

CTBS Practice Test # 5

Choose the correctly combined answer for the following pairs of sentences.

Example:

The general greeted his former mess sergeant.

He had not seen him in many years.

The general greeted his former mess sergeant, whom he had not seen in many years.

1. A deep-sea diver knows he must come to the surface slowly to avoid the "bends."
He has had experience.

 - a. A deep-sea diver who has experience must come to the surface to avoid the "bends."
 - b. Divers need to know how to come to the surface slowly, that takes experience.
 - c. An experienced deep-sea diver knows he must come to the surface slowly to avoid the "bends."
 - d. He has experience he knows he must come to the surface slowly to avoid the "bends."
2. My mother used to be afraid of airplanes.
She changed her mind after her first flight.

 - a. My mother is afraid of airplanes, until she took her first flight.
 - b. Until my mother took her first flight, she was afraid of airplanes.
 - c. My mother changed her mind after her first flight, she is afraid of airplanes.
 - d. She used to be afraid of airplanes, but she changed her mind after her first flight.
3. I have read four new biographies.
Our history teacher recommended them.

 - a. The four new biographies were recommended by our teacher.
 - b. The four books I read were good, the history teacher recommended them.
 - c. The history teacher recommended the new biographies to me, and I read them, but they took a really long time.
 - d. The history teacher recommended the four new biographies I read.
4. In the Spring I go to the Mariners games.
I go to the baseball game with my best friend.
Tom, my best friend, is from Chicago.

 - a. In the Spring I go to the Mariners games with Tom, my best friend, is from Chicago.
 - b. In the Spring Tom, my best friend, and I from Chicago go to the Mariners games.
 - c. Tom, my best friend from Chicago, and I go to the Mariners games in the Spring.
 - d. In the Spring Tom from Chicago and I go to the Mariners games, he is my best friend.

In the following examples choose the topic sentence which best develops the paragraph. (When thinking about a topic sentence do not consider anything too broad that could cover a whole paper, but at the same time do not consider anything too narrow that limits the paragraph. Your choice should cover the ideas discussed in the paragraph without changing the meaning.)

5. _____ The Celtic New Year, called *Samhain* or "Summer's End," was November 1. The night before was considered a special night during which ghosts and witches roamed the earth. Ghosts and witches are still associated with Halloween. Each year the Irish had a festival to honor the god *Muck Olla*. Before the festival, people went from house to house begging for food. They wore masks so that the spirits returning from the dead would not recognize them. Today, children still wear masks and trick-or-treat from door to door. The Celts also carried torches and lanterns to frighten away the spirits. They carved the lanterns from vegetables such as turnips, beets, and potatoes. Now, pumpkins hold lighted candles on Halloween.

 - a. Halloween has been a holiday celebrated by many.
 - b. Holidays are celebrated in other countries, and Halloween is a good example.
 - c. Halloween is a celebration of ghosts and witches.
 - d. Many of our Halloween customs come from the ancient practices of the Celtic people.
6. _____ The great patriot and second President, John Adams, was born on October 30, 1735. Nearly 90 years later, on October 4, 1822, the 19th President, Rutherford B. Hayes, was born. A brief seven years and one day later, on October 5, 1829, was the birthday of Chester A. Arthur. He became America's 21st President. Theodore Roosevelt's birthday was October 26, 1858. Roosevelt was not yet the 27th President when Dwight D. Eisenhower was born on October 14, 1890. The most recent addition to this group was Jimmy Carter. The 39th president was born on October 1, 1924.

 - a. A select group of people born in the month of October have become President of the United States.
 - b. All of the presidents have birthdays in October.

- c. The greatest presidents of the United States have birthdays in the month of October, and are celebrated by all of the nation.
- d. October is a good month for presidential birthdays.

7. _____ The day I discovered that my garter snake had unexpectedly given birth to thirty babies, I was sure I had a gold mine right there in my aquarium cage. I immediately made a mental list of friends who would be happy to pay a dollar apiece for their very own snake. Mother was enthusiastic about getting rid of them—once she stopped holding her head and moaning. She even promised to buy me a new football the day the last snake was sold. The next day, however, only twenty babies were left in the cage. The snake supply dwindled daily. By the time the little snakes would have been big enough to sell, Mother Garter Snake had gobbled every one for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

- a. Garter snakes are a good way to make money.
- b. Garter snakes are hard to take care of, and the mother snakes eat their young.
- c. Garter snakes are not good mothers.
- d. Garter snakes are mean.

