

Pre-Test

Main Idea, Support, and Coherence

Read the two paragraphs below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Millions of people around the world enjoy facing the challenges of a good online video game, but some players cheat to quickly overcome these challenges. 2. Most online multiplayer games require players to purchase the initial software and then to pay a recurring monthly fee. 3. In most games, the player's character begins very weak but becomes stronger by accomplishing various tasks. 4. _____, killing a monster might earn a player's character new skills, weapons, or magic equipment. 5. The gamer is then able to accomplish increasingly difficult tasks. 6. For many, the process of reaching these higher levels is the most thrilling part of the game, but others do not want to take the time to strengthen their characters. 7. This could take weeks, months, or even years. 8. As a result, impatient players sometimes use cheat codes or tips. 9. Some codes allow players to skip levels. 10. Other codes give a character special abilities, such as the power to fly or to walk through walls. 11. In a more advanced method of cheating, players keep their characters running while they are away from the game. 12. Some players do this through computer programs. 13. Others actually pay professional players to watch over their characters and build up their strength. 14. Cheaters have an unfair advantage, so many people feel that they ruin the fun for other players in an online gaming community. 15. The cheaters themselves, however, say that it's just part of the game.

1. Which sentence from the paragraph is the topic sentence?
A. Sentence 1 B. Sentence 3 C. Sentence 8 D. Sentence 15
2. Which of the following sentences provides primary support?
A. Sentence 2 B. Sentence 10 C. Sentence 11 D. Sentence 15

3. Which of the following sentences is a supporting detail?
A. Sentence 1 B. Sentence 8 C. Sentence 11 D. Sentence 13
4. Which of the following sentences does not provide primary or secondary support for the topic sentence?
A. Sentence 2 B. Sentence 9 C. Sentence 10 D. Sentence 13
5. Which of the following sentences would be a good alternative topic sentence for the paragraph?
A. Online video game players have become too smart for the games they are playing.
B. Some online video game players are cheating their way to higher levels.
C. It can take years to win an online video game.
D. Some people do not want to win an online video game because they will then have to change to another game.
6. Which transition, if inserted in the blank at sentence 4, would aid coherence?
A. However B. Eventually C. In addition D. For example

1. Product placement is a marketing technique in which companies pay for their products to be shown or mentioned in a television program, movie, video game, or other form of media. 2. Product placement is becoming increasingly widespread, and two major factors causing its growth involve technology. 3. Most significantly, technology is helping viewers avoid traditional television commercials. 4. With digital video recorders (DVRs), viewers can easily fast forward through commercials. 5. Some DVRs can even eliminate commercials entirely. 6. Product placement makes it possible for advertisers to expose their products to these hard-to-reach viewers. 7. _____, technology has boosted product placement by allowing marketers to digitally add their products to television programs and movies that have already been filmed. 8. In a rerun of a popular sitcom, for example, a soda can might be digitally inserted on a table. 9. On the DVD release of a movie, viewers might see a bag of potato chips that wasn't there in the original film. 10. Some people think this type of advertising should be banned. 11. As technology continues to

evolve, product placement and other new forms of advertising may replace traditional commercials altogether.

7. Which sentence from the paragraph is the topic sentence?
A. Sentence 1 B. Sentence 2 C. Sentence 6 D. Sentence 10
8. Which of the following sentences provides primary support?
A. Sentence 2 B. Sentence 5 C. Sentence 7 D. Sentence 8
9. Which of the following sentences is a supporting detail?
A. Sentence 3 B. Sentence 7 C. Sentence 9 D. Sentence 11
10. Which of the following sentences does not provide primary or secondary support for the topic sentence?
A. Sentence 4 B. Sentence 5 C. Sentence 7 D. Sentence 10
11. Which of the following sentences is a good alternative topic sentence for the paragraph?
A. Companies will do almost anything to advertise their products to television audiences.
B. Product placement is a dishonest form of advertising and should be banned.
C. People have learned to ignore advertising so well that hardly any of the ads they see have any effect.
D. Technology is causing companies to rethink the way they advertise, leading to an increase in product placement.
12. Which transition, if inserted in the blank at sentence 7, would aid coherence?
A. In addition B. Afterward C. Therefore D. Nevertheless

Other Topics

Part I

For each question, choose the correct word or words to fill in the blank.

