

Writing and Language SAT Practice Test 29

Careers Passage with Informational Graphic

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

A Life in Traffic

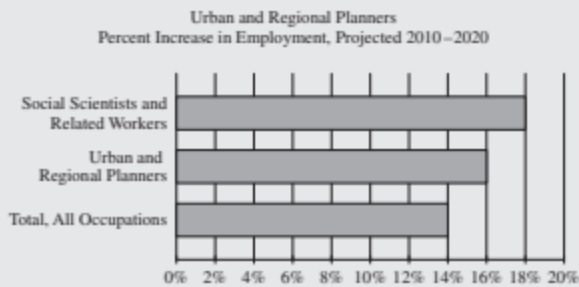
A subway system is expanded to provide service to a growing suburb. A bike-sharing program is adopted to encourage nonmotorized transportation. **1** To alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated. When any one of these changes **2** occur, it is likely the result of careful analysis conducted by transportation planners.

The work of transportation planners generally includes evaluating current transportation needs, assessing the effectiveness of existing facilities, and improving those facilities or **3** they design new ones. Most transportation planners work in or near cities, **4** but some are employed in rural areas. Say, for example, a large factory is built on the outskirts of a small town. Traffic to and from that location would increase at the beginning and end of work shifts. The transportation **5** planner's job, might involve conducting a traffic count to determine the daily number of vehicles traveling on the road to the new factory. If analysis of the traffic count indicates that there is more traffic than the **6** current road as it is designed at this time can efficiently accommodate, the transportation planner might recommend widening the road to add another lane.

Transportation planners work closely with a number of community stakeholders, such as government officials and other interested organizations and individuals. **7** Next, representatives from the local public health department might provide input in designing a network of trails and sidewalks to encourage people to walk more. **8** According to the American Heart Association, walking provides numerous benefits related to health and well-being. Members of the Chamber of Commerce might share suggestions about designing transportation and parking facilities to support local businesses.

9 People who pursue careers in transportation planning have a wide variety of educational backgrounds. A two-year degree in transportation technology may be sufficient for some entry-level jobs in the field. Most jobs, however, require at least a bachelor's degree; majors of transportation planners are 10 varied, including fields such as urban studies, civil engineering, geography, or transportation and logistics. For many positions in the field, a master's degree is required.

Transportation planners perform critical work within the broader field of urban and regional planning. As of 2010, there were approximately 40,300 urban and regional planners employed in the United States. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts steady job growth in this field, 11 projecting that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning. Population growth and concerns about environmental sustainability are expected to spur the need for transportation planning professionals.



Adapted from United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program.
All occupations includes all occupations in the United States economy.

- 1
- Which choice best maintains the sentence pattern already established in the paragraph?
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) Coordinating stoplight timing can help alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
 - C) Stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams in a congested downtown area.
 - D) In a congested downtown area, stoplight timing is coordinated to alleviate rush hour traffic jams.

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: C

Objective: You must ensure consistency of style within a series of sentences.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it most closely maintains the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences, which begin with noun and passive verb phrases ("A subway system is expanded," "A bike-sharing program is adopted").

Choice A is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with an infinitive phrase.

Choice B is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it begins the sentence with a gerund phrase.

Choice D is not the best answer because it does not maintain the sentence pattern established by the two preceding sentences. Rather, it places a prepositional phrase, "in a congested downtown area," at the beginning of the sentence.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) occur, they are
- C) occurs, they are
- D) occurs, it is

onal
he
or

Content: Conventions of Usage

Key: D

Objective: You must maintain grammatical agreement between pronoun and antecedent and between subject and verb.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because it maintains agreement between the pronoun ("it") and the antecedent ("any one") and between the subject ("any one") and the verb ("occurs").

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lect
or

Choice A is not the best answer because the plural verb "occur" does not agree with the singular subject "any one."

Choice B is not the best answer because the plural verb "occur" does not agree with the singular subject "any one" and because the plural pronoun "they" does not agree with the singular antecedent "any one."

Choice C is not the best answer because the plural pronoun "they" does not agree with the singular antecedent "any one."

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) to design
- C) designing
- D) design

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: C

Objective: You must maintain parallel structure.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because "designing" maintains parallelism with "evaluating," "assessing," and "improving."

Choice A is not the best answer because "they design" does not maintain parallelism with "evaluating," "assessing," and "improving."

