

CTBS Usage Practice # 6

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

1. An angry crowd had gathered before the house.
It was barred and shuttered.
 - a. An angry crowd gathered before the barred and shuttered house.
 - b. An angry crowd gathered before the house, but they couldn't get in because it was barred and shut.
 - c. The house was gathered around by an angry crowd.
 - d. The shuttered house was barred by an angry crowd.

2. Alice asked to see the red dress.
It had been advertised in the newspaper.
 - a. Alice asked to see the red dress that had been advertised in the newspaper.
 - b. She asked to see the dress advertised in the paper.
 - c. Alice asked to see the newspaper with the red dress advertised in it.
 - d. The newspaper advertised a red dress that Alice wanted to buy.

3. The old glass worker shaped the molten ball into a beautiful vase.
He had heated it red-hot.
 - a. He had heated the red-hot molten ball into a beautiful vase.
 - b. The beautiful base was a red-hot molten ball before it was heated into shape.
 - c. The old glass worker shaped the red-hot ball into a beautiful vase.
 - d. The old glass worker shaped the molten ball he had heated red-hot into a beautiful vase.

4. A somber cloud hung over the area.
An atomic bomb had just been exploded there.
 - a. A somber cloud hung over the area where the bomb exploded.
 - b. An atomic bomb had just been exploded where the somber cloud hung in the area over there by the city.
 - c. A somber cloud hung over there, where the atomic bomb is.
 - d. A somber cloud hung over the area where the atomic bomb had just been exploded.

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

5. _____ They were skilled in government as well as in agriculture. Their architects planned and constructed thousands of miles of roads and irrigation canals. They built great temples of stone, bridges, and cities along two thousand miles of South America's West Coast. Their ranks included skilled stone-masons, pottery makers, weavers of cloth, and craftsmen in gold and silver.
 - a. The Incas were a proud, efficient nation of some ten million people in a number of tribes.
 - b. The Incas were a highly developed civilization with a number of accomplishments.
 - c. Who was an amazing culture in society, the Incas that is who.
 - d. South America's Inca's revolutionized the world.

6. _____ First, select a plot only slightly larger than the one the plant is in now, with a hole in the bottom for drainage. If it is a clay pot, soak it in water for several hours before using it. Place a piece of broken pot over the drainage hole so the soil does not leak out, and add a small layer of new soil. Second, tap the potted plant gently on the bottom to loosen the soil. Then, holding our hand over the soil on top, turn the pot sideways and tap the pot gently as you turn it. When the soil is sufficiently loosened, slowly withdraw the plant, keeping the ball of soil as intact as possible. Carefully set the root ball into the new pot and fill in new soil around it. Tap down the soil to remove any air pockets, water the plant thoroughly, and allow it to drain.
 - a. It is easy to plant plants, as long as you know what you are doing.
 - b. It is easy to be an inside gardener as long as you have all the necessary tools.
 - c. Certain procedures should be followed in repotting a plant.
 - d. Plants often grow out of their pots, and it is important to replant them as soon as possible.

7. _____ The hammer grew from the balled fist, the rake from the hand with fingers outstretched for scratching, and the shovel from the hand hollowed to scoop. As machines became more than simple tools, outstripping their creators in performance, demanding and obtaining increasing amounts of power, and acquiring superhuman speed and accuracies, their outward resemblance to the natural model disappeared. Only the names of machine's parts showed vestiges of their human origin. The highly complex machinery of the modern industrial age has arms that swing, fingers that fold, legs that support, and teeth that grind. Machines feed on material, run when things go well, and spit and cough when they don't.

- a. Tools have progressed with human nature.
- b. Humans have developed tools to mirror different parts of the human body, and these tools are continually used in a variety of ways.
- c. Machines and tools have always been created in the image of human beings.
- d. The hammer, the rake, and the shovel are excellent examples of creativity.

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. Their chairs always formed the same family-style semicircle before the huge open hearth. From my place in the chimney corner, you could see the play of the firelight against their faces and watch the shadows spreading up the newspaper-wallpaper walls to the ceiling. They would be talking and aware of the roof-sanding night weather outside, I would be listening. Above them on the mantelpiece was the old-fashioned pendulum clock, which was Papa's heirloom from that old Manor of antebellum columns and calico kitchens in which his mulatto grandmother had herself been an inherited slave until Sherman's March to sea. Other families seem to have the same tone in their living rooms.

