



ACT **ACADEMIC** **COURSES**



PREPARING FOR **THE ACT TEST**

ENGLISH **SAMPLE TEST**

45 Minutes–75 Questions

BY Divine Training

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ENGLISH TEST

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DIRECTIONS

In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in brackets, and question 14 will ask you to choose where Paragraph 3 should most logically be placed.

Bar Codes: A Linear History

[1]

In 1948, graduate students, Norman Woodland¹ and Bernard Silver, took on a problem that had troubled retailers for years: how to keep track of store inventories.¹ Inspired by the dots and dashes of Morse code, however,² Woodland and Silver created a system of lines that could encode data. Called a *symbology*, the pattern created by the spacing and widths of the lines encodes information by representing different characters.

- 1.A. NO CHANGE
- B. students, Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver
- C. students Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver
- D. students Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver,

- 2.F. NO CHANGE
- G. in other words,
- H. consequently,
- J. DELETE the underlined portion.

[2]

The first bar code was composed of four white lines set at specific distances from each other on a black ³

background. The first line was always present. 4 Depending on the presence or absence of the remaining three lines, up to seven different arrangements were

susceptible and, therefore, seven different encodings. ⁵

Today, twenty-nine white lines making more than half a billion encodings possible. ⁶

[3]

To create a bar code scanner, Woodland and Silver adapted technology from an optical movie sound system. Their prototype scanner used a 500-watt bulb, a photomultiplier tube (a device that detects light), and an oscilloscope (a device that translates electronic signals into readable information). Although successful, the concoction ⁷

was both large and costly. For example, progress stalled ⁸ until the 1970s, when laser technology (both more compact and less expensive) became available.

[4]

In today's scanners, a laser sends light back and forth across a bar code. While the black lines absorb the light, the white lines reflect it back at a fixed mirror inside the scanner. In this way, the scanner reads the symbology and ⁹ decodes the information.

- 3.A. NO CHANGE
- B. distances so that each was separated, one from the
- C. locations, each one set apart from the
- D. lengths of distance from each
- 4. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?
- F. Kept, because it begins the description that is completed in the sentence that follows.
- G. Kept, because it gives a clear image of what the first bar code looked like.
- H. Deleted, because it provides an extra detail that is not relevant to the subject of the paragraph.
- J. Deleted, because it contradicts a point made later in the paragraph.
- 5.A. NO CHANGE
- B. responsible
- C. possible
- D. capable
- 6.F. NO CHANGE
- G. which make
- H. to make
- J. make

- 7.A. NO CHANGE
- B. contraption
- C. substance
- D. stuff
- 8.F. NO CHANGE
- G. As a result,
- H. However,
- J. Even so,

- 9.A. NO CHANGE
- B. them
- C. ones
- D. one

[5]

10 Today,

being that there are one- and ¹¹
two-dimensional bar codes using numeric
and alphanumeric symbologies. Bar codes
are used not only for a pack of gum or an airline
ticket, but also for research. In one study, for
instance, tiny bar codes were placed on bees tracking ¹²
their activities. Shaping the way we gather, track, and
share information, we have almost certainly exceeded ¹³
even Woodland and Silver's expectations.

- 10.** Which of the following true statements, if added here, would most effectively lead into the new subject of the paragraph?
- F.** In the 1940s, Woodland and Silver were graduate students at the Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia.
G. Woodland and Silver were granted a patent for their bar code on October 7, 1952.
H. Bar code equipment has been available for retail use since 1970.
J. Bar codes themselves have advanced as well.
- 11.** **A.** NO CHANGE
B. there are
C. where
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
- 12.** **F.** NO CHANGE
G. had been placed on bees trying to track
H. placed on bees, which would track
J. were placed on bees to track
- 13.** **A.** NO CHANGE
B. exceeding Woodland and Silver's expectations about bar codes has almost certainly been done.
C. bar codes have almost certainly exceeded even Woodland and Silver's expectations.
D. it is almost certain that we have exceeded even Woodland and Silver's expectations.

Questions 14 and 15 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

- 14.** For the sake of the logic and coherence of the essay, Paragraph 3 should be placed:
- F.** where it is now.
G. before Paragraph 1.
H. after Paragraph 1.
J. after Paragraph 5.
- 15.** Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe how a specific technological advancement changed business practices. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?
- A.** Yes, because it offers an overview of current bar code technology and indicates the variety of ways in which bar codes are used by specific businesses.
B. Yes, because it explains how bar codes and scanners made it easier for stores to keep track of their inventories.
C. No, because it focuses primarily on the development of bar codes and only briefly mentions how businesses have implemented the use of bar codes.
D. No, because it focuses on why businesses needed new technology but does not explain how bar codes were able to serve that need.