Choice B is not the best answer because "to design" does not maintain parallelism with "evaluating," "assessing," and "improving."

Choice D is not the best answer because "design" does not maintain parallelism with "evaluating," "assessing," and "improving."

4

Which choice results in the most effective transition to the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) where job opportunities are more plentiful.
- C) and the majority are employed by government agencies.
- D) DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

Content: Organization

Key: A

Objective: You must determine the most effective transition between ideas.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it effectively signals the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area and asked to consider the effects of a new factory built "on the outskirts of a small town."

Choice B is not the best answer because noting that job opportunities are more plentiful in cities does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Choice C is not the best answer because noting that most transportation planners work for government agencies does not effectively signal the shift in the paragraph to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

Choice D is not the best answer because the proposed deletion would create a jarring shift from the statement "Most transportation planners work in or near cities" to the example of the work a transportation planner might perform if he or she were employed in a rural area.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) planner's job
- C) planners job,
- D) planners job

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Key: B

Objective: You must differentiate between possessive and plural nouns. You must also recognize and eliminate unnecessary punctuation.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because it correctly uses an apostrophe to indicate possession and does not introduce any unnecessary punctuation.

Choice A is not the best answer because while it correctly indicates the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job," it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word "job."

Choice C is not the best answer because it does not indicate the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job," and because it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word "job."

Choice D is not the best answer because it does not indicate the possessive relationship between "transportation planner" and "job."

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) current design of the road right now
- C) road as it is now currently designed
- D) current design of the road

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: D

Objective: You must achieve economy of expression.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because it offers a clear and concise wording without redundancy or wordiness.

Choice A is not the best answer because "current" is redundant with "at this time" and because "as it is designed" is unnecessarily wordy.

Choice C is not the best answer because it incorrectly sets off the essential sentence element “in transportation planning” with commas as though the phrase were not essential to the meaning of the sentence. “In transportation planning” is essential information defining what the “careers” are.

Choice D is not the best answer because it introduces an unnecessary comma after the word “planning,” incorrectly setting off the subject of the sentence (“people who pursue careers in transportation planning”) from the predicate (“have a wide variety of educational backgrounds”).

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) varied, and including
- C) varied and which include
- D) varied, which include

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: A

Objective: You must identify the proper connection between sentence elements.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it effectively uses a comma and “including” to set off the list of varied fields in which transportation planners major.

Choice B is not the best answer because “and including” results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because “and which include” results in an ungrammatical sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because it is unclear from this construction to what exactly the relative pronoun “which” refers.

11

Which choice completes the sentence with accurate data based on the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) warning, however, that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.
- C) predicting that employment of urban and regional planners will increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- D) indicating that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

Content: Development

Key: C

Objective: You must evaluate text based on data presented graphically.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it completes the sentence with an accurate interpretation of data in the graph. The graph displays projections of how much growth in employment there is expected to be between 2010 and 2020 for “social scientists and related workers,” for “urban and regional planners,” and in “all occupations” in the U.S. economy. According to the graph, the employment of urban and regional planners is expected to increase 16 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Choice A is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 16 percent of new jobs in all occupations will be related to urban and regional planning.

Choice B is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that job growth in urban and regional planning will slow to 14 percent by 2020.

Choice D is not the best answer because the data in the graph do not support the claim that 14 to 18 percent of urban and regional planning positions will remain unfilled.

Choice B is not the best answer because "current" is redundant with "right now."

Choice C is not the best answer because "now" is redundant with "currently."

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) For instance,
- C) Furthermore,
- D) Similarly,

Content: Organization

Key: B

Objective: You must determine the most logical transitional word or phrase.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because the transitional phrase "For instance" logically indicates that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence. "Representatives from the local public health department" is an example of the kinds of people with whom transportation planners work.

Choice A is not the best answer because the transitional word "Next" indicates sequence, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice C is not the best answer because the transitional word "Furthermore" indicates addition, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

Choice D is not the best answer because the transitional word "Similarly" indicates comparison or likeness, which is not logical given that what follows provides an example related to the previous sentence.

8

The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it provides supporting evidence about the benefits of walking.
- B) Kept, because it provides an additional example of a community stakeholder with whom transportation planners work.
- C) Deleted, because it blurs the paragraph's focus on the community stakeholders with whom transportation planners work.
- D) Deleted, because it doesn't provide specific examples of what the numerous benefits of walking are.