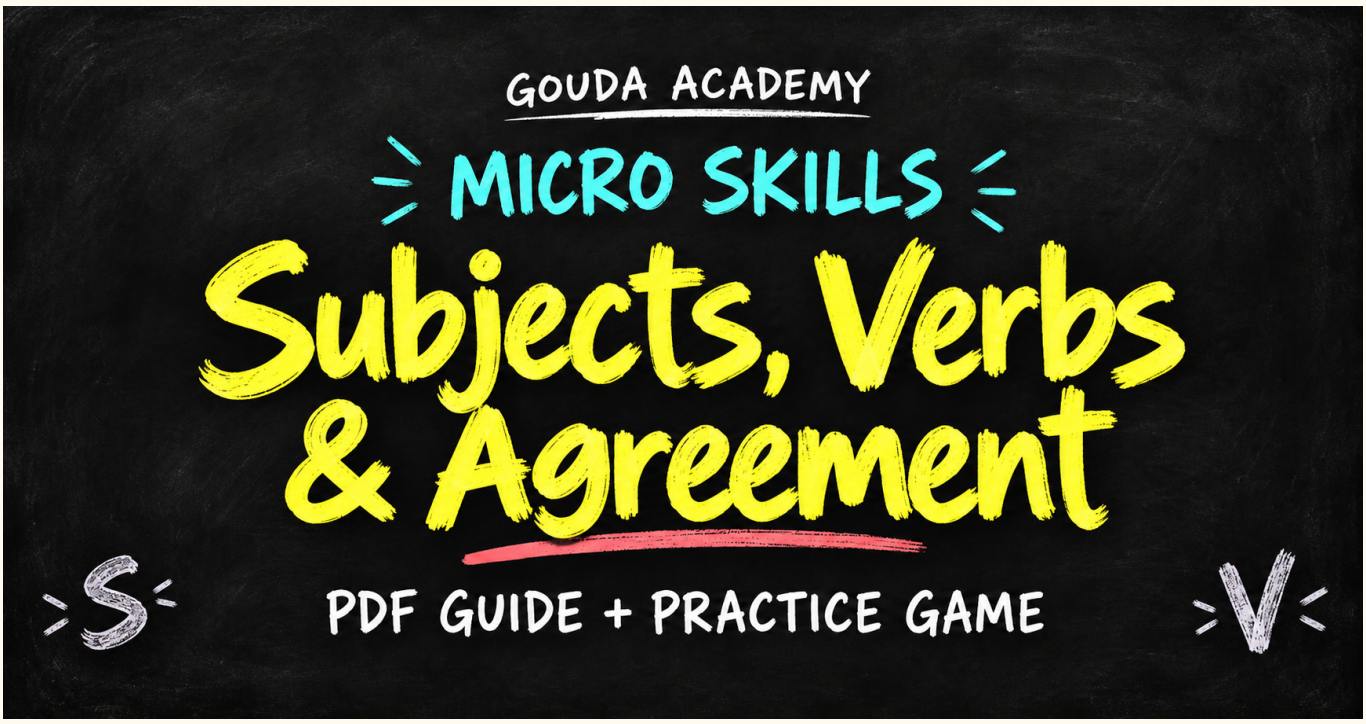
GOUDA ACADEMY MICRO SKILLS

Subjects, Verbs & Agreement



One student walks.
Two students walk.

Start with the basics. Build up to real test sentences.

48 foundation exercises + 86 test and mock questions

Mr. Kareem Gouda · GoudaSAT.com

YOUR ROUTE

Start small. Finish strong.

Read a short lesson, practise it, then move on.

1. The two jobs of s

Learn why nouns and present-tense verbs often use s differently.

2. Find the subject

Find the person, thing, or idea connected to the verb.

3. Find the real verb

Tell a main verb from a description or an unfinished verb form.

4. Match the pair

Use singular and plural forms, including is/are and has/have.

5. Hide extra details

Read past prepositional phrases, commas, and descriptions.

6. Long-distance matching

Match a subject and verb even when they are far apart.

After the six foundation levels, tackle all 86 source questions. The game has 21 levels and 134 questions in total. Missed questions return before a level can be completed.

Open the practice game

FOUNDATION LEVEL 1 · SMALL LESSON 1 OF 12

One student walks. Two students walk.

An s can do different jobs. First decide: is this word naming something, or is it a verb?

One student walks.

student = one person; walks = the verb for he or she.

Two students walk.

students = more than one person; walk = the verb for they.

Many nouns add s for more than one. Most simple present verbs add s with he, she, or it. Do not count the s endings and try to make them match.

Try one

Choose the correct sentence.

A. The birds sings.

B. The birds sing.

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer B. Birds means more than one. Replace it with they: they sing.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 1 · SMALL LESSON 2 OF 12

Try he, she, it, or they

For most verbs in the simple present, use the he/she/it form for one person or thing. Use the they form for more than one.

The girl reads.

She reads.

The girls read.

They read.

I and you are important exceptions: I read; you read. Singular does not always mean add s. Past-tense verbs and verbs after can or will follow different rules.

