

SAT Reading and Writing Sample Paper 04

- **Total Questions:** 54 Questions
- **Modules:** 2 Modules (27 Questions each)
- **Time:** 64 Minutes Total (32 Minutes per Module)
- **Content Areas:** Craft and Structure, Information and Ideas, Standard English Conventions, and Expression of Ideas.
- **Question Formats:** Multiple Choice.

Module 1

1. The following text is adapted from a 1910 report on geological formations.
The limestone caves were discovered to be surprisingly _____; while the exterior of the mountain was ravaged by wind and rain, the internal chambers remained perfectly preserved for thousands of years.

A) vulnerable
B) durable
C) erratic
D) marginal
2. Scholars studying the 19th-century mathematician Ada Lovelace often emphasize her _____; though she worked in an era with limited mechanical computing power, her visionary insights into algorithms anticipated the modern digital age.

A) indifference
B) ingenuity
C) obscurity
D) redundancy
3. Although the initial findings of the study were _____, suggesting only a minor correlation between diet and sleep quality, a larger meta-analysis later revealed a much more significant relationship.

A) modest
B) absolute
C) profound

- D) celebratory
4. The influence of the Bauhaus movement was not _____ to the borders of Germany; its principles of functionalism and minimalism fundamentally reshaped architecture and design across the globe.
- A) derived
B) confined
C) recognized
D) repressed
5. In her 1912 novel, the author describes the morning mist over the valley with such _____ that readers can almost feel the dampness and chill through her descriptive prose.
- A) ambiguity
B) austerity
C) fidelity
D) brevity
6. In the 2004 novel *Kira-Kira*, the narrator describes her sister Lynn as having an "extraordinary" mind that could find beauty in the most mundane objects. This perspective is frequently contrasted with the narrator's own more literal-minded approach to their surroundings.
- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?
- A) It introduces a character trait that is then contrasted with another character.
B) It provides a list of the specific objects that the characters find beautiful.
C) It summarizes the resolution of a conflict between the two sisters.
D) It identifies a specific historical event that influenced the sisters' childhood.

7. Text 1

Traditional economic models often assume that companies in the same industry will engage in fierce price competition following a merger. These models predict that efficiency gains will allow the new, larger company to lower prices.

Text 2

Economist Ying Fan investigated newspaper mergers and found that they often lead to higher subscription prices. Fan argues that the reduction in competition allows companies to prioritize profit margins over consumer affordability.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the prediction in Text 1?

- A) By claiming that mergers always lead to a decrease in the quality of the products.

- B) By suggesting that the assumption of price competition fails to account for market power.
- C) By arguing that efficiency gains are impossible to achieve in the modern era.
- D) By asserting that consumers prefer higher prices if they lead to more options.
8. In the 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*, the landscape outspread below Lily Bart seems to be an enlargement of her own mood. The calmness and breadth of the park mirror the specific internal sensations she feels as she walks through the grove.
Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?
- A) It creates a detailed image of the physical setting of the scene.
- B) It establishes that a character is experiencing a conflict with her environment.
- C) It makes a claim that the next sentence then expands upon.
- D) It illustrates an idea that was introduced in the previous chapter.
9. Pando is a colony of 47,000 aspen trees in Utah that share a single root system. Ecologists are worried because Pando's growth is declining due to overgrazing by local deer. They suggest that building strong fences could prevent animals from eating young trees.
According to the text, why are ecologists concerned about Pando?
- A) The root system is no longer able to support tree growth.
- B) Animals are consuming new growth before it can establish itself.
- C) The colony is being blocked from expansion by human structures.
- D) A lack of genetic diversity is making the colony susceptible to disease.
10. In a study of bottlenose dolphins, researchers found that signature whistles are essential for maintaining social bonds. When separated from their mothers, calves will repeat their specific whistle until they are reunited. This indicates that vocal communication is _____ to their social structure.
- A) incidental
- B) fundamental
- C) secondary
- D) redundant
11. Some art critics have claimed that the portrait is unfinished because the background remains a series of rough, sketchy lines. However, the artist's journals reveal that this was a deliberate choice meant to draw the viewer's eye exclusively toward the face of the subject.
Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A) It presents a common interpretation that the rest of the text eventually challenges.
- B) It provides empirical evidence to support the claim made in the second sentence.
- C) It identifies a specific painting technique used by 18th-century artists.
- D) It outlines a solution to the problem of identifying anonymous subjects in art.
12. In 2018, scientists discovered that pearl octopuses congregate near hydrothermal vents to accelerate the development of their eggs. While the surrounding water is near freezing, the vents provide warmth that reduces the incubation period significantly. Which statement about the octopuses is best supported by the text?
- A) They are the only marine species capable of surviving near hydrothermal vents.
- B) Their choice of location provides a reproductive advantage regarding hatching speed.
- C) They migrate to shallower waters once the eggs have successfully hatched.
- D) They feed primarily on smaller organisms attracted to the warmth of the vents.
13. Many plants lose leaf color when exposed to kanamycin. Researchers hypothesized that the plant's response involves altering its uptake of metals. In an experiment, plants exposed to the antibiotic showed significant decreases in iron and zinc levels compared to a control group. Which finding would best support the researchers' hypothesis?
- A) Exposed plants showed much lower metal concentrations than the control group.
- B) Both groups of plants maintained stable levels of iron and zinc throughout the study.
- C) The control group plants lost more color than the group exposed to kanamycin.
- D) Iron and zinc levels increased in response to the antibiotic exposure.
14. A researcher is categorizing tree types based on their maximum height and their origin.