PASSAGE II

Glowing on an Adventure

As I pulled my camera out of my backpack, I felt a tap on my arm.

“No photographs,” whispered the woman next to me, pointing up to the cave ceiling. “The flash will

make them stop glowing,” she said, whispering. She was referring to the thousands of glowworms that clung to the limestone ceiling and, with their radiant bodies, flooded the cave in aquamarine light. While

I was traveling on canoe on a group tour through the renowned Glowworm Grotto of New Zealand’s Waitomo Caves. Were it not for the twinkling light of these *Arachnocampaluminosa*, a species unique to New Zealand and abundant in these caves, this meandering subterranean passageway would feel as though it were downright ensconced in shadows.

I sheepishly tucked the camera away and focused again on the glowworms. Collectively, they resembled the cosmos, a sea of stars in a clear night sky. Beautiful—yet what made them glow?

“Bioluminescence,” the woman said, peculiarly sensing my curiosity.

21 A badge

was pinned to her shirt indicated she was a biochemist, here, I guessed, to research the organism.

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. me, and then pointing
H. me and she pointed
J. me, she pointed
17. A. NO CHANGE
B. glowing,” she said as she pointed up to the ceiling.
C. glowing,” she said in a hushed, whispering voice.
D. glowing.”
18. F. NO CHANGE
G. Although
H. Since
J. DELETE the underlined portion.
19. A. NO CHANGE
B. with
C. by
D. in
20. F. NO CHANGE
G. end up pretty hard to
H. see. have not a lot of
J. light.
be utterly dark.
21. At this point, the writer wants to emphasize the idea that the narrator found the woman’s comment peculiar. Which of the following best accomplishes that goal?
A. I figured she had been to the caves before.
B. Surprised, I hesitantly turned toward her.
C. She had a notepad in her hand.
D. I happened to agree.
22. F. NO CHANGE
G. had been
H. it was
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

She explained that to attract prey, glowworms (not really worms at all, but the larval stage of a fungus gnat) emit light through their translucent skin; via²³ cellular chemical reaction. The cells produce luciferin, a chemical pigment that reacts with oxygen to produce light that shines through the organism's tail-end intestine.

From its mouth, she showed me,

all glowworms dangleshimmering silken²⁴
threads glossed in beads of mucus. Cave-dwelling

insects are trapped in these threads, then reeled in²⁵
like fish on a line, and finally lured by the light.²⁵

The light responds to environmental factors. The

sound of splashing water, however,²⁶ might signal

that prey is nearby, causing them to²⁷

brighten. 28

23. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. skin, and via
C. skin. Via
D. skin via

24. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. all of the glowworms are dangling
H. each of the glowworms dangle
J. each glowworm dangles

25. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. lured by the light, then trapped in these threads, and finally reeled in like fish on a line.
C. reeled in like fish on a line, then trapped in these threads, and finally lured by the light.
D. trapped in these threads, then lured by the light, and finally reeled in like fish on a line.

26. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. on the other hand,
H. for example,
J. above all,

27. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. the light
C. these
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

28. Which of the following choices, if added here, would best conclude the paragraph and refer back to the conversation at the beginning of the essay?
- F.** Insects are likely attracted to the light because the sky-like appearance of the glowworms fools the Insects into believing they are outdoors.
- G.** She told me that the cave is usually quiet, with only occasional noises, such as tour boats passing through the water.
- H.** A camera flash, she reminded me, may also spell danger, and the glowworms' light is doused.
- J.** The light is also brighter in a hungry larva than in those that have just eaten.

Our trip neared its end. I spotted
a dragonfly in the cave.I knew its
²⁹

fate,it would be ensnared, just as I had
³⁰
been by the brilliance of these luminescent
glowworms.

