

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. louder 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. interesttting 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. forgetteted 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. achievements 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 barbecue.
 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**.

A **B**
 32. Amy, my **five-year-old** sister, seems to be a **born leader** she told me
C
 that she wants to be a **politician** someday.
 A. five year old B. born leader; she C. Politician D. No error

A **B** **C**
 33. We **searched** on every news channel but **could not** find any **informations**
 about the accident.
 A. searching B. cannot C. information D. No error

A **B** **C**
 34. Claudia **tries** her **best to** avoid boat **trips** she always gets seasick.
 A. try B. best. To C. trips because she D. No error

A **B**
 35. Andrew was **late** for the game, but he played so **good** that the coach was
C
 not **particularly** angry.
 A. lately B. well C. particular D. No error

36. This **months** phone bill **is higher** than usual.

A. month's B. are C. more high D. No error

37. The **C** and the **E** trains **are** express **trains**; **my** favorite way of **getting** home.

A. is B. trains—my C. geting D. No error

38. **Puppies** are **incredibly** cute, but they require plenty of time, patience, **C** and **they need a lot of attention**.

A. Puppy's B. incredible C. attention D. No error

39. I **do** not like that mall because **you** can never find **a** parking space.

A. does B. I C. your D. No error

40. The band **is** not going to perform tonight **because** the lead singer is **C** **sick as a dog**.

A. are B. due to the fact that C. very ill D. No error

41. Arthur collects **computers that** people no longer **want, he** thinks they **C** will be **valuable** someday.

A. computers, that B. want; he C. valauble D. No error

42. Someone dropped **their** keys in the hall, and nobody **knows whom** they belong to.

A. his or her B. know C. who D. No error

43. **Practicing** for two hours each **day**. **I** finally have **learned** how to play that song on my guitar.

A. Practiceing B. day, I C. learn D. No error

44. During the **winter**. **Some** birds shiver **a lot** to keep **themselves** warm.

A. winter, some B. alot C. themself D. No error

45. My **uncle** is going to travel somewhere **south** for the **winter**.

A. Uncle B. South C. Winter D. No error

46. My old cell phone had only three ring **tones**: **a** loud, obnoxious **beep**, **a** high-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 **are** a **good** gift for a young **child who** wants a pet.
 A. is B. well C. child, who D. No error

48. My brother **use** to have several motorcycles, but now he thinks that **they're too** dangerous.
 A. use B. there C. to D. No error

49. Chantal and **I** have the same car, but she treats **hers** much better than **I**.
 A. me B. her's C. me D. No error

50. I **would like** to be **the** grandmother someday and spoil my grandchildren with lots of **gifts**.
 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.