Tree Type	Max Height (ft)	Native to North America
Sugar Maple	75	Yes
Silver Maple	70	Yes
Red Maple	60	Yes
Japanese Maple	25	No

A student needs to choose a maple tree that is **native to North America** and grows **no more than 60 feet**. Which tree should she select?

- A) Sugar Maple
- B) Silver Maple

- C) Red Maple
- D) Japanese Maple

15. Biologists recorded the year that specific female dolphins were observed with their calves to study reproductive cycles.

Dolphin ID	Recording Year
FB07	2012
FB25	1989
FB43	1992
FB79	2018

According to the table, in which year was the dolphin with the ID FB43 recorded with her calf?

- A) 1989
 - B) 1992
 - C) 2012
 - D) 2018
16. Mary Golda Ross, a member of the Cherokee Nation, _____renowned for her work on NASA's *Planetary Flight Handbook*.
- A) was
 - B) were
 - C) being
 - D) are
17. Chutes and Ladders is a version of an ancient Nepalese game. In both games, landing on a specific space _____a player to move ahead.
- A) allows
 - B) allow
 - C) are allowing
 - D) have allowed
18. In 1930, artist Chiura Obata depicted Yosemite in two woodcuts. In 2019, his _____exhibited at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.
- A) works was
 - B) works were
 - C) work are

- D) working were
19. Journalists have dubbed Gil Scott-Heron the "godfather of rap," but he _____the nickname, preferring the term "bluesologist."
- A) resisted
 - B) resisting
 - C) resist
 - D) to resist
20. Stomata are tiny pores in a leaf. In a 2007 article, plant cell _____demonstrated how these structures regulate gas exchange.
- A) biologist Yuree Lee,
 - B) biologist, Yuree Lee
 - C) biologist Yuree Lee
 - D) biologist, Yuree Lee,
21. As cheesemaking spread during the Neolithic, divergent strategies for preserving milk _____some groups used rennet, while others used acid-heat coagulation.
- A) emerged:
 - B) emerged,
 - C) emerged
 - D) emerged; and
22. Researchers studying the "terra-cotta army" found that the shape of each statue's _____unique to that specific figure.
- A) ears is
 - B) ears are
 - C) ears was
 - D) ears were
23. The novel *Americanah* chronicles the experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze. Ifemelu moves to the US. _____Obinze travels to London to find work.
- A) Meanwhile,
 - B) Nevertheless,
 - C) Therefore,
 - D) Secondly,

24. Some members of the Supreme Court resist televising oral arguments. They worry participants will "perform" for the cameras. _____they fear that short clips could be misinterpreted.

- A) However,
- B) Additionally,
- C) Conversely,
- D) For example,

25. An animal's brain size often scales with its behavioral complexity. _____from an evolutionary standpoint, simple actions require fewer brain resources.