Try one

Which sentence is correct?

A. I walk to school.

B. I walks to school.

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. Use I walk. The s rule is for he, she, and it in the simple present—not every singular subject.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 2 · SMALL LESSON 3 OF 12

Find who or what the sentence is about

The subject is the person or thing connected to the main verb. It often does the action, but it can also receive an action or be described.

Maya reads a book.

Who reads? Maya. Subject = Maya.

The door is closed.

What is closed? The door. Subject = door.

Do not choose a noun just because it is near the verb. Ask who or what does, is, has, or receives what the verb says.

Try one

In “The dog chases the cats,” what is the subject?

A. dog

B. cats

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. The dog does the chasing. Cats receive the action; they are not this sentence’s subject.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 2 · SMALL LESSON 4 OF 12

Find the main word in the subject

A subject can be a whole phrase. Its main noun usually controls the verb.

The box of pencils is heavy.

Full subject: the box of pencils. Main word: box.

The students in the room are quiet.

Main word: students. In the room tells us where they are.

Ask: one box or many boxes? Do not let pencils change your answer. A preposition such as of, in, with, or near often introduces extra information.

Try one

What main word controls the verb in “The color of the flowers is bright”?

A. flowers

B. color

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer B. The sentence tells us about one color. Of the flowers adds information about that color.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 3 · SMALL LESSON 5 OF 12

Find the real verb

A verb can show an action or a state. Is, are, has, and have can be verbs too.

The children laugh.

Action verb: laugh.

The painting is beautiful.

Is links painting to a description. It is a real verb.

Do not look only for action words. Ask what the subject does or what is true about it.

Try one

What is the verb in “The soup is hot”?

A. soup

B. is

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer B. Is is the verb. It connects the subject soup to the description hot.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 3 · SMALL LESSON 6 OF 12

A verb can be a team of words

Helping verbs work with other verbs. An ing word alone does not normally finish a sentence.

The student is studying.

Verb team: is studying. Is is the part that matches the subject.

The student studying near the window smiles.

Studying describes the student. Smiles is the main verb.

To study and studying are not usually complete main verbs by themselves. Check whether the sentence already has a main verb. After can, will, or should, use the base form: she can sing.

Try one

What is the main verb in “The birds flying above the trees make noise”?

A. flying

B. make

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer B. Flying above the trees describes the birds. The main message is “The birds make noise.”

FOUNDATION LEVEL 4 · SMALL LESSON 7 OF 12

Match the subject and verb

Agreement means the subject and verb use the matching form. Try a pronoun to hear the match more clearly.

The artist paints. The artists paint.

He or she paints. They paint.

The child has a book. The children have books.

He or she has. They have.

Common pairs: he/she/it is, has, does; they are, have, do. I am; you are. In the past: he was; they were. Most other past verbs stay the same: he walked; they walked.

Try one

Which form completes “The children ___ ready”?

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer B. Children is plural even without s. Replace children with they: they are ready.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 4 · SMALL LESSON 8 OF 12

Count the idea—not the last letter

Some plural nouns do not end in s. Some singular nouns do end in s.

The children play.

Children is plural. They play.

The news is surprising.

News is treated as singular. It is surprising.

Each, everyone, and everybody are singular. Two separate subjects joined by and usually take a plural verb: Maya and Omar are ready.

Try one

Which form completes “Everyone ___ a pencil”?

A. has

B. have

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. Everyone is grammatically singular. Think “each person has.”

FOUNDATION LEVEL 5 · SMALL LESSON 9 OF 12

Hide the extra words

Temporarily put brackets around information between the subject and verb. Then read the short sentence.

The box [of colorful pencils] is open.

The box is open.

The keys [near the kitchen door] are missing.

The keys are missing.

Do not delete words from the original answer. Brackets are a thinking tool. A phrase after of, with, near, or in does not usually control the main verb.

Try one

Choose the verb: “The list of important dates ___ on the desk.”

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. The main word is list. The short sentence is “The list is on the desk.” Dates is inside the of phrase.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 5 · SMALL LESSON 10 OF 12

Commas do not choose the verb

A pair of commas can surround extra information. The subject and verb still need to match across that information.

The teacher, along with her students, is here.

The teacher is here. Along with does not make a compound subject.

The paintings, which the museum bought last year, are valuable.

The paintings are valuable. The museum belongs to the inside clause.

Do not remove every comma or every clause automatically. Find the main message first. Inside clauses can have their own subject and verb.

Try one

Which verb fits “The singer, together with two dancers, ___ ready”?

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. The subject is singer, one person. Together with two dancers adds information; it is not the same as singer and dancers.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 6 · SMALL LESSON 11 OF 12

Stretch the distance

Long SAT sentences follow the same agreement rules as short ones. Find the main subject, bracket the middle, and match the verb.

The collection [of letters written by artists who lived abroad] is valuable.

The collection is valuable. Artists is inside the description.

The results [of the study, including its final experiments,] suggest a pattern.

