

Writing and Language SAT Practice Test 36

Age of the Drone

Could robots soon be delivering your mail? Allow me to set the scene: you're coming home from school, walking toward your front door, and 1 bam a flying robot drops your oldest sister's just-ordered DVD collection on your head. It may not be as farfetched as it sounds. Today is the age of the drone, also known as the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), and it's only a matter of time before it becomes an everyday occurrence.

2 Throughout the years of the past, drones have been controlled remotely and, most often, used for military services and special operations. In World War II, it became common practice 3 to use drones to fly attack missions. By the early 2000s, more than 50 countries had operating military drones. In recent years, 4 we've seen drones move into other fields such as photography, surveillance, search and rescue, security, and policing. And they aren't stopping there. 5 In fact, researchers project that between 2015 and 2030, the economic impact of drones will roughly triple.

As technology advances, an increasing number of autonomous drones are being designed for everyday services. Recently, Amazon announced its plan to use small, pilotless aircraft to deliver the majority of its packages. The end goal—although, still far off—is to be able to get goods to Amazon customers in approximately 30 minutes from the time they are ordered. 6 Unmanned aerial vehicles are clearly safe for the majority of uses for which they are intended. To help with the more temporary obstacles—birds, strong winds, or you attempting to unlock your front door—will be on-the-ground human operators. Yet, 7 drone engineers and roboticists have their way, these human operators won't be necessary for long.

Amazon isn't the only company replacing parts of its labor force with drones. Aurizon, Australia's largest rail company, uses drones to survey 8 its entire transport infrastructure. When a job is too dirty, too dangerous, or too inaccessible, Aurizon utilizes a drone 9 in order to maximize its corporate bond valuation. With more than 2,600 kilometers of railway to inspect, it is not just safer, but more cost-effective to send a drone. In fact, company leaders are so confident in the implementation of microdrones, they are predicting a 50% 10 extermination in operational failures.

While all of this sounds promising, it's hard to take in from our currently droneless day-to-day lives. 11 And NASA believes that is to change rather quickly; representatives have estimated that drones will be a billion dollar business in the United States within the next ten years. Ready or not, here they come.

1.

A. NO CHANGE

B. bam—a flying robot drops your oldest sister's just-ordered DVD collection on your head.

C. bam, a flying robot drops, your oldest sisters just-ordered DVD collection on your head.

D. bam: a flying robot drops your oldest sisters' just-ordered DVD collection on your head.

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. In the past years of history,
- C. In the decades of the past,
- D. Historically,

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. in use
- C. for the using
- D. while use

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. we've saw
- C. we have sawed
- D. we had saw

5. Which choice represents an accurate interpretation of the information in the graph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. In fact, researchers project that between 2015 and 2020, the economic impact of drones will roughly quintuple.
- C. In fact, researchers project that between 2015 and 2030, the economic impact of drones will roughly double.
- D. In fact, researchers project that between 2015 and 2025, the economic impact of drones will roughly quadruple.

6. The writer wants to address the reader's potential objection that using UAVs will be unsafe. Which option would most clearly and specifically accomplish this goal?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. With their multiyear track record of safe use in this way, consumers and safety advocates have little cause for alarm.
- C. These microdrones will be programmed with destinations before liftoff and use navigation systems to avoid permanent obstacles like buildings and trees.
- D. It is highly unlikely that drone usage will result in a gradual decline in societal norms for moral behavior.

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. if drone engineers and roboticists have their way,
- C. drone engineers and roboticists,
- D. if they have their way,

8.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. it's
- C. its'
- D. it is

9. Which choice gives the most logical justification for using a drone based on the rest of the sentence?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. instead of employing outside janitorial services.
- C. that is a machine controlled by a man.
- D. rather than risk the safety of its employees.

10.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. decrease
- C. less
- D. fewness

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. To
- C. But
- D. With