PASSAGE III

A Rose by the Name Antique

With shears in hand, I clip a thin branch
from the rosebush in my backyard garden. I place this
clipping into the basket next to meand crouch under
³¹

this again. I snip a few more branches and then rise
³²
to head to the greenhouse. There, I will deposit these

clippings in rich soil; roots will take hold, buds will sprout,
³³
and a new plant will find a home in my garden.
My roses are not your average hybrid-tea roses (those
long-stemmed, special occasion roses with well-formed
buds). Mine are antiqueroses, old, or heirloom varieties,
³⁴
that have existed in gardens worldwide for centuries.

29. The writer is considering revising the underlined portion to the following:
soaring toward the light.
Should the writer make this revision?
- A. Yes, because the revised phrase more specifically describes the dragonfly's actions to help support the narrator's claim that she knew what its fate would be.
B. Yes, because the revised phrase adds information that explains why the light of the glowworms was suddenly dim.
C. No, because the original phrase more clearly establishes that the trip is ending and that the narrator sees the dragonfly as they exit the cave.
D. No, because the original phrase builds on the suspense established in the narrative regarding the fate of the dragonfly.
30. F. NO CHANGE
- G. fate; and
H. fate:
J. fate

31. A. NO CHANGE
B. basket next, to me
C. basket, next to me
D. basket next to me,
32. F. NO CHANGE
- G. the rosebush
H. one
J. it
33. Which choice most closely maintains the sentence pattern the writer establishes after the semicolon?
- A. NO CHANGE
B. I will see new buds that have been sprouting,
C. followed by the buds, which have sprouted,
D. then come the sprouting buds after that,
34. F. NO CHANGE
- G. roses, old or heirloom, varieties,
H. roses old, or heirloom varieties
J. roses, old or heirloom varieties

Compared to vibrant hybrid-tea colors, antique rose colors
³⁵

tend to be silenced. Their stems are also shorter, and their
³⁶
buds are a bit droopier. Their fragrance, however, is
unmatched. And unlike the hybrid-tea whose long stems
make into a rosebush that is rather scraggly looking,
³⁷

antique rosebushes can be grown in a variety of colors,
³⁸
handsomely landscaping gardens.

The plant thrives best when it is exposed to six hours
³⁹
of direct sunlight daily. The plant can withstand extreme
³⁹

temperatures and survive nearly anywhere. It's also easier
⁴⁰

to grow antiques. Cultivating hybrid-teas having involved
⁴¹
a process of grafting two species of rose together, but the
grafted area remains weak and susceptible to viruses.
Antiques, on the other hand, are less prone to disease
because they are grown simply by placing cuttings from
a parent plant into nutrient-rich soil. They require far less
⁴²
pruning, fertilizing, and nurturing than their hybrid-tea

35. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. vibrant hybrid-tea, colors,
C. vibrant, hybrid-tea colors
D. vibrant hybrid-tea colors

36. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. reduced.
H. muted.
J. lower.

37. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. about
C. like
D. for

38. The writer wants to add a detail here that best completes the contrast to hybrid-tea roses in the first part of the sentence. Which choice best accomplishes that goal?
F. NO CHANGE
G. are lush and shapely,
H. can grow quite large,
J. tend to be less thorny,

39. Which choice best introduces the main focus of the paragraph?
A. NO CHANGE
B. The varieties of antique roses are numerous, the *Mutabilis* most popular of which are the silken peach and the crimson *Louis Phillippe*.
C. Aside from the rose's beauty, what gardeners like me most appreciate is that antiques are incredibly durable and low maintenance.
D. While I am fond of bush varieties, I am also drawn to climbing varieties that can be placed against walls, fences, or trellises.

40. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. They're
H. Their
J. Its

41. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. which involves
C. involves
D. involving

42. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. Antiques, requiring
H. Antiques require
J. Requiring

counterparts, antiques can reportedly survive without any care from human hands, a fact that surprises many.

[1] I dig small holes in a pot of soil, place each clipping a half inch deep, and pack down the soil around them. [2] Back in my greenhouse, I strip the clippings of all leaves and branches. [3] Then I wait: the roots will take hold and, eventually, buds will sprout. 44

43. The writer wants to add a detail here that emphasizes the antique rose's ability to survive without human care. Which choice best accomplishes that goal?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. blooming year after year even at abandoned sites.
 - C. making them more popular among gardeners.
 - D. often blooming between midspring and fall.
44. Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
- F. NO CHANGE
 - G. 2, 1, 3
 - H. 3, 1, 2
 - J. 1, 3, 2

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe the process of planting a particular flower. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?
- A. Yes, because the essay discusses the steps involved in growing and maintaining antique rosebushes.
 - B. Yes, because the writer explains the specific conditions needed to plant antique roses and how long it takes for new buds to sprout.
 - C. No, because the essay is more focused on comparing the qualities and cultivation of antique and hybrid-tea roses.
 - D. No, because while the writer mentions growing antique roses in his garden, the essay is more focused on the history of antiques in gardens worldwide.