The results suggest a pattern. Study does not control suggest.

Read a difficult sentence in small pieces. Keep its meaning, but temporarily ignore the details that separate the main subject from its verb.

Try one

Choose the verb: “One of the paintings in the museum’s newest rooms ___ damaged.”

A. was

B. were

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. The subject is one. One was damaged. Paintings and rooms are inside extra phrases.

FOUNDATION LEVEL 6 · SMALL LESSON 12 OF 12

Check unusual subjects

Sometimes the subject comes after the verb. Sometimes a whole activity acts as one subject.

There are three reasons for the change.

Three reasons is plural. There does not tell us the number.

Reading old letters takes time.

The activity reading old letters is one idea. It takes time.

A number of students are here = several students. The number of students is rising = one number. If a question also tests tense, use its time clues after finding the subject.

Try one

Which sentence is correct?

A. The number of visitors is rising.

B. The number of visitors are rising.

My answer: ____ My reason: _____

Answer A. The main subject is number, not visitors. It is rising.

KEEP THIS NEARBY

Your matching cheat sheet

These forms are common. They are not the whole English verb system.

He / she / it

walks · reads · is · has · does

They / we

walk · read · are · have · do

I

walk · read · am · have · do

You

walk · read · are · have · do

Past tense

He was / they were. Most other past verbs stay the same: he walked / they walked. Do not add s to a past verb just because its subject is singular.

After can, will, should, or would

Use the base form: she can walk; they can walk. In a shared structure, one helper can apply to two verbs: it would increase and create.

Do / does + base form

She does not walk. They do not walk. Does carries the agreement; the next verb stays walk.

Do not trust the last letter

Children and people are plural. News is singular. First identify the subject’s meaning and grammar.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Four moves for a long sentence

The collection of letters written by artists who lived abroad is valuable.

1. Find the subject

What is valuable? The collection. Its main word is collection.

2. Find the verb

The main verb is is. Written describes letters. Lived is inside the clause about artists.

3. Match

One collection can be replaced by it: it is valuable. Letters and artists do not control is.

4. Check

Read the short sentence: The collection is valuable. Then put the details back. The match stays the same.

The collection [of letters written by artists who lived abroad] is valuable.

Brackets are a thinking tool. Do not erase phrases blindly: a clause inside a long sentence can have its own subject and verb.

FOR THE HARDER LEVELS

A few extra patterns

Use these when you meet them, not as a list to memorise all at once.

A relative clause has its own pair

A document that outlines a plan. That refers to document: one document outlines. The subject of an earlier clause may be different.

Each one is singular

Each one of the students is ready. Each one controls is, not students.

Along with does not mean and

The teacher, along with the students, is here. But the teacher and the students are here.

An activity can be the subject

Reading letters takes time. The whole activity is one idea, even though letters is plural.

An unfinished verb form may add detail

The scientists searching for evidence adapted a tool. Searching describes scientists; adapted is the main verb.

Two checks can be needed

An answer may need the right agreement and a complete main verb. After those checks, use any clear time clues. A verb from another sentence cannot finish this one.

TRY BEFORE CHECKING

Foundation practice

F01 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

One dog barks.

Which word names one animal?

A. dog

B. barks

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F02 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

Two dogs bark.

Which word names more than one animal?

A. dogs

B. bark

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F03 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

She runs every morning.

Does runs match she or they?

A. she

B. they

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F04 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

They play after school.

Choose the matching verb.

A. plays

B. play

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F05 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

The student ___ carefully.

Choose the correct verb.

A. reads

B. read

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F06 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

The students ___ carefully.

Choose the correct verb.

A. reads

B. read

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F07 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

I ___ to school.

Choose the correct verb.

A. walks

B. walk

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F08 · Level 1 · The two jobs of s

Gouda Academy original practice

You ___ very clearly.

Choose the correct verb.

A. speak

B. speaks

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F09 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

Maya carries the boxes.

Who does the carrying?

A. Maya

B. boxes

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F10 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The boys watch the bird.

What is the subject?

A. boys

B. bird

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F11 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The window is open.

What is the subject?

A. window

B. open

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F12 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The box of crayons is heavy.

Which main word controls is?

A. crayons

B. box

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F13 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The pictures on the wall look old.

Which main word controls look?

A. wall

B. pictures

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F14 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The teacher helps her students.

Is the main subject singular or plural?

A. Singular: teacher

B. Plural: students

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F15 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

The children near the gate wait quietly.

What is the main subject?

A. children

B. gate

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F16 · Level 2 · Find the subject

Gouda Academy original practice

A basket of apples sits on the table.

Which short sentence keeps the subject and verb?

A. Apples sits.

B. A basket sits.

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F17 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The baby sleeps.

Which word is the verb?

A. baby

B. sleeps

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F18 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The soup is warm.

Which word is the verb?

A. is

B. warm

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F19 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The students have finished.

Which is the full verb team?

A. students

B. have finished

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F20 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The artist is painting.

Which word in the verb team matches the subject’s number?

