

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS FOR WRITING & LANGUAGE DRILL 2

Passage I

1. A This sentence appears in a within a list of questions, so the sentence itself should be a question also, thus eliminating (C) and (D). Then, the paragraph is about *what you imagine* when you imagine a director, with which only (A) agrees.
2. B If you can't cite a reason to use a comma, don't use one. In this case, no commas are necessary, so (B) must be correct. There should not be a comma before *Kathryn Bigelow* because the sentence is no longer complete without these words.
3. C The words *only four female directors* suggest that all the rest of those nominated have been men. Therefore, it is not necessary to add the proposed information because it is already implied in the sentence.
4. D The sentence as written contains a comma splice. A word will need to be added to the beginning of the sentence to eliminate this error. Then, the ideas in this sentence (*critically admired...few people know*) are in contrast with one another, meaning that the sentence needs an opposite-direction transition, such as the one contained in (D).
5. D The underlined words *bit by bit* are redundant with the non-underlined word *incrementally*, so (A) should be eliminated. Choices (B) and (C) make the same mistake, so the best option is to eliminate the underlined portion altogether, as in (D).
6. B The correct word here is *enrolled*, particularly as it applies to a school or program. The best answer is therefore (B).
7. A Choose the most precise answer. In many cases, that will be the shortest answer, but in this case, the most precise answer is the longest, (A). Choices (B), (C), and (D) are too vague or too general.
8. C The next sentence discusses the *military drama*, which indicates an interest in the *structure of violence*, as in (C). While it may seem plausible that Bigelow's films would have strong female protagonists, there is no evidence for such a claim in the passage.
9. A The previous sentence states, *Bigelow has also torn down the arbitrary notion of what a "women's film" or "leading lady" might be expected to look like*. This sentence gives evidence of that claim, so the transition should signify some continuation of the idea. Choice (A) does this effectively, while the other choices are either irrelevant or contrasting.

10. **D** Bigelow is working today, so this sentence should be in the present tense. Also, in the terms of this sentence, her achievement *has been* to show that film *is* genderless. Choices (A), (B), and (C) are all in the past tense (in addition to their other faults), so (D) is the best answer.
11. **B** Since all four answers say similar things, choose the shortest that works in the given context. Choice (A) is the shortest, but it is not specific, and it is not in keeping with the tone of the rest of the best passage. The best option comes in (B), which is concise, specific, and tonally appropriate.

Passage II

12. **B** The antecedent for the underlined pronoun is *technology*, so *technology's way into every facet of our lives* should be rewritten with the pronoun *its*. Choice (A) gives the contraction *it is*, and (C) is grammatically incorrect.
13. **D** All four answer choices say essentially the same thing, so choose the shortest that works in the given context. In this case, that answer is (D), which contains all the necessary information but presents that information in the most concise way.
14. **A** The ideas before and after the punctuation are complete, so they should be separated with either a period, semi-colon, or comma-plus-coordinating-conjunction. In this case, that conjunction is *but*, making (A) the correct answer. Choice (C) cannot work because it adds an unnecessary comma after the word *but*.
15. **C** Only (C) presents a specific achievement. Choices (A) and (B) describe successes of a sort, but those are not as specific as (C).
16. **A** The idea before the punctuation is complete, but the idea after it is incomplete, thus eliminating (C) and (D). There must be something to separate the ideas, however, which also eliminates (B). All that remains is (A), which is appropriate because a long dash can be used after a complete idea, as it is here.
17. **B** If the writer were to delete this phrase, this sentence would contain no specific information, and it would not effectively introduce the idea of this paragraph. The part in question should therefore be kept, and for the reason stated in (B).
18. **A** The subject of this verb is *achievements*, thus requiring a verb agreeing with a plural noun. Choices (C) and (D) do so, but they change the meaning of the sentence. Choice (A) is therefore the best of the available answers.

19. C These three items form a list of *soybeans*, *cotton*, and *maize*. A comma is required after every item in the list, thus eliminating (B) and (D). Then, because there should not be a comma after the word *and*, only (C) can work as the correct answer.
20. D According to information presented in the figure, the percentage of cultivated land devoted to soybeans has grown from under 5% to over 90% since 1996. This is an increase of more than 900%, making (D) the correct answer.
21. B In the sentence as written, the pronoun *it* is ambiguous because it could refer to a number of different things. The pronoun *they* in (C) is also ambiguous. Choice (D) clarifies the pronoun, but it does so incorrectly. *Bioinformatics* as a field *will continue to grow*, so the correct answer must be (B).
22. D Find the clearest statement. Choice (A) cannot work because *records success* is meaningless. Choice (B) is ambiguous because the words *successfully deny and discount* does not have a clear meaning. Choice (C) does not make sense in the given context. Only (D) correctly clarifies the syntax of this sentence and puts ideas in their proper relation to one another.