- A) Thus,
- B) Besides,
- C) Nevertheless,
- D) Subsequently,

26. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- NASA's Mars rovers are wheeled vehicles.
- They are heavy and cannot navigate steep, rocky terrain.
- Microprobes weigh only 50mg and can be dropped anywhere.
- The student wants to explain an advantage of microprobes.

Which choice most effectively uses the notes?

- A) NASA uses both rovers and microprobes to explore the surface of Mars.
- B) Unlike heavy rovers, lightweight microprobes can explore steep regions that are otherwise inaccessible.
- C) Microprobes are a possible alternative to the rovers NASA uses on Mars.
- D) Steep crater walls are difficult for wheeled vehicles to navigate on Mars.

27. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Cecilia Vicuña was born in Chile.
- Her poetry collection *Precario* was published in 1983.
- She is also a multidisciplinary artist.
- The student wants to introduce the 1983 collection.

Which choice most effectively uses the notes?

- A) Cecilia Vicuña is a Chilean artist who writes poetry.
- B) Published in 1983, *Precario* is a collection of poetry by Chilean artist Cecilia Vicuña.
- C) Vicuña is known for her installations, but she also published *Precario* in 1983.
- D) *Precario* was published by the same Chilean artist who is multidisciplinary.

Module 2

28. Predatory animals differ in how they _____ food for their young; while some bring live prey, others feed their offspring directly.
- A) avoid
 - B) supply
 - C) describe
 - D) consume
29. Teju Cole's _____ photography and writing culminated in his 2017 book, which evocatively combines both media.
- A) indifference to
 - B) enthusiasm for
 - C) concern about
 - D) surprise at
30. Artist Marilyn Dingle's baskets are _____ sweetgrass; she skillfully winds thin palm fronds around grass bunches to create a signature look.
- A) indicated by
 - B) handmade from
 - C) represented by
 - D) collected with
31. Annie Wauneka worked to promote public health; this _____ effort involved traveling the Navajo homeland to write a medical dictionary.
- A) impartial
 - B) offhand
 - C) persistent
 - D) mandatory
32. The impact of the new volcanic discovery was _____; the data forced researchers to rethink the timeline of the island's formation.
- A) negligible
 - B) profound
 - C) deceptive
 - D) localized

33. Oral histories can offer researchers a rich view of everyday experiences. For her book about coal miners, Karida Brown relied on interviews to gain insights into her subjects' day-to-day lives.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A) It identifies a research method and states its general benefit.
- B) It provides a geographical fact about the study.
- C) It argues that the author is the leading expert in the field.
- D) It presents a historical event of the twentieth century.

34. In the poem "Benediction," Georgia Douglas Johnson encourages her son to embrace life's journey. She writes that unknown "reaches" await his possession.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A) It summarizes the primary theme of the poem.
- B) It explains the biological process of growing up.
- C) It identifies a conflict between mother and son.
- D) It outlines the historical context of the poem's publication.

35. Individual elephants tend to have fixed geographic ranges. Researchers theorized that the extinct woolly mammoth _____; however, analysis suggests their ranges expanded as they matured.

- A) would behave similarly
- B) was much more active
- C) ignored these patterns
- D) preferred colder climates

36. Gloria Richardson led a movement for equality. She became a leader after her daughter inspired her to join protests. _____ Richardson became a prominent figure in history.

- A) Eventually,
- B) Otherwise,
- C) Previously,
- D) For instance,

37. Elinor is described as possessing a "strength of understanding" that qualifies her to counsel her mother. Despite being only nineteen, she is _____.

- A) remarkably mature for her age.
- B) often prone to emotional outbursts.

- C) unable to influence her mother.
D) resolved to never learn from others.
38. Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor's 1970 book was unusual because it combined recipes with memoir. It _____ contemporary approaches to writing about cuisine.
- A) followed
B) challenged
C) ignored
D) simplified
39. Mrs. Ochiltree was known for her "startling frankness," a trait that caused her to be avoided. Mrs. Ochiltree was aware of this and _____.
- A) felt deeply offended.
B) rather exulted in it.
C) tried to hide her personality.
D) was preoccupied with her health.
40. **Text 1**
Sea otters damage eelgrass roots while digging. However, eelgrass in otter-heavy areas are often healthier and more genetically diverse than those in areas where otters are absent.
- Text 2**
Researcher Erin Foster hypothesized that the damage caused by otters forces the eelgrass to increase its rate of sexual reproduction, which boosts diversity. Which finding, if true, would **undermine** Foster's hypothesis?
- A) Eelgrass in otter-heavy areas reproduces primarily through cloning.
B) Small otter populations have a larger impact on diversity than large ones.
C) Other marine animals also damage eelgrass roots.
D) Eelgrass meadows are found in areas where sea otters have never lived.