PASSAGE IV

Jeremy Frey, Weaving Heritage Into Modern Art

[1]

The winning piece was a basket, it was eighteen inches tall with a curved, vaselike silhouette. [A] It was made of ash wood finely woven into bold stripes of black and white that ran from its crown to its base. [B]

46. F. NO CHANGE
G. this work of art reached
H. the object stood
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

In the ninety-year history of the Santa Fe Indian Market—the largest Indian art festival in the nation—the 2011 event marked the first time a basket won best of show. The creator of the piece, thirty-three-year-old Passamaquoddy Indian Jeremy Frey from Princeton, Maine, the basket sold at auction for \$16,000.

48

[2]

[C] Frey describes his baskets as

“cutting-edge traditional.” [D] He primarily

weaves a classic material, wood from the brown

ash tree, but, unlike most contemporary basketmakers,

49

he harvests, cuts, pounds, dries, and dyes the wood

himself. Then creating highly elaborate versions

50

of the sturdy utility baskets that have been used

by generations of Passamaquoddy fishermen from

51

Maine. He honors tradition, but he highlights artistic design. For example, his baskets feature

complex weaving on areas that are often hidden

52

and therefore typically not embellished. Many traditional baskets have basic, woven lids.

47. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. Market the largest Indian art festival—in the nation—
C. Market, the largest Indian art festival, in the nation
D. Market, the largest Indian art festival in the nation

48. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. looked on as the
H. as his
J. his

49. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. but, unlike most, contemporary basketmakers
C. but unlike, most contemporary basketmakers,
D. but, unlike most contemporary basketmakers

50. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. Going on to create
H. Frey creates
J. Creating

51. If the writer were to delete the underlined portion, the essay would primarily lose:
A. an indication that Frey honors Passamaquoddy cultural heritage by creating baskets that look nearly identical to traditional pieces.
B. a mention of a physical characteristic of the earliest baskets used by Passamaquoddy fishermen.
C. a detail that connects Frey’s basketry work to long-standing Passamaquoddy traditions.
D. a point revealing that Frey’s baskets are used by Passamaquoddy fishermen today.

52. Which choice provides the clearest and most specific information about which parts of Frey’s baskets are being referred to in the sentence and about Frey’s manner of weaving those parts?
F. NO CHANGE
G. a remarkable level of detail on certain sections, the
H. intricately woven interiors and bottoms,
J. characteristic interiors and bottoms,

Frey's porcupine quilllids are often decorated

53

with art inlaid on birch bark; as far as lids go,
I wouldn't say that's basic. And while braids of

54

grass are customarily woven into ash baskets

55

to make them better, Frey incorporates braided
cedar bark to create striking new textures.

56

[3]

Now that he's a nationally recognized artist of who
has rejuvenated the art of basketry, Frey feels his role
is to inspire. He's on the board of the Maine Indian
Basket makers Alliance, a group that works to help
preserve it by reaching out to young members of Native
communities in the state. His other goal is to continue to
stand out. The woven grass bracelets he saw on a recent
trip to Hawaii have influenced how he shapes the bases
of some of his newer baskets, as he finds yet another way
to make traditional Passamaquoddy weaving something
spectacularly his own.

58

59

53. Which placement of the underlined portion makes clear that the art that decorates the lid, not the lid itself, is made of porcupine quill?

- A. Where it is now
- B. After the word *are*
- C. After the word *often*
- D. After the word *with*

54. F. NO CHANGE

- G. bark, which is not exactly formulating a lid through a conventional ideology.
- H. bark; this is just part of his really artistic way.
- J. bark.

55. A. NO CHANGE

- B. has been
- C. is seen
- D. is

56. Which choice provides the clearest and most specific reason that grass is woven into ash baskets?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. for the sake of the objects,
- H. for a useful purpose,
- J. to strengthen them,

57. A. NO CHANGE

- B. being whom
- C. whom
- D. who

58. F. NO CHANGE

- G. this art
- H. that
- J. DELETE the underlined portion.