Passage III

23. A If you cannot cite a reason to use a comma, don't use one. There is no good reason to use a comma in the underlined portion, so the best answer is the one with no commas, (A).
24. C The word *foundations* should go near the word *built* to complete the phrase *built on shaky foundations*. The modifier *on shaky foundations* does not make clear sense in any other part of the sentence.
25. C The pronoun in the underlined portion refers back to *a European*, which is singular. The best answer is therefore (C), which contains a singular pronoun referring to this *European*.
26. D The word *these* in the underlined portion is ambiguous, so (A) can be eliminated. Choices (B) and (C) do not fix the problem. Only (D) is adequately specific and is therefore the correct answer.
27. B In the sentence as written, the words *even so* appear awkwardly in the middle of the sentence. Choice (A) can be eliminated. Choice (C) is a sentence fragment, and (D) inserts the ambiguous pronoun *them*. Only (B) contains a relatively clear meaning in which all words have a clear place.
28. D This portion of the sentence could be rewritten to say *the need of that place*, or *that place's need*. Choices (A) and (B) do not indicate this possession, so they can be eliminated. Choice (C) uses the plural *places*, which cannot work with the word *that*. Only (D) can work in the given context.
29. A The first idea in this sentence (Anthropology has shown us how to live, and like the best anthropologists) is incomplete, so it cannot end with a period. Instead, the words like the best anthropologists serve as an introductory idea, which should be separated from the remainder of the sentence. Only (A) can work in the given context.

30. **B** An earlier part of this sentence is not insisting on its own superiority but... suggesting that the subsequent idea will need to be in contrast. Choice (A) gives no such contrast, nor does (D). Choice (C) can also be eliminated because the controversial beginnings are only a minor detail. Only (B) works in contrast with the first part of the sentence and agrees with the main idea.
31. **A** In order to clarify what will contrast with the idea that other cultures were not “less” anything, check the following sentence: A single standard of judgment was inappropriate for such a widely varying field of cultures. There should therefore be a word that signifies that other cultures are widely varying. Choice (A) would work in this context, and while (B), (C), and (D) might sound fine, there is no good reason to place them here in the passage.
32. **C** Paragraphs 2 and 3 discuss the nineteenth century, and Paragraph 6 shifts to discuss the twentieth century. Therefore, chronologically, Paragraph 6 should be placed after Paragraph 3, as (C) suggests.
33. **C** The sentence in question describes one of anthropology’s influences in the present day. Paragraph 4 discusses how literary critics and public-policymakers use anthropology, so a discussion of economists use it would be appropriate here as well. Point C within Paragraph 4 is the best of the available options.

Passage IV

34. **B** The items in this sentence appear in a list, so it is essential to keep them parallel. Choices (A), (C), and (D) add unnecessary words, but (B) keeps the items in the list parallel.
35. **D** As written, the sentence compares the *countrified lifestyle* of Vineland with *Philadelphia*. A *lifestyle* cannot be compared with a city, so (A) gives a faulty comparison. Of the remaining choices, only (D) fixes the comparison.
36. **D** Sentence 2 begins with *That man*, so the sentence that precedes it should mention a man. Sentence 4 provides the referent with *a recent graduate*, so Sentence 2 should be placed after Sentence 4, as (D) suggests.
37. **A** The unit *the Jewish Agricultural School in Woodbine, NJ* must be kept intact, so Goldhaft’s age cannot be inserted anywhere there, thus eliminating (C) and (D). Choice (B) creates an awkward phrase, *He when he was 15*, so the underlined portion can only be placed appropriately at the beginning of the sentence, as (A) suggests.
38. **C** The choices all contain words with similar meanings, but the sentence refers to some hypothetical future action. The best word in the context is therefore *vowed*, as in (C). Choice (D) holds the appropriate meaning, but the word *swore* does not work idiomatically with the word *to*.

39. **D** The sentence before the underlined portion refers to Herbert Hoover's promise of a "chicken in every pot." The sentence after the underlined portion says that Goldhaft came to the rescue. The intervening sentence should therefore discuss some complication to Hoover's promise, which Goldhaft will then resolve. Choice (D) provides that complication, suggesting that "a chicken in every pot" would not be possible as long as chickens were dying uncontrollably.
40. **B** The antecedent for the underlined pronoun is *everyone*, which is singular. Choices (A) and (D) refer to plural nouns, and (C) changes the meaning. Only choice (B), *his*, can work in the given context.
41. **C** According to the graph, chicken consumption has increased steadily since about 1935. Choices (B) and (D) are therefore untrue, and (A) describes a meat other than chicken. Only (C) accurately reflects the information in the graph.
42. **A** The final paragraph describes the significance of Goldhaft's achievement. Choice (B) is hilarious but does not introduce this topic. Choices (C) and (D) do not address Goldhaft's achievements at all. Only (A) effectively introduces the topic of this paragraph.
43. **B** This sentence discusses *influential events*, which must occur in *places*, rather than one particular *place*. Choices (A) and (D) are singular, so they can be eliminated. Choice (C) could work, but (B) is more concise, so (B) is the correct answer.
44. **C** As written, the sentence is not adequately specific, because the word *stuff* could refer to anything. Choice (B) makes the same mistake. Choice (D) does not work in the given context, so only (C) remains as the correct answer.