In the following questions choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph. The paragraph should follow one idea. Watch for sentences that distract the reader, or carry the reader in another direction.

- 8. No one knows to this day who built the Cathedral of Chartres. When the cathedral was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, thousands of people came from all points of the compass, like a giant procession of ants. Together they began to rebuild the cathedral on the old site. For it was important to keep the sacred site. They worked until the building was completed—master builders, artists, laborers, clowns, noblemen, priests, burghers—but they all remained anonymous.
 - a. When the cathedral was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, thousands of people came from all points of the compass, like a giant procession of ants.
 - b. Together they began to rebuild the cathedral on the old site.
 - c. For it was important to keep the sacred site.
 - d. They worked until the building was completed—master builders, artists, laborers, clowns, noblemen, priests, burghers—but they all remained anonymous.
- 9. Read your composition aloud. The importance of this step cannot be overemphasized. Nothing else will show you so clearly where your ideas were not fully developed or where your thinking was fuzzy or where your sentences were awkward. If possible, read your work to someone who will be critical of it. Good writers always have good critics. Use the criticism in your revision.
 - a. The importance of this step cannot be overemphasized.
 - b. Nothing else will show you so clearly where your ideas were not fully developed or where your thinking was fuzzy or where your sentences were awkward.
 - c. If possible, read your work to someone who will be critical of it.
 - d. Good writers always have good critics.

In the following examples choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence. The answer should not go further than the topic allows. It might help to first decide what the topic is and discern the answer from the topic.

- 10. There is more to good teaching than simply the subject matter.
 - a. Mr. Swanson is a good teacher because he talks to the class, but Ms. Hope doesn't. Sometimes teachers don't even know if they are good. Mr. Devine is good, but he doesn't know it. He is always smiling.
 - b. Teaching takes a lot of extra time. Good teachers take time to know their students, be available outside of class, and support their school by attending after school functions. In many ways good teachers go above what is in the text book with lessons in learning and life.
 - c. The school had a survey that asked students what made a good teacher. I feel that a good teacher is made up of a lot of important qualities including knowing the information. However, I also said that Ms. S is a spectacular teacher because she lets us eat in class.
 - d. There was a debate on television about standardized tests and how teachers are not doing their jobs if students are not passing the required tests. The tests are important in the bigger picture, but is it necessarily the teachers fault if students aren't passing?
- 11. You don't need to be rich to become a collector.
 - a. Today you can purchase books, art, china, furniture, and many other things at reasonable prices and start a private collection. It doesn't matter what you collect, only that it is important to you.
 - b. Begin in a small way and concentrate in a limited field. You may want to collect first editions of Ernest Hemingway or some other contemporary novelist. Or your interests may run to reproductions of great paintings, or to illustrated

books on natural history.

- c. Antiques are great things to collect. The buyer can find antiques at garage sales and thrift stores for good prices. Buying an Antique may end up paying you back in later days.
- d. My Uncle Alfred collects frogs and he was only six when he started. Collecting can start at an early age, and by the time you are fifty you can have a huge collection. After all that time, you didn't really spend that much money, because people learn that you collect certain items and they buy them for you.

Choose the simple subject from the following sentences. The simple subject is the subject of a verb. The subject may be a word, a phrase, or a clause.

12. At the end of the concert there was a mighty roar of applause.

- a. end
- b. concert
- c. there
- d. applause

13. After a brief shower, out came the dogs again.

- a. shower
- b. out
- c. came
- d. dogs

14. Here stood the first capital of the state.

- a. here
- b. stood
- c. capital
- d. state

15. For every pilot there must be eight mechanics.

- a. every
- b. pilot
- c. be
- d. mechanics

For the following sentences choose the simple predicate.

16. The babbling brook was centered in the middle of the giant forest.

- a. babbling
- b. brook
- c. was centered
- d. giant forest

17. To see the baseball games, Fred often jumped the fence.

- a. see
- b. baseball games
- c. Fred
- d. Jumped

18. Willowna, my mothers traveling buddy, always packs her pillows on vacations.

- a. Willowna
- b. traveling
- c. packs
- d. vacations

19. Hermione, my best friend who plays the flute, is first chair in band.

- a. Hermione
- b. plays
- c. is
- d. first chair