59. A. NO CHANGE

- B. distinguish himself from other weavers so as a weaver he is set apart from them.
- C. remain to be someone who gets noticed.
- D. keep on being fully distinct.

Question 60 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

60. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

The black stripes were woven flat, sharply setting off the white stripes, which were woven to form raised columns of perfectly even points that seemed to cascade down the piece.

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- F. Point A in Paragraph 1.
- G. Point B in Paragraph 1.
- H. Point C in Paragraph 2.
- J. Point D in Paragraph 2.

PASSAGE V

The Flow of Time

Nine hundred years ago, Emperor Zhezong of China,
⁶¹
 ordered the design and construction of a clock

built to keep time more accurately than other clocks.
⁶²

This would be no simple timepiece and because
⁶³

Chinese dynasties continued to astrology, they relied
⁶⁴
 on complicated clocks that not only kept time but also
 helped track stars, planets, the sun, and the moon. An
eminent scientist and bureaucrat named Su Song lead
⁶⁵
 Zhezong's ambitious project.

Using his expertise in calendrical science,
⁶⁶

Su Song created a spectacular timepiece housed within
⁶⁷
 an ornate forty-foot-tall tower. At the tower's top sat an

armillary sphere, ora nest of metal rings representing
⁶⁸
 celestial reference points such as the horizon and
 the sun's path—that rotated in sync with the
 earth, enabling precise astronomical observations.

Inside the tower, a sphere depicting the sky
 revolved to display the stars that were overhead.

61. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. ago, Emperor Zhezong, of China
C. ago, Emperor Zhezong of China
D. ago Emperor Zhezong of China,
62. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. to keep time more accurately than clocks that had previously come before it.
H. more accurate at keeping time correctly than any other clock of the time.
J. more accurate than any other.
63. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. timepiece. Because
C. timepiece, because
D. timepiece because
64. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. adhered
H. linked
J. fixed
65. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. imminent scientist and bureaucrat named Su Song lead
C. imminent scientist and bureaucrat named Su Song led
D. eminent scientist and bureaucrat named Su Song led
66. Given that all the choices are accurate, which one best indicates that Su Song relied on engineering achievements from earlier times?
F. NO CHANGE
G. Building on centuries of Chinese clock-making knowledge,
H. While authoring his treatise on astronomical clockwork,
J. After first crafting a working small-scale wooden model,
67. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. secured between
C. encased around
D. nestled among
68. **F.** NO CHANGE
G. sphere—
H. sphere:
J. sphere,

Besides, below the star sphere, the tower's open ⁶⁹ sides exposed a detailed model of a five-story pagoda. Automated figurines would appear in the pagoda's doorways and ring bells to announce ⁷⁰ hours, sunsets, seasons, and other chronological events.

The clock's inner workings were ⁷¹ equally remarkable. Hidden in the tower, a waterwheel eleven feet in diameter powered the entire clock. Therefore, water ⁷² would pour at a constant rate into one of the wheel's thirty-six buckets. When the bucket was full, the water's weight pulled it down, rotating the waterwheel. Then a stop mechanism halted the wheel and positioned the next bucket for filling.

Chinese clockmakers had long used waterwheels, but ⁷³ Su Song's stop mechanism, which regulated the inertia of the waterwheel, represented significant innovation.

Unfortunately, after Su Song's clock ran for thirty years, invaders stole it. Later the clock vanished altogether. It would be a few hundred years until ⁷⁴ with the refinement of mechanical clocks in Europe

other clocks approached the complexity ⁷⁵ of Su Song's masterpiece.

69. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. Sooner or later,
C. Lastly,
D. Thus,

70. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F.** bells, which served to announce
G. bells, they announced
H. bells that announced
J. bells, announcing

71. **A.** NO CHANGE

- B.** reveals themselves as being
C. was shown to be
D. has proved

72. **F.** NO CHANGE

- G.** In other words, water
H. For example, water
J. Water

73. **A.** NO CHANGE

- B.** nevertheless,
C. regardless,
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

74. **F.** NO CHANGE

- G.** until—with the refinement of mechanical clocks in Europe—
H. until with the refinement (of mechanical clocks in Europe)
J. until, with the refinement, of mechanical clocks in Europe

75. **A.** NO CHANGE

- B.** eventually became able to draw anywhere near to the complexity
C. grew to attain such a high degree as that
D. could even fathom coming within reach