41.

Plant Group	Soil pH	Flower Count
Group A	5.5	12
Group B	7.0	5
Group C	6.0	10

A researcher claims that acidic soil (low pH) is more beneficial for flowering in this species. Which comparison supports this?

- A) Group B has the neutral pH and the lowest count.

- B) Group A has the most acidic soil and the highest flower count.
- C) Group C has more flowers than Group B.
- D) All groups produced flowers regardless of pH.

42.

City	Parks	Air Quality (AQI)
City A	12	82
City B	45	35
City C	22	50

Based on the table, which city has the cleanest air? (Note: Lower AQI is cleaner).

- A) City A
 - B) City B
 - C) City C
 - D) Data is inconclusive
43. Watson and Crick are famous for the DNA double helix. However, _____ findings were actually based on an X-ray image developed by Rosalind Franklin.
- A) their
 - B) they're
 - C) its
 - D) his
44. In her historical novel, Margarita Engle uses poetry rather than prose _____ the true story of a Cuban folk hero.
- A) to tell
 - B) telling
 - C) told
 - D) tells
45. Interest in mechanotransduction is expanding because of work by scientists—many of _____ are studying how cells convert stimuli into signals.
- A) whom
 - B) who
 - C) which
 - D) them

46. Helen Oyeyemi's novel is a retelling of Snow White; her 2019 novel, _____ offers a delicious twist on Hansel and Gretel.
- A) *Gingerbread*,
 - B) *Gingerbread*
 - C) *Gingerbread*;
 - D) *Gingerbread*:
47. Engineer Erkkka Frankberg used the chemical _____ to create a glassy solid that can withstand high strain.
- A) compound aluminum oxide
 - B) compound, aluminum oxide
 - C) compound aluminum oxide,
 - D) compound, aluminum oxide,
48. During the "Brass Era," automobiles were referred to as "horseless carriages." Collectors today _____ these vehicles for their artistry.
- A) prize
 - B) prizes
 - C) prizing
 - D) was prizing
49. The evidence _____ that the defendant was not in the city at the time of the crime.
- A) suggests
 - B) suggest
 - C) suggesting
 - D) to suggest
50. The choir _____ rehearsing for the holiday concert since early September.
- A) has been
 - B) have been
 - C) is
 - D) are
51. New technologies use resources more efficiently. _____ economists observe that these gains can actually increase total consumption.

- A) However,
- B) Furthermore,
- C) Similarly,
- D) Specifically,

52. Before the 1911 election, activists sold tea. In San Francisco, they sold "Equality Tea." _____ in Los Angeles, they distributed "Votes for Women Tea."

- A) Similarly,
- B) Conversely,
- C) Therefore,
- D) Instead,

53. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Grand Canyon was carved by the Colorado River.
- This process took millions of years.
- It is up to 18 miles wide.
- The student wants to explain how the canyon was formed.

Which choice most effectively uses the notes?

- A) The Grand Canyon is a massive 18-mile-wide formation.
- B) Carved by the Colorado River over millions of years, the Grand Canyon is a unique geological site.
- C) The Colorado River is essential to the landscape of the US.
- D) Millions of years were required for the river to flow.

