

SAT Reading and Writing Sample Paper 05

- **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 1922 essay on the psychology of urban life. The researcher observed that the influence of public parks on social cohesion was not _____; rather, the presence of green spaces consistently correlated with increased community interaction across diverse neighborhoods.

A) incidental
B) fundamental
C) secondary
D) redundant
2. Despite the long-standing assumption that the deep-sea floor was a biological desert, new data suggest that it is actually a _____environment, hosting complex ecosystems fueled by chemical energy rather than sunlight.

A) static
B) dynamic
C) stagnant
D) predictable
3. Scholars studying the 19th-century artist Mary Cassatt often emphasize her _____; though her earlier works strictly adhered to academic traditions, her later paintings embraced the bold, experimental techniques of the Impressionist movement.

A) rigidity
B) versatility
C) obscurity

- D) redundancy
4. Although the initial reception of the new symphony was _____, meaning it received mixed reviews from the public, music historians later came to view the work as a masterpiece of rhythmic innovation.
- A) absolute
B) modest
C) profound
D) celebratory
5. Diego Velázquez's influence was hardly _____ Spain; though he was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV, his techniques were studied and echoed by painters across the globe for centuries.
- A) derived from
B) recognized in
C) confined to
D) repressed by
6. In the 1855 novel Israel Potter, the protagonist is described as having a singular patience and mildness, even when faced with the most daunting tasks. This internal fortitude is demonstrated when Israel, cheated by a false employer, quietly sets out to find a new means of survival rather than descending into despair.
- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?
- A) It introduces a character trait that is then shown to be challenged by external events.
B) It provides an example of a moral failing that the protagonist eventually overcomes.
C) It summarizes the final resolution of the novel's primary conflict.
D) It identifies a specific historical event that influenced the author's style.

7. Text 1

Many biologists once theorized that the development of complex grammar was a sudden evolutionary leap. They argued that this "big bang" of language allowed early humans to coordinate large-scale social activities almost overnight.

Text 2

Recent computational models suggest that language evolution was likely a more gradual process. These models show that small, incremental changes in social interaction could lead to the emergence of complex syntax over thousands of generations.

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

- A) By arguing that social complexity is only possible in species with large brains.
- B) By suggesting that the theory overlooks the possibility of a slower development.
- C) By claiming that computational models are less reliable than traditional theories.
- D) By asserting that early humans did not engage in large-scale social activities.

8. In her 1977 play, Wakako Yamauchi focuses on the lives of Japanese American families who are struggling to adapt to a new environment. To achieve this in a medium that relies on spoken word, she creates situations where characters react physically to what is left unsaid.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A) It identifies a primary theme of the author's work.
- B) It provides a specific example of a stage direction used in the play.
- C) It argues that the play is superior to the author's previous short stories.
- D) It outlines a historical event that the play is based upon.

9. Pando is a colony of 47,000 quaking aspen trees that share a single root system. Ecologists have noted that while the colony is one of the largest organisms on Earth, it is in danger because its growth is declining. The primary threat is overgrazing by deer, which prevents new sprouts from maturing into adult trees.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Pando is the oldest organism in Utah and cannot be saved by local ecologists.
- B) A massive tree colony is failing to regenerate due to the activities of local wildlife.
- C) Quaking aspens are the only tree species that can survive for thousands of years.
- D) Deer populations in Utah have grown too large due to a lack of natural predators.

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 survival.

- 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 data 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 from several years to just a few months.
- Which statement about the octopuses is best supported by the text?
- A) They prefer colder water for hunting but warmer water for reproduction.
- B) The hydrothermal vents provide a reproductive advantage regarding hatching speed.
- C) They are the first deep-sea species found to use heat for biological purposes.
- D) The warmth of the vents allows the octopuses to grow much larger than average.
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 three species of trees based on their growth rates and drought tolerance. To be classified as a "Resilient Growth" species, a tree must have a **growth rate of at least 15 in/yr** and **High drought tolerance**.

Tree Type	Growth Rate (in/yr)	Drought Tolerance
Species X	12.5	High
Species Y	18.2	Low
Species Z	16.5	High

Based on the criteria, which tree species qualifies for the "Resilient Growth" classification?

- A) Species X

- B) Species Y
- C) Species Z
- D) None of the species

15. Biologists measured the whistle frequencies of four different dolphins to see which one produced the highest pitch.

Dolphin ID	Whistle Frequency (Hz)
D-01	12,000
D-02	15,500
D-03	9,200
D-04	14,100

According to the table, which dolphin recorded the highest whistle frequency?

- A) D-01
- B) D-02
- C) D-03
- D) D-04

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.
- 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) provide
 - 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.

Material	Density	Conductivity (S/m)
Material A	8.96	5.9×10^7
Material B	2.50	1.0×10^{-12}
Material C	1.10	1.0×10^{-14}

A researcher claims that denser materials are better conductors. Which material supports this?

- A) Material A

- B) Material B
- C) Material C
- D) The data is contradictory

42.

City	Bike Lanes (km)	Satisfaction
City 1	120	4.2
City 2	45	2.8
City 3	85	3.5

Based on the table, which city has the highest commuter satisfaction?

- A) City 1
 - B) City 2
 - C) City 3
 - D) Satisfaction is identical
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. **A** — "Incidental" (minor/random) provides the contrast to the consistent correlation described later.
2. **B** — "Dynamic" correctly describes an environment hosting complex and changing ecosystems.
3. **B** — "Versatility" (ability to adapt) fits the description of a Cassatt mastering two opposing styles.
4. **B** — "Modest" (limited in scale) provides the perfect contrast to a work later seen as a masterpiece.
5. **C** — "Confined to" means limited to; the text says his influence spread globally.
6. **A** — The underlined sentence introduces a trait (patience) that is then tested by the wilderness.
7. **B** — Text 2 suggests language evolution was gradual, which directly challenges the "leap" theory in Text 1.
8. **A** — The sentence identifies the core theme: the struggle of Japanese American families to adapt.
9. **B** — The text explicitly states Pando is declining because deer are eating the young trees (overgrazing).
10. **B** — "Fundamental" describes something 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 Rossi's view.
12. **B** — The text states that warmer water "accelerates development," which is a reproductive benefit for offspring.
13. **A** — The experiment found that exposed plants had lower metal levels, which supports the metal uptake hypothesis.

14. **C** — Species Z is the only tree listed with a growth rate > 15 in/yr and "High" tolerance.
15. **C** — Looking at 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. **A** — A colon is used to introduce an explanation or a specific list of the strategies.
22. **B** — "Are" is the plural verb required to agree with the plural 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** — "Provide" is the correct verb for how animals supply 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 message/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. **A** — Material A supports the claim because it has the highest density and highest conductivity.
42. **A** — According to the satisfaction values, City 1 has the highest number (4.2).
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.