A. is

B. painting

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F21 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The girl running across the park waves.

Which word is the main verb?

A. running

B. waves

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F22 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The birds flying above the lake ___ loudly.

Which choice gives a complete main verb?

A. sing

B. singing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F23 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

The student ___ for the exam right now.

Which choice makes a complete sentence?

A. studying

B. is studying

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F24 · Level 3 · Find the verb

Gouda Academy original practice

She can ___ well.

Choose the verb form after can.

A. sings

B. sing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F25 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

The child ___ a new book.

Choose the matching verb.

A. has

B. have

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F26 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

The children ___ new books.

Choose the matching verb.

A. has

B. have

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F27 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

The players ___ ready.

Choose the matching verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F28 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

The news ___ surprising.

Choose the matching verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F29 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

Everyone ___ a turn.

Choose the matching verb.

A. gets

B. get

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F30 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

Each of the students ___ a notebook.

Choose the matching verb.

A. has

B. have

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F31 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

Maya and Omar ___ waiting.

Choose the matching verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F32 · Level 4 · Match the pair

Gouda Academy original practice

The visitors ___ here yesterday.

Choose the correct past form.

A. was

B. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F33 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The list of names ___ on the board.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F34 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The pages in the book ___ colorful.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F35 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

A collection of rare coins ___ in the case.

Choose the verb.

A. sits

B. sit

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F36 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The keys near the door ___ missing.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F37 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The teacher, along with two students, ___ here.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F38 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The paintings, which the museum bought last year, ___ valuable.

Choose the main verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F39 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The author of several books ___ at this school.

Choose the verb.

A. teaches

B. teach

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F40 · Level 5 · Ignore extra words

Gouda Academy original practice

The songs on the new album ___ familiar.

Choose the verb.

A. sounds

B. sound

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F41 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

The collection of letters written by artists who lived abroad ___ valuable.

Choose the main verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F42 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

The results of the study, including its final experiments, ___ a pattern.

Choose the verb.

A. suggests

B. suggest

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F43 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

One of the paintings in the museum’s newest rooms ___ damaged.

Choose the verb.

A. was

B. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F44 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

There ___ three reasons for the change.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F45 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

Reading old letters from distant relatives ___ time.

Choose the verb.

A. takes

B. take

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Foundation practice

F46 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

The number of visitors to the museum ___ rising.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F47 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

A number of visitors ___ waiting outside.

Choose the verb.

A. is

B. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

F48 · Level 6 · Long-distance matching

Gouda Academy original practice

The scientist who studies these unusual animals ___ a new report each year.

Choose the main verb.

A. publishes

B. publish

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

TRY BEFORE CHECKING

Test & mock practice

Q01 · Level 7 · There is / there are

March 2026 US A · M2 Q12 · PDF p39

During the relatively warm Cretaceous period (66 to 145 million years ago), there _____ forests near the North Pole and South Pole.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. having been

B. were

C. to be

D. being

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q02 · Level 7 · Subject–verb agreement

December 2025 US-A (supplied compilation) · M2 Q16 · PDF p16

One example of public art (art that's readily accessible to the general public) _____ the work First Generation. This sculpture is installed in a public square in Boat Quay, Singapore.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. being

B. were

C. are

D. is

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q03 · Level 7 · Subject–verb agreement

December 2025 US-B (supplied compilation) · M2 Q16 · PDF p17

One example of public art (art that's readily accessible to the general public) _____ the work Mustangs of Las Colinas. This sculpture is installed in a public square in Irving, Texas.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. were

C. being

D. is

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q04 · Level 7 · Subject–verb agreement

December 2025 US-C (supplied compilation) · M1 Q17 · PDF p7

Museo de Arte de Ponce, an art museum in Ponce, Puerto Rico, is one of more than eighty museums in the US territory. Puerto Rico's museums _____ everything from the territory's art to its architecture to its coffee.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. showcases

B. has showcased

C. is showcasing

D. showcase

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q05 · Level 7 · Singular subject with helping verbs

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 19 · M1 Q19 · PDF p11

When writing The Other Black Girl (2021), novelist Zakiya Dalila Harris drew on her own experiences working at a publishing office. The award-winning book is Harris’s first novel, but her writing _____ honored before. At the age of twelve, she entered a contest to have a story published in American Girl magazine—and won.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. were

B. have been

C. has been

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q06 · Level 7 · Subject–verb agreement

March 2026 US B · M1 Q8 · PDF p8

Many ranching terms come from Spanish. For example, the word "rodeo" (a roundup) _____ from the Spanish word rodear, and "cinch" (a belt) derives from cincho. This is because the first Anglo, African, and Native American cattle ranchers in the southwestern US learned the trade from Spanish-speaking Mexican vaqueros, or cowboys.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. derives

B. have derived

C. were deriving

D. derive

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q07 · Level 8 · Subject–verb agreement

December 2025 US-A (supplied compilation) · M2 Q18 · PDF p17

Sarah Vibbart of Massachusetts and Annie Godbe of Utah were leaders of the National Woman Suffrage Association in the late 1800s. Today, both of these women _____ remembered for their fierce advocacy of women's voting rights.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. was