- a. From my place in the chimney corner, you could see the play of the firelight against their faces and watch the shadows spreading up the newspaper-wallpaper walls to the ceiling.
- b. They would be talking and aware of the roof-sanding night weather outside, I would be listening.
- c. Above them on the mantelpiece was the old-fashioned pendulum clock, which was Papa's heirloom from that old Manor of antebellum columns and calico kitchens in which his mulatto grandmother had herself been an inherited slave until Sherman's March to sea.
- d. Other families seem to have the same tone in their living rooms.

9. Today's teenagers have more educational opportunities than their grandfathers had. More and better schools are being built all over the country. Scholarships are available in much greater number for thousands of deserving students. Radio and television bring some of the finest plays and players to almost every home. The modern college serves better food in its student's cafeteria. Books are more readily obtainable now because of the many good paperbacks. Compared to the adolescents of sixty years ago, today's adolescent has a much better chance to get a well rounded education.

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- b. Radio and television bring some of the finest plays and players to almost every home.
- c. The modern college serves better food in its student's cafeteria.
- d. Books are more readily obtainable now because of the many good paperbacks.

10. Henry, my mother's golden retriever, constantly chases the birds. My father an avid bird watcher becomes infuriated with Henry's ability to clear the yard of all winged animals. At one time my father was watching a mother egress when Henry bounded towards the bird. Seconds later the trees were clear of all crows, robins, and egresses. On a trip to Alaska Henry even scared a bald eagle to my father's dismay. I laughed. My father's camera was barely clicked, when the bird was far from view.

- a. My father an avid bird watcher becomes infuriated with Henry's ability to clear the yard of all winged animals.
- b. At one time my father was watching a mother egress when Henry bounded towards the bird.
- c. On a trip to Alaska Henry even scared a bald eagle to my father's dismay.
- d. I laughed.

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.

11. People are reading more every day.

- a. There is hardly a drugstore in the United States which doesn't sell a line of paperback books. Today the best books in fiction, science, travel, biography, and drama can be purchased at fraction of their original cost.
- b. Magazines subscribe to more than ten million viewers, while library circulations reach new records each month. Schools have issued reading goals, and high schools have implemented a distinct reading time.
- c. Television the medium of the future is using more words within its broadcasts. The news often uses written words to emphasize points, and sports run words along the bottom of the screen.
- d. Oprah's book club is a national hit. Women and men all over America are picking up books they would not have

previously read so that they could join in the internet discussions of Oprah viewers. Oprah remains influential in the reading choices of America.

12. The high school sports program today is both intramural and extramural.
- No longer does a mere handful of boys or girls represent the school in a few sports. Today hundreds of teenagers may participate in such varied sports as badminton, volleyball, tennis, hockey, baseball, track, basketball, football, and swimming.
 - Coaches are getting better salaries than they did twenty years ago. It is through the efforts of coaches that student participation in after school activities has taken off.
 - Sports are a huge part of academic life within a high school. Sports give students confidence, ambition, and a peer support system. It is through sports that students acquire additional learning.
 - High school sports exist both within the school day and after school is out. Students are required to participate in physical education and health classes as part of their graduation expectations. It is with the addition of such requirements that students increase their activities.

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.

13. The drumming march pounded through my ears.
- drumming
 - march
 - pounded
 - ears
14. I ran to my father after the game, he was waiting in line for food.
- I
 - ran
 - father
 - waiting
15. The sprinkling hose, beside the house, watered the garden all night by accident.
- hose
 - beside
 - watered
 - garden
16. With every breath of air, the child regained consciousness.
- breath
 - air
 - child
 - consciousness
18. The running man stood still for only a minute next to the moving car.
- running
 - stood
 - next
 - moving
19. Geul watched his best friend dance across the crowded street.
- watched
 - dance
 - across
 - crowded
20. After the thrilling tennis match, Rosa ecstatically accepted a rematch.
- thrilling
 - ecstatically
 - accepted
 - rematch

Choose the simple predicate for the following questions. The simple predicate is the action or verb of the simple subject.

17. The burned oil dripped slowly from the running car.
- burned
 - dripped
 - slowly
 - running