

SAT Reading and Writing Sample Paper 08

- **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 1915 essay on urban infrastructure.
The city's decision to replace gas lamps with electric lighting was not merely a technological upgrade but a fundamental shift in the _____ of the night; where shadows once dominated, a constant, artificial glow now defined the urban experience.

A) inception
B) character
C) aesthetics
D) redundancy
2. Scholars studying the impact of social media on modern political discourse often emphasize its _____; by allowing for the instantaneous spread of information, these platforms have fundamentally altered how voters engage with candidates.

A) obscurity
B) potency
C) rigidity
D) brevity
3. Although the initial findings of the clinical trial were _____, suggesting only a minor benefit, later analysis of the long-term data revealed a significant reduction in patient recovery time.

A) modest
B) absolute
C) profound

D) celebratory

4. The influence of the Renaissance was not _____to the Italian peninsula; its principles of humanism and artistic realism spread across Europe, transforming the cultural landscape of the entire continent.

A) derived
B) confined
C) recognized
D) repressed

5. In her latest collection of poems, the author describes the changing seasons with such _____that readers can almost feel the transition from the humid heat of August to the crisp air of September.

A) ambiguity
B) fidelity
C) austerity
D) brevity

6. In the 1855 novel *Israel Potter*, the protagonist is described as having a singular patience and mildness throughout his varied career. This internal calm is sharply tested when he is forced to clear out a farm for himself in the wilderness after being cheated by a false employer.

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 law that governed labor in the 19th century.

7. Text 1

Traditional economic models assume that human beings are rational actors who always seek to maximize their personal utility. These models predict that if provided with perfect information, individuals will make choices that align with their long-term interests.

Text 2

Behavioral economists argue that humans are often influenced by cognitive biases and social pressures. For instance, the "loss aversion" bias shows that people are more

motivated to avoid a loss than to achieve a gain, even when the rational choice would be to take the risk.

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

- A) By claiming that perfect information is impossible to achieve in a modern economy.
 - B) By suggesting that the model fails to account for documented psychological patterns of decision-making.
 - C) By arguing that utility maximization is the only way to ensure market stability.
 - D) By asserting that cognitive biases are actually a form of rational behavior.
8. In the 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*, the landscape Lily Bart sees seems like 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 an internal conflict.
 - C) It makes a claim that the next sentence then expands on.
 - D) It illustrates an idea introduced in the previous chapter.
9. Pando is a colony of 47,000 quaking 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 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 comparing three different types of soil based on their drainage capacity and nutrient levels. To be classified as "Prime" soil, it must have a **drainage rate of at least 10 cm/hr** and **High nutrient levels**.

Soil Type	Drainage (cm/hr)	Nutrient Level
Soil A	12.5	High
Soil B	8.2	High
Soil C	15.0	Low

Based on the criteria, which soil type qualifies as "Prime"?

- A) Soil A
- B) Soil B
- C) Soil C
- D) None of the soils

15. Biologists recorded the maximum speed of four different marine animals during a feeding event.

Animal ID	Max Speed (knots)
M-01	18.2
M-02	25.5
M-03	12.0
M-04	21.1

According to the table, which animal recorded the highest maximum speed?

- A) M-01
- B) M-02
- C) M-03
- D) M-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 terrain because they weigh only 50 milligrams.
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. Biologists compared the sugar content of three fruit varieties to determine which was sweetest.

Fruit Type	Sugar Content (%)	Acid Level
Variety W	15.2	Low
Variety X	10.5	High
Variety Y	18.9	Low

Based on the table, which variety has the highest sugar content?

- A) Variety W
- B) Variety X
- C) Variety Y
- D) All are equal

42. A climate study recorded the average rainfall in three cities over a decade.

City	Avg Rainfall (in)	Humidity (%)
City A	45.2	80
City B	12.8	35
City C	32.5	60

Which city recorded the lowest average rainfall according to the table?

- A) City A
- B) City B
- C) City C
- D) City D

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 Erkka 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** — "Character" refers to the fundamental nature of something, matching the shift described.
2. **B** — "Potency" (power/influence) fits the description of platforms fundamentally altering discourse.
3. **A** — "Modest" (limited in scale) provides the perfect contrast to a later "significant" reduction.
4. **B** — "Confined" means limited to; the text says the Renaissance spread "across Europe."
5. **B** — "Fidelity" (accuracy/realism) matches the description of sensory details that feel real to readers.
6. **A** — The underlined sentence introduces a trait (patience) that is then tested by the wilderness.
7. **B** — Text 2 provides evidence of irrational behavior (biases), directly challenging the "rational actor" model.
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 overgrazing (eating) the young trees.
10. **B** — "Fundamental" describes something central/essential; the study shows whistles are key to social bonding.
11. **A** — The first sentence introduces a common theory (unfinished art) that the rest of the text eventually challenges.
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. **A** — Soil A is the only type with a drainage rate ≥ 10 and a "High" nutrient level.
15. **B** — Animal M-02 has the highest speed value in the table at 25.5 knots.
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** — "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 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. **C** — Variety Y has the highest percentage value in the sugar content column (18.9).
42. **B** — According to the table, City B has the lowest numerical rainfall value (12.8 in).
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.