B. is

C. being

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q08 · Level 8 · A relative pronoun agrees with its referent

College Board SAT Practice Test 10 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 22 · M2 Q22 · PDF p27

Former First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt and Indian activist and educator Hansa Mehta were instrumental in drafting the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that _____ the basic freedoms to which all people are entitled.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. have outlined

B. were outlining

C. outlines

D. outline

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q09 · Level 8 · Singular head word with plural nouns nearby

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 26 · M1 Q26 · PDF p14

Researchers studying the “terra-cotta army,” the thousands of life-size statues of warriors found interred near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of China, were shocked to realize that the shape of each statue’s ears, like the shape of each person’s ears, _____ unique.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. is

C. were

D. have been

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q10 · Level 8 · Subject–verb agreement

March 2026 International A · M1 Q19 · PDF p7

Maize was among the many plant species from the Western Hemisphere introduced into the Eastern Hemisphere in the years following Christopher Columbus's first transatlantic voyage in 1492. This ongoing transfer of species between hemispheres _____ now known as the Columbian Exchange.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. were

B. being

C. is

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q11 · Level 8 · An action phrase used as a singular subject

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 20 · M1 Q20 · PDF p12

The classic children’s board game Chutes and Ladders is a version of an ancient Nepalese game, Paramapada Sopanapata. In both games, players encounter “good” or “bad” spaces while traveling along a path; landing on one of the good spaces _____ a player to skip ahead and arrive closer to the end goal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. allows

B. are allowing

C. have allowed

D. allow

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q12 · Level 8 · Subject after the verb

March 2026 International B · M1 Q17 · PDF p6

Among several noun cases used in Sanskrit and other Indo-Aryan languages _____ the locative case, used to indicate that an action is occurring in, at, on, or near a particular noun.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. have been

B. are

C. is

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q13 · Level 9 · Singular head word hidden by extra information

Supplied October 2026 Int 1 · M1 Q18 · PDF p20

Variation theory’s approach to comparative literary analysis, emphasizing meaningful cross-cultural dialogues and rejecting ethnocentric interpretations, ____ researchers to study similarities among literary traditions while still acknowledging cultural heterogeneity.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. allows

B. have allowed

C. allow

D. allowing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q14 · Level 9 · Relative-clause agreement

March 2026 US A · M2 Q9 · PDF p36

An imposing spire of igneous rock rising high above the Belle Fourche River in eastern Wyoming, Devils Tower (also known as Bear Lodge) is one of the most prominent examples of columnar jointing, a pattern of fracturing in rocks that _____ in parallel arrays of long polygonal prisms.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. resulting

B. to result

C. results

D. were resulting

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q15 · Level 9 · Plural subject separated from its verb

College Board SAT Practice Test 11 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 24 · M1 Q24 · PDF p13

Artist Yto Barrada’s exhibition Ways to Baffle the Wind incorporates sculptures, textiles, and films. Barrada’s pieces, utilizing elements as disparate as plant-dyed fabrics, wire crab traps filled with stones, and cotton balls dangling above a fan, _____ the ways humans attempt to organize and regulate nature.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. explore

B. has explored

C. explores

D. exploring

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q16 · Level 9 · Plural pronoun with a singular noun nearby

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 21 · M2 Q21 · PDF p26

Interest in mechanotransduction, the mechanism by which cells sense and convert mechanical stimuli into biochemical signals, is expanding because of innovative work by biomedical scientists—many of whom, like neuroscience and biophysics expert Elba Serrano, _____ this mechanism to better understand how the body’s neurological and biomechanical systems interact.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is studying

B. has studied

C. study

D. studies

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q17 · Level 9 · Plural subject far from its verb

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 23 · M1 Q23 · PDF p12

Increased gender diversity is revitalizing the field of economics, according to Harvard's Claudia Goldin. The trailblazing accomplishments of Goldin, winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on women in the labor force, _____ to the value of scholars of diverse backgrounds in spurring research into previously unexplored, but vitally important, topics.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. attests

B. has attested

C. is attesting

D. attest

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q18 · Level 9 · A singular subject with an in conjunction with phrase

College Board SAT Practice Test 10 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 24 · M2 Q24 · PDF p28

Mathematician Grigori Perelman, sometimes in conjunction with mathematicians Richard S. Hamilton and Shing-Tung Yau, _____ credited with proving the Poincaré conjecture. Having built on Hamilton's previous work to solve the proof, Perelman has insisted that Hamilton receive credit. Yau later found and closed gaps in Perelman's proof, persuading some mathematicians that he deserves credit as well.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. have been

C. are being

D. is

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q19 · Level 10 · Plural subject separated from its verb by a long description

Supplied October 2026 Int 2 · M2 Q16 · PDF p46

The trailblazing achievements of Roger Bannister, the English track star famous for breaking the four-minute-mile barrier at Oxford’s Iffley Road Track in 1954, ____ confined to the realm of athletics: Bannister also became a pioneering neurologist in the field of autonomic disorders—conditions affecting involuntary nervous system responses—and established the field’s first specialized scientific journal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. isn’t

