

Writing and Language SAT Practice Test 30

Humanities Passage

Questions 12-22 are based on the following passage.

Dong Kingman: Painter of Cities

A 1954 documentary about renowned watercolor painter Dong Kingman shows the artist sitting on a stool on Mott Street in New York City's Chinatown. A crowd of admiring spectators **12** watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor **13** box, from just a few primary colors. Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel. Each stroke of the brush and dab of the sponge transforms thinly sketched outlines into buildings, shop signs, and streetlamps. The street scene Kingman begins composing in this short film is very much in keeping with the urban landscapes for which he is best known.

[1] Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. [2] In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling,

teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal "school name." [3] His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. [4] The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. [5] The name Kingman was selected for its two **14** parts, "king" and "man"; Cantonese for "scenery" and "composition." [6] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to **15** paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. [7] Kingman, however, **16** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. **17**

18 His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire **19** hydrant, an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and **20** delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park. To art critics and fans alike, these city scenes represent the innovative spirit of twentieth-century urban Modernism.

During his career, Kingman exhibited his work **21** internationally. He garnered much acclaim. In 1936, a critic described one of Kingman's solo exhibits as "twenty of the freshest, most satisfying watercolors that have been seen hereabouts in many a day." **22**

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had watched
- C) would watch
- D) watches

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: D

Objective: You must recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and mood.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because the simple present tense verb "watches" is consistent with the tense of the verbs in the rest of the sentence and paragraph.

Choice A is not the best answer because "watched" creates an inappropriate shift to the past tense.

Choice B is not the best answer because "had watched" creates an inappropriate shift to the past perfect tense.

Choice C is not the best answer because "would watch" creates an inappropriate shift that suggests a habitual or hypothetical aspect when other verbs in the sentence and paragraph indicate that a specific, actual instance is being narrated.

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) box. From just a few primary colors,
- C) box from just a few primary colors,
- D) box, from just a few primary colors

Content: Sentence Structure

Key: B

Objective: You must create two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because it provides punctuation that creates two grammatically complete and standard sentences.

Choice A is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase "from just a few primary colors" modifies.

Choice C is not the best answer because it results in a run-on sentence as well as some confusion about what the prepositional phrase "from just a few primary colors" modifies.

Choice D is not the best answer because it results in a comma splice.

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) parts "king" and "man,"
- C) parts "king" and "man";
- D) parts; "king" and "man"

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Key: B

Explanation: Choice B is the best answer because the colon after “parts” effectively signals that what follows in the sentence further defines what the “two parts” of Kingman’s name are and because the comma after “man” properly indicates that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice A is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase. Moreover, the comma after “parts” is arguably a weak form of punctuation to be signaling the strong break in the sentence indicated here.

Choice C is not the best answer because the semicolon after “man” incorrectly joins an independent clause and a phrase and because the absence of appropriate punctuation after “parts” fails to indicate that “two parts” and “‘king’ and ‘man’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

Choice D is not the best answer because the semicolon after “parts” incorrectly joins an independent clause and two phrases and because the absence of appropriate punctuation after “man” fails to indicate that “‘king’ and ‘man’” and “Cantonese for ‘scenery’ and ‘composition’” are nonrestrictive appositives.

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Chinese landscape artists
- C) painters of Chinese landscapes
- D) artists

Content: Conventions of Usage

Key: A

Objective: You must ensure that like terms are being compared.

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because it creates a comparison between like terms: “works” by Kingman and “paintings by Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice B is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “Chinese landscape artists.”

Choice C is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “painters of Chinese landscapes.”

Choice D is not the best answer because it creates a comparison between unlike terms: “works” by Kingman and “artists.”

Content: Effective Language Use

Key: C

Objective: You must determine the most contextually appropriate word.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because “departed” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had *deviated* from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways.

Choice A is not the best answer because while “vacated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was vacating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice B is not the best answer because while “evacuated” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was evacuating from a tradition in a number of ways.

Choice D is not the best answer because while “retired” does offer some sense of “leaving,” it would be awkward and unconventional to say that a person was retiring from a tradition in a number of ways.

17

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

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

Content: Organization

Key: C

Objective: You must ensure the cohesion of a paragraph.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 1 makes the paragraph most cohesive. Sentence 3 refers to Kingman’s “interest” being “so keen,” a continuation of the idea in sentence 1, which says that “Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age.”

Choice A is not the best answer because leaving sentence 3 where it is now creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Keeping sentence 3 in its current location disrupts the link between sentence 2 (which describes the concept of “school names” in Hong Kong) and sentence 4 (which reveals that Dong Kingman was the school name of Dong Moy Shu).

Choice B is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 before sentence 1 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 at the beginning of the paragraph would offer a poor introduction to the paragraph, in large part because sentence 3 builds

Choice D is not the best answer because placing sentence 3 after sentence 4 creates a sequence of sentences that lacks sufficient cohesion. Putting sentence 3 after sentence 4 would disrupt the link between sentence 4 (which mentions that Dong Moy Shu was given the school name Dong Kingman) and sentence 5 (which explains what the two parts composing the name Kingman mean in Cantonese).

18

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A) Kingman is considered a pioneer of the California Style school of painting.
- B) Although cities were his main subject, Kingman did occasionally paint natural landscapes.
- C) In his urban landscapes, Kingman captures the vibrancy of crowded cities.
- D) In 1929 Kingman moved to Oakland, California, where he attended the Fox Art School.

Content: Development

Key: C

Objective: You must determine which sentence best signals the main topic of a paragraph.

Explanation: Choice C is the best answer because it clearly establishes the main topic of the paragraph: Kingman's urban landscapes.

Choice A is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman's painting style and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

Choice B is not the best answer because it would suggest that the main topic of the paragraph is the natural landscapes Kingman occasionally painted, which is incorrect given the focus of the rest of the sentences in the paragraph.

Choice D is not the best answer because it would begin the paragraph with a loosely related detail about Kingman's life and would not clearly establish the main topic of the paragraph.

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hydrant—
- C) hydrant:
- D) hydrant

Content: Conventions of Punctuation

Explanation: Choice A is the best answer because a comma after the word “hydrant” separates the phrase “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” from the phrase “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway.” A comma is also consistent with the punctuation choice made to separate the first two phrases in the asyndetic series following the colon in the sentence.

Choice B is not the best answer because a dash is not a conventional choice for punctuating items in a series.

Choice C is not the best answer because although a colon can be used to introduce a series, it is not a conventional choice for separating items within a series.

Choice D is not the best answer because it fuses together two items in the series. Separating the phrases “a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire hydrant” and “an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway” requires punctuation (and could also involve a coordinating conjunction).

20

The writer wants to complete the sentence with a third example of a detail Kingman uses to create his majestic city skylines. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs.
- C) other details that help define Kingman’s urban landscapes.
- D) enormous ships docking at busy urban ports.

Content: Development

Key: D

Objective: You must use the appropriate supporting information to accomplish a writing goal.

Explanation: Choice D is the best answer because the phrase “enormous ships docking at busy urban ports” effectively continues the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”) conveying the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman.

Choice A is not the best answer because the phrase “delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue the sentence’s series of details (“skyscrapers towering in the background” and “bridges connecting neighborhoods”).

Choice B is not the best answer because the phrase “exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs” does not convey a sense of the majesty of city skylines as depicted by Kingman and thus does not effectively continue