54. The experiment failed. _____, the equipment malfunctioned halfway through the process.

- A) Specifically,
- B) However,
- C) Instead,
- D) Conversely,

Answers and Solutions

1. **B** — "Durable" matches the context of chambers remaining "perfectly preserved" despite external ravaging.
2. **B** — "Ingenuity" (cleverness) fits the description of her visionary insights changing the field.
3. **A** — "Modest" (limited in scale) contrasts with the "significant relationship" found later.
4. **B** — "Confined to" means limited to; the movement reshaped architecture "across the globe."
5. **C** — "Fidelity" (accuracy/realism) matches the description of sensory details that feel real to readers.
6. **A** — The underlined sentence introduces a trait (extraordinary mind) that is then contrasted with the narrator.
7. **B** — Text 2 suggests price hikes result from market power, challenging the competition predicted in Text 1.
8. **C** — The sentence makes a claim about the landscape mirroring Lily's mood, which the next sentence details.
9. **B** — The text explicitly states Pando is declining because deer are eating the young trees (overgrazing).
10. **B** — "Fundamental" describes something central/essential; the study shows whistles are key to bonding.
11. **A** — The first sentence introduces a common theory that the rest of the text complicates with the journal evidence.
12. **B** — The text states that warmer water "accelerates development," which is a reproductive benefit for offspring.
13. **A** — The experimental data (lower metal levels in exposed plants) directly supports the metal uptake hypothesis.

14. **C** — Red Maple is the only tree listed as native to North America with a height $\leq$ 60 feet.
15. **B** — According to the third row of the dolphin table, the recording year for FB43 is 1992.
16. **A** — "Was" is the singular past tense required to describe Ross's completed role in history.
17. **A** — "Allows" is the singular present-tense verb required to agree with the singular subject "landing."
18. **B** — "Works were" is the plural construction required for the woodcuts mentioned earlier.
19. **A** — "Resisted" is the simple past tense required to match the timeframe of the first clause.
20. **C** — No punctuation should separate the job title "biologist" from the name "Yuree Lee."
21. **B** — A colon is used to introduce an explanation or a specific list of the strategies.
22. **B** — "Is" is the singular verb required to agree with the singular subject "shape."
23. **A** — "Meanwhile" is used to show two events happening simultaneously in different places.
24. **B** — "Additionally" adds a second, distinct worry (media clips) to the first worry (performing).
25. **B** — "Thus" indicates a logical conclusion: simple behavior leads to smaller brain resource allocation.
26. **B** — This choice highlights the "advantage" of microprobes over rovers (accessing terrain) as requested.
27. **B** — This choice successfully introduces the poetry collection and its author as requested.
28. **B** — "Supply" is the correct verb for how animals provide food to their offspring.

29. **B** — "Enthusiasm for" describes a strong interest in two different passions.
30. **B** — "Handmade from" correctly describes the materials used to construct the baskets.
31. **C** — "Persistent" (constant/continuous) matches the description of working without stopping.
32. **B** — "Profound" means deep or intense, fitting a discovery that changes an entire timeline.
33. **A** — It defines the general utility of oral history before providing a specific example.
34. **A** — The underlined sentence introduces the primary theme of the poem.
35. **A** — "Would behave similarly" fits the context of researchers predicting a shared trait between species.
36. **A** — "Eventually" shows the chronological progression of time leading to her becoming a leader.
37. **A** — "Remarkably mature" matches the description of her "strength of understanding" at age 19.
38. **B** — "Challenged" fits the idea that the book went against traditional culinary writing conventions.
39. **B** — The text says she was aware people avoided her and "rather exulted in it."
40. **A** — If the plants reproduce via cloning rather than seeds (sexual), it disproves the sexual reproduction theory.
41. **B** — Group A supports the claim because it has the lowest pH (most acidic) and most flowers (12).
42. **B** — According to the AQI values, City B has the lowest number (35), meaning it is the cleanest.
43. **A** — "Their" is the plural possessive pronoun required to refer back to Watson and Crick.

44. **A** — "To tell" is the infinitive form required to express the purpose of using poetry.
45. **A** — "Whom" is the objective pronoun required after the preposition "of."
46. **A** — A comma is needed to set off the non-essential title of the novel.
47. **B** — No punctuation is needed within the simple phrase "compound aluminum oxide."
48. **A** — "Prize" is the plural verb that agrees with the plural subject "Collectors."
49. **A** — "Evidence" is an uncountable singular noun, requiring the singular verb "suggests."
50. **A** — "Choir" is a collective noun acting as a single unit, so the singular verb "has been" is correct.
51. **A** — "However" signals the contrast between efficiency gains and increased total consumption.
52. **A** — "Similarly" shows that both groups of activists were doing related things in different cities.
53. **B** — This choice accurately explains the "how" (Colorado River) as requested by the student's goal.
54. **A** — "Specifically" introduces the exact reason why the experiment failed.