B. hasn’t been

C. wasn’t

D. weren’t

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q20 · Level 10 · Plural subject before an of phrase and dashes

Supplied October 2026 Int 2 · M1 Q22 · PDF p24

Chemists investigating the properties of coal tar in the mid-nineteenth century discovered compounds that led to the creation of vibrant artificial colorants. Commercial applications of this new synthetic dye technology—beginning with the purple dye called mauve, discovered by William Perkin in 1856— ____ responsible for launching what one science historian calls a “manufacturing revolution based on chemistry.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. was

B. is

C. were

D. has been

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q21 · Level 10 · Each one with a long interruption

College Board SAT Practice Test 10 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 27 · M1 Q27 · PDF p14

The ghazal, a poetic form originating in seventh-century Arabic poetry, has an intricate structure. The twentieth-century Kashmiri American poet Agha Shahid Ali explains that each one of a ghazal’s couplets, while adhering to the patterns of rhyme (qafia) and refrain (radif) established in the poem’s opening lines (matla), _____ thematically and logically autonomous, resulting in a poem with “a stringently formal disunity.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is

B. were

C. have been

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q22 · Level 10 · Long subject–verb separation

March 2026 International A · M1 Q20 · PDF p8

Now seen as a mechanical precursor to the e-reader, Spanish educator and inventor Angela Ruiz Robles's Enciclopedia Mecanica eschewed pages in favor of three horizontal paper scrolls that could be easily swapped out to accommodate a range of subjects. Though Ruiz Robles's prototype had limited functionality, interactive features described in her 1949 patent—such as a button labeled "verb" that would illuminate relevant text when pressed—_____ an impressive early vision of hypertext.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. revealing

B. has revealed

C. reveals

D. reveal

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q23 · Level 10 · An action as the subject

March 2026 International A · M2 Q20 · PDF p18

In economics, soybeans are considered a commodity because they are essentially interchangeable, "essentially" being a word that admits a degree of latitude. In 2021, researchers J. Shorish, M. Stephenson, and M. Zargham devised a mathematical model of fungibility (interchangeability) that would account for such variation. Distinguishing "exactly the same" and "nearly the same" commodities—whether crops, lumber, or precious metals—_____ among their primary aims.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. was

B. were

C. having been

D. being

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q24 · Level 11 · Singular subject with a helping verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT8A · M1 Q19 · PDF p11

Illustrator Sela Maren recently released her first picture book, The Quiet Harbor. Although this is her debut book, her artwork _____ recognized before. A drawing she submitted to a regional exhibition as a teenager earned the exhibition's young artist award.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. were

B. have been

C. has been

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q25 · Level 11 · One person with plural words in a description

Gouda Academy mock GASATSEP26INTA · M1 Q16 · PDF p9

Leila Faris, whose photographs document changes in coastal towns, _____ at a small community arts center.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are teaching

B. teaches

C. have taught

D. teach

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q26 · Level 11 · One example of many things

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAA · M2 Q16 · PDF p16

One example of an outdoor artwork accessible to everyone _____ the sculpture Turning Leaves. The piece stands in a public courtyard near Bellmere's central library.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is

B. being

C. are

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q27 · Level 11 · Both takes a plural verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAA · M2 Q18 · PDF p17

Leila Norr and Amira Pell organized neighborhood literacy programs in the early twentieth century. Today, both of these educators _____ remembered for expanding access to books and evening classes.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is

B. was

C. are

D. being

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q28 · Level 11 · Head noun before two of/from phrases

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26INTA · M1 Q17 · PDF p8

A museum has combined drawings, letters, and photographs in an exhibition about a bridge's construction. This collection of materials from several private archives _____ a detailed record of the project's development.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. provides

B. provide

C. providing

D. have provided

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q29 · Level 11 · A singular subject with plural distractions

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M1 Q14 · PDF p9

Craft glossaries distinguish related textile terms. In the museum’s current glossary, for example, the term “plait” _____ to a braid made by interlacing strips, while “weft” names the thread carried across a loom. The accompanying illustrations clarify these definitions.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. refer

B. refers

C. have referred

D. are referring

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q30 · Level 12 · The subject follows there

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAA · M2 Q16 · PDF p20

During the early years of the city's expansion, there _____ several public gardens along the eastern canal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. was

C. having been

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q31 · Level 12 · Relative clause: match the antecedent

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT10A · M2 Q22 · PDF p25

The city’s architects and access advisers jointly produced a handbook that _____ the minimum doorway widths and ramp slopes required in new public buildings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. specify

B. specifies

C. were specifying

D. have specified

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q32 · Level 12 · Distant plural subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT11A · M1 Q23 · PDF p11

The sculptures in Ada Moreno's exhibition, despite the presence of a single large support beneath each cluster of folded metal sheets, _____ a sense of delicate balance.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. convey

B. conveying

C. conveys

D. has conveyed

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q33 · Level 12 · A singular subject before a relative clause

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAB · M2 Q16 · PDF p17

One example of a public installation that visitors can explore without buying a ticket _____ The Listening Wall. The artwork stands beside the city's main pedestrian walkway.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is

B. being

C. are

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q34 · Level 12 · An activity as a singular subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M1 Q20 · PDF p12

In the cooperative board game River Rescue, players collect tools while moving between islands; placing two matching tools beside the rescue boat _____ the team to cross a flooded channel.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. allow

B. allows

C. have allowed

D. are allowing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q35 · Level 12 · Plural relative-clause subject in the past

Gouda Academy mock GASATSEP26INTA · M2 Q45 · PDF p18

The exhibition examined trade in a coastal kingdom during the twelfth century. Its merchants exported carved boxes and woven mats, goods that _____ highly prized in neighboring ports at that time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. was

B. has been

C. is

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q36 · Level 13 · Singular relative-clause subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAA · M2 Q15 · PDF p19

A striking arrangement of narrow ridges across the surface of the model shell illustrates radial folding, a pattern of deformation that _____ in several evenly spaced bands extending from a central point.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. resulting

B. results

C. to result

D. were resulting

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q37 · Level 13 · A name separated from its verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M1 Q15 · PDF p9

Elena Voss, a printmaker whose layered images of factories and bridges are widely admired, _____ regularly featured in the museum’s survey of regional art, which includes works from the last hundred years.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. is

C. have been

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q38 · Level 13 · Ignore intervening prepositional phrases

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M1 Q23 · PDF p13

Conservators examining a collection of handmade lenses note that the curvature of each lens, like the alignment of the tiny ridges along its edge, _____ different from that of every other lens in the collection.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. have been

B. is

C. were

D. are

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q39 · Level 13 · Distant plural subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT8A · M1 Q21 · PDF p11

Newly cataloged correspondence is changing scholars' understanding of the playwright Mira Calen. The detailed accounts of Calen's rehearsals, preserved in a box of letters sent by her longtime stage manager, _____ how extensively the actors helped shape the final scripts.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. has revealed

B. reveals

C. is revealing

D. reveal

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q40 · Level 13 · Together with does not add a subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT10A · M2 Q23 · PDF p25

Acoustician Rafi Bell, together with engineers from two regional laboratories, _____ credited with developing the new concert-hall wall panel. The engineers refined the panel’s manufacturing process, while Bell devised the arrangement of internal chambers that controls how sound is reflected.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are

B. is

C. are being

D. have been

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q41 · Level 13 · Agreement inside a relative clause

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M2 Q21 · PDF p26

Interest in the recovery of damaged sound recordings is growing because of work by audio researchers, many of whom, like restoration specialist Ilya Kern, _____ software that separates speech from the crackle of worn recording surfaces.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is developing

B. develop

C. develops

D. has developed

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q42 · Level 14 · Plural subject before parentheses

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26INTA · M1 Q18 · PDF p9

Although the early navigation instrument could measure only a few quantities, the adjustments described in its inventor's notebook (including a small wheel that changes the angle of a mirror) _____ an unusually sophisticated understanding of calibration.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. revealing

B. reveals

C. reveal

D. has revealed

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q43 · Level 14 · Each one with a long interruption

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT10A · M1 Q23 · PDF p12

A sequence of linked essays can explore one theme from several perspectives. In critic Ivo Sen’s account, each one of the essays, despite the recurring images and the connections that readers trace between neighboring pieces, _____ a complete argument with its own conclusion.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. present

B. are presenting

C. presents

D. have presented

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q44 · Level 14 · Find the subject after the verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26INTB · M1 Q17 · PDF p9

Among the instruments used by conservators in museums and private workshops to examine the successive layers of paint on old canvases _____ the infrared camera, which can reveal marks concealed beneath a painting's visible surface without requiring any of those layers to be removed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. is

B. are

C. have been

D. were

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q45 · Level 14 · An activity remains singular across an interruption

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M2 Q15 · PDF p19

In a restoration project, two pigments may look identical under ordinary light yet differ in their responses to moisture. The team developed a testing protocol to account for such differences. Distinguishing visually similar pigments in damaged murals, despite the variations in their age and composition, _____ among the protocol’s central aims.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. were

B. was

C. being

D. having been

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q46 · Level 14 · Long activity phrase as singular subject

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26INTA · M2 Q18 · PDF p20

A research team built a digital catalog of handmade ceramics to compare objects with similar decoration but different origins. Surface resemblance alone was not a reliable guide to where a vessel had been made. Distinguishing vessels produced in the same workshop from superficially similar copies made elsewhere (including jars, bowls, and pitchers whose makers borrowed decorative motifs) _____ one of the team's principal aims.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. were

B. having been

C. being

D. was

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q47 · Level 15 · Find a complete main verb

March 2026 US B · M2 Q14 · PDF p41

The Earth’s inner core _____ primarily of iron and nickel.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to consist

