictionary, though it included 12,000 **9** words that had not appeared in previous dictionaries. In addition, Webster was a spelling reformer who thought English spellings were overly ornate and complex. As a result, when Americans write "color" and "gray" where the English write **10** other things, Americans have Noah Webster to thank.

**11** What is interesting about these two dictionaries, and about the history of dictionaries in general, is how clearly they show the different directions that language can be pulled. On the one hand, a new dictionary should solidify the language in a new way—it should settle old disputes and give definitive definitions. On the other hand, each dictionary update shows that language is fluid and that no printed word can contain the varieties of language as it is actually used. After all, the OED may have told the world that "selfie" was the word of the year in 2013, but didn't the world know that already?

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. work, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*
- C. work, *An American Dictionary of the English Language,*
- D. work *An American Dictionary of the English Language*

9. Which of the following true statements would best emphasize the unique achievement of Webster's dictionary?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. words that drew from languages varying from Old English to Sanskrit.
- C. words, which is a heck of a lot of words.
- D. words from many sources, including books and speeches.

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. colour and "grey,"
- C. differently,
- D. DELETE the underlined portion, placing the comma after the word write.

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Both what is interesting about these two dictionaries and what is interesting about dictionaries in general,
- C. About the history of dictionaries in general, but in particular about these two,
- D. These two dictionaries are interesting, but so is the history of dictionaries in general,

SET 3

**Goodnight, sleep tight...**

[1]

They are the horror of every city-dweller and international traveler. You can't see them. You only see their aftermath, usually in the form that becomes more uncomfortable as the day **1** of an itchy welt goes on. Bed bugs are the silent feeders: they come out at night and disappear with the light of morning. They hide in the unseen places in the mattress or in the cracks of the floor. Like the most annoying vampires in the world, **2** human blood is the food of bed bugs.

[2]

Interest in bed bugs seems to be nearly as old as written history itself. **3** They were not the nuisance then that they have since become. Remember, previous ages believed in the medicinal value of leeches and blood-letting, and bed bugs were seen as helping to extract the toxins that came from snake bites or ear infections **4** by removing them.

1. The best placement for the underlined portion would be

- A. where it is now.
- B. after the word *aftermath* (and before the comma).
- C. after the word *form*.
- D. after the word *uncomfortable*.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. bed bugs feed on human blood.
- C. a typical meal for bed bugs is one of human blood.
- D. human blood is what bed bugs need to live.

3. The writer wants to insert a piece of evidence that will support the previous sentence ("Bed bugs...itself"). Which of the following true statements would offer that support?

- A. Some Greek writers mention them as early as 400 BC.
- B. Written history is thought to have begun around the 4th century BCE.
- C. Bed bugs typically live for approximately 6-12 months.
- D. In the United States, bed bugs are typically associated with the East Coast.

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. by assisting in their removal.
- C. getting them out of there.
- D. DELETE the underlined portion.

[3]

By the twentieth century, however, bed bugs were seen to be the nuisance that 5 they are. This was in part due to 6 there prevalence: in 1933, the UK Ministry of Health reported that all the houses in many areas of the country had some bed-bug infestation. Military bases during World War II had significant problems with bed-bug infestation as the bugs appeared all over Europe.

[4]

With increased public awareness and some advances in pesticides, bed bugs were nearly eradicated from the United States in the 1940s, though they reemerged as an urban menace in the 1980s. 7 No one is entirely clear on the reason, though scientists hypothesize that the resurgence of bed bugs is due to increased pesticide 8 resistants and international travel. The nuisance is now treated 9 locally. Though

the lifespan and long dormancy of the bed bugs have led many to believe that the problem may be a permanent one.

5.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. it is.
- C. some can be.
- D. they are known to be.

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. they're
- C. their
- D. the

7. With the preceding sentence, the writer intended to introduce this paragraph in a way that established continuity with the previous paragraph. Has the writer achieved this goal?

- A. Yes, because the previous paragraph addresses the resurgence of bed bugs in the later part of the century.
- B. Yes, because the previous paragraph suggests an earlier moment chronologically.
- C. No, because there is no mention of the 1940s or the 1980s in the previous paragraph.
- D. No, because this paragraph doesn't mention anything about military bases or wartime incidences.

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. resistance
- C. resistivity
- D. resisting

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. locally; though
- C. locally, and
- D. locally, though



Today, bed bugs are still mainly considered a nuisance. They cost renters and owners millions of dollars each year in exterminator fees and infested furniture replacement. But a recent study has shown that we may have a new reason to worry about the bugs. Now, some research has shown that bed bugs can transmit disease, a practice of which they were long believed incapable. A study documented in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* showed that bed bugs could transmit Chagas disease between mice, **10** which many objected to as being inhumane.

[6]

If these findings are true, then bed bugs may be a more significant public health threat than was previously believed. Like mosquitoes in malaria-ridden countries, bed bugs may be redefined as a true menace, rather than just an itchy nuisance.**11**

**10.** Which of the following true choices would best maintain the focus of this sentence and paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. which are often used in laboratory tests.
- C. though not in rats, whom they haven't tested.
- D. which is really startling.

**11.** The best placement for paragraph 6 would be

- A. where it is now.
- B. after paragraph 2.
- C. after paragraph 3.
- D. after paragraph 4.