13. I used to bite my _____ I was nervous.
A. fingernails; when B. fingernails, when C. fingernails. When D. fingernails when
14. The _____ dedication to training and all their hard work have made them a great team.
A. players B. player's C. players's D. players'
15. The seniors at our school _____ that we need to build up school spirit.
A. agrees B. agree C. agreeing D. has agreed
16. Roberto is leaving for his trip to Alaska on _____ and he will be gone for two weeks.
A. July 1, 2010 B. July 1, 2010, C. July, 1, 2010, D. July 1 2010
17. Angela's puppy barks _____ than Steven's dog.
A. loudlier B. louder C. more loudly D. loudest
18. There _____ the street performer who juggles so well.
A. be B. are C. am D. is
19. In my sociology class, we had an _____ discussion about hip-hop culture.
A. intresting B. interestting C. interesting D. interasting
20. Sanjay _____ homemade coleslaw to the picnic last week.
A. brings B. bring C. bringed D. brought
21. Kyle is trying to lower his cholesterol, _____ he is avoiding fried foods.
A. but B. nor C. or D. so
22. I was an experienced hiker, but I had _____ to bring a compass.
A. forget B. forgotten C. forgetted D. forgot
23. The waiter dropped two _____ tonight.
A. trayes B. trays C. traies D. trayies
24. Winning the state volleyball championship was one of my proudest _____ in high school.
A. achievments B. achievements C. acheivments D. acheivements

25. Eating salads for lunch has helped me to control my _____.
A. weight B. wieght C. wate D. wait
26. By the time we arrived home, the babysitter _____ all the dishes.
A. did B. done C. had did D. had done
27. _____ it doesn't rain this weekend, we plan to have a barbeque.
A. If B. When C. Since D. Although
28. Our basement stayed dry when everyone else's basement _____.
A. floods B. flooded C. flood D. flooding
29. We _____ very late for our dance class.
A. was B. be C. were D. being
30. My friend Lynn is a computer technician, _____ she wasn't able to fix my laptop.
A. so B. for C. but D. or
31. Are you the man _____ dog does backflips?
A. who's B. whos C. whose D. whose's

Part II

Each of the following sentences has three boldfaced sections labeled **A**, **B**, and **C**. If you find an error in any of these sections, circle the letter of the correct answer. If there is no error, choose **D**.

32. Amy, my ^{**A**} **five-year-old sister**, seems to be a ^{**B**} **born leader** **she** told me that she wants to be a ^{**C**} **politician** someday.
A. five year old B. born leader; she C. Politician D. No error
33. We ^{**A**} **searched** on every news channel but ^{**B**} **could not** find any ^{**C**} **informations** about the accident.
A. searching B. cannot C. information D. No error
34. Claudia ^{**A**} **tries** her ^{**B**} **best to** avoid boat ^{**C**} **trips** **she** always gets seasick.
A. try B. best. To C. trips because she D. No error
35. Andrew was ^{**A**} **late** for the game, but he played so ^{**B**} **good** that the coach was not ^{**C**} **particularly** angry.
A. lately B. well C. particular D. No error

36. This ^Amonths phone bill ^Bis ^Chigher than usual.
A. month's B. are C. more high D. No error
37. The C and the E trains ^Aare express ^Btrains; my favorite way of ^Cgetting home.
A. is B. trains—my C. geting D. No error
38. ^APuppies are ^Bincredibly cute, but they require plenty of time, patience, and ^Cthey need a lot of attention.
A. Puppys B. incredible C. attention D. No error
39. I ^Ado not like that mall because ^Byou can never find ^Ca parking space.
A. does B. I C. your D. No error
40. The band ^Ais not going to perform tonight ^Bbecause the lead singer is ^Csick as a dog.
A. are B. due to the fact that C. very ill D. No error
41. Arthur collects ^Acomputers that people no longer ^Bwant, he thinks they will be ^Cvaluable someday.
A. computers, that B. want; he C. valauble D. No error
42. Someone dropped ^Atheir keys in the hall, and nobody ^Bknows ^Cwhom they belong to.
A. his or her B. know C. who D. No error
43. ^APracticing for two hours each ^Bday. I finally have ^Clearned how to play that song on my guitar.
A. Practiceing B. day, I C. learn D. No error
44. During the ^Awinter. Some birds shiver ^Ba lot to keep ^Cthemselves warm.
A. winter, some B. alot C. themself D. No error
45. My ^Auncle is going to travel somewhere ^Bsouth for the ^Cwinter.
A. Uncle B. South C. Winter D. No error

46. My old cell phone had only three ring ^Atones: a loud, obnoxious ^Bbeep, a ^Chigh-pitched annoying ring; and a silly, embarrassing song.
A. tones; a B. beep; a C. ring, and D. No error
47. A goldfish or a hamster ^Aare a ^Bgood gift for a young ^Cchild who wants a pet.
A. is B. well C. child, who D. No error
48. My brother ^Ause to have several motorcycles, but now he thinks that ^Bthey're ^Ctoo dangerous.
A. used B. there C. to D. No error
49. Chantal and ^AI have the same car, but she treats ^Bhers much better than ^CI.
A. me B. her's C. me D. No error
50. I ^Awould like to be ^Bthe grandmother someday and spoil my grandchildren with lots of ^Cgifts.
A. will like B. a C. the gifts D. No error

Part III

Circle the letter of the grammatically correct (or most effectively worded) sentence in each of the following groups.

- 51.
- A. Some of our club's rules seem silly, we all have to follow them.
 - B. Though some of our club's rules seem silly. We all have to follow them.
 - C. Though some of our club's rules seem silly, we all have to follow them.
- 52.
- A. A warm cup of tea or a mug of hot chocolate that is steaming is comforting and delicious.
 - B. A warm cup of tea or a steaming mug of hot chocolate is comforting and delicious.
 - C. A warm cup of tea or a steaming mug of hot chocolate is comforting and you'll find it delicious.

53.

- A. There is a three day waiting period before the marriage license becomes valid.
- B. There is a three day, waiting period before the marriage license becomes valid.
- C. There is a three-day waiting period before the marriage license becomes valid.

54.

- A. To the theater, Alexandra gave Lisa directions over the phone.
- B. Alexandra gave Lisa directions to the theater over the phone.
- C. Over the phone, Alexandra gave Lisa directions to the theater.

55.

- A. Gina who used to be my roommate, is starring in a Broadway musical.
- B. Gina who used to be my roommate is starring in a Broadway musical.
- C. Gina, who used to be my roommate, is starring in a Broadway musical.

56.

- A. Brian told us that he can't wait for us to see his new apartment.
- B. Brian told us that "he can't wait for us to see his new apartment."
- C. Brian told us that, "he can't wait for us to see his new apartment."

57.

- A. Richard finds it difficult. To study without getting distracted.
- B. Richard finds it difficult; to study without getting distracted.
- C. Richard finds it difficult to study without getting distracted.

58.

- A. On our trip to Costa Rica, we saw many exotic animals. For example: monkeys, crocodiles, sloths, and anteaters.
- B. On our trip to Costa Rica, we saw many exotic animals: monkeys, crocodiles, sloths, and anteaters.
- C. On our trip to Costa Rica, we saw many exotic animals; for example, monkeys, crocodiles, sloths, and anteaters.

59.

- A. Dane told me "I'm free this afternoon. My boss said, 'It's a beautiful day out, so everyone can take off early.'"
- B. Dane told me, "I'm free this afternoon. My boss said, 'It's a beautiful day out, so everyone can take off early.'"
- C. Dane told me, "I'm free this afternoon. My boss said, It's a beautiful day out, so everyone can take off early."

- 60.
- A. The miniseries about ancient Rome was great.
 - B. The miniseries about ancient Rome was interesting and fascinating.
 - C. The miniseries about ancient Rome taught me a lot about the fascinating life of an ordinary Roman citizen.
- 61.
- A. Searching for something healthy to eat, the menu seemed useless.
 - B. Searching for something healthy to eat, I found the menu useless.
 - C. I was searching for something healthy to eat, the menu seemed useless.
- 62.
- A. The cake looked beautiful it tasted very dry.
 - B. The cake looked beautiful, but it tasted very dry.
 - C. The cake looked beautiful but it tasted very dry.
- 63.
- A. Monica she is a good singer; I hope that she doesn't get voted off the show.
 - B. Monica is a good singer; I hope that they don't vote her off the show.
 - C. Monica is a good singer; I hope that she doesn't get voted off the show.
- 64.
- A. Tyrone decided to apply for the job; after saw someone else doing it poorly.
 - B. Tyrone decided to apply for the job after saw someone else doing it poorly.
 - C. Tyrone decided to apply for the job after he saw someone else doing it poorly.
- 65.
- A. For dinner this weekend we could go to a Chinese, Indian, or Mexican restaurant.
 - B. For dinner this weekend, we could go to a Chinese, Indian, or Mexican, restaurant.
 - C. For dinner this weekend, we could go to a Chinese, Indian, or Mexican restaurant.

66.

- A. I spilled my coffee (for the third time this week) all over the kitchen floor.
- B. I spilled my coffee: for the third time this week all over the kitchen floor.
- C. I spilled my coffee for the third time this week all over the kitchen floor.

67.

- A. Lindsay has the longest hair of anyone I know.
- B. Lindsay have the longest hair of anyone I know.
- C. Lindsay haves the longest hair of anyone I know.

68.

- A. *Gone With The Wind* is a movie that never fails to make my grandmother cry.
- B. *Gone With the Wind* is a movie that never fails to make my grandmother cry.
- C. *Gone with the Wind* is a movie that never fails to make my grandmother cry.

69.

- A. I enjoy to take risks, so I would like to try skydiving someday.
- B. I enjoy taking risks, so I would like to try skydiving someday.
- C. I enjoy taking risks, so I like to try skydiving someday.

70.

- A. Jin is hoping to get an internship at the zoo.
- B. Jin is hope to get an internship at the zoo.
- C. Jin hoping to get an internship at the zoo.