B. consisting

C. having consisted

D. consists

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q48 · Level 15 · Find a finite verb

December 2025 US-A (supplied compilation) · M2 Q17 · PDF p17

In 1979, the suffragist Susan B. Anthony _____ the first woman featured on a US coin. Her image appeared on the $1 coin.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. became

B. having become

C. becoming

D. to become

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q49 · Level 15 · Find a complete main verb

March 2026 US A · M1 Q5 · PDF p5

Ferns and conifers _____ during the Triassic period (201 to 252 million years ago). These plants were well suited to the hot, dry climate of Pangaea, the sole landmass on Earth at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. having thrived

B. to thrive

C. thriving

D. thrived

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q50 · Level 15 · Find a complete main verb

March 2026 US B · M1 Q16 · PDF p16

In World War II, US cryptanalyst Ann Caracristi _____ a code revealing the locations of enemy supply ships.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to crack

B. cracking

C. having cracked

D. cracked

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q51 · Level 15 · Find a finite verb

December 2025 US-B (supplied compilation) · M1 Q18 · PDF p8

In the nineteenth century, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony _____ for women's right to vote in the United States.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. campaigning

B. to campaign

C. campaigned

D. having campaigned

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q52 · Level 15 · Supply the missing main verb

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 19 · M2 Q19 · PDF p26

To survive when water is scarce, embryos inside African turquoise killifish eggs _____ a dormant state known as diapause. In this state, embryonic development is paused for as long as two years—longer than the life span of an adult killifish.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. enter

B. to enter

C. having entered

D. entering

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q53 · Level 16 · Find a finite verb

December 2025 US-B (supplied compilation) · M2 Q20 · PDF p18

Sometimes, when a dog sniffs the ground, it will open its mouth, curl back its top lip, and expose its teeth. The dog _____ this behavior, called the flehmen response, to transmit scents to powerful receptors just above the roof of the dog's mouth.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to use

B. uses

C. using

D. having used

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q54 · Level 16 · Find the verb in a relative clause

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 19 · M1 Q19 · PDF p12

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Mary Golda Ross is renowned for her contributions to NASA’s Planetary Flight Handbook, which _____ detailed mathematical guidance for missions to Mars and Venus.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. provided

B. having provided

C. to provide

D. providing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q55 · Level 16 · Share a modal across two verbs

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 20 · M1 Q20 · PDF p11

In order to prevent nonnative fish species from moving freely between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, marine biologist Bella Galil has proposed that a saline lock system be installed along the Suez Canal in Egypt’s Great Bitter Lakes. The lock would increase the salinity of the lakes and _____ a natural barrier of water most marine creatures would be unable to cross.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. creates

B. create

C. creating

D. created

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q56 · Level 16 · A long -ing description hiding the main verb

Supplied October 2026 Int 1 · M2 Q19 · PDF p49

During a recent investigation, archaeologists ____ an explanation for the consistent and seemingly deliberate placement of petroglyphs (rock carvings) near water analyzed several sites on Caribbean islands. They discovered that many of the pools near petroglyphs had consistent water levels year-round, creating perfect reflecting surfaces for the carved symbols on the rocks.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. sought

B. had sought

C. seeking

D. were seeking

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q57 · Level 16 · Recognize a main verb before an -ing phrase

College Board SAT Practice Test 10 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 22 · M1 Q22 · PDF p13

In winter, the diets of Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, are influenced more by food availability than by food preference. Although the monkeys prefer to eat vegetation and land-dwelling invertebrates, those food sources may become unavailable because of extensive snow and ice cover, _____ the monkeys to hunt for marine animals in any streams that have not frozen over.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. forces

B. to force

C. forcing

D. forced

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q58 · Level 16 · An -ing description before an existing main verb

Supplied October 2026 Int 1 · M1 Q19 · PDF p21

Theoretical physicists have begun to develop novel methods for detecting dark matter. Certain approaches ____ on quantum collective phenomena, like phonons in crystals or excitations in superfluid helium, are likely to face significant challenges, acknowledges physicist Kathryn Zurek, unless researchers can reduce background processes that might mimic the signals they’re attempting to detect.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. focusing

B. are focused

C. focus

D. have focused

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q59 · Level 17 · Main verb versus participle

March 2026 International A · M2 Q18 · PDF p18

As part of his effort to identify Bronze Age pathways across Sicily, archaeologist Dario Calderone created three-dimensional digital models of the terrain via aerial photogrammetry. The drone _____ the landscape, which included archaeological sites from as far back as the Early Neolithic Period, flew in a pattern that ensured 60 percent forward overlap and 20 percent side overlap between individual images.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. photographs

B. photographing

C. was photographing

D. photographed

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q60 · Level 17 · A description between the subject and its main verb

Supplied October 2026 Int 1 · M2 Q17 · PDF p47

Machinists must account for multiple parameters—including material properties, cutting tool geometry, and machine capabilities—when setting up a machining project. Experienced ____ that tool speed and workpiece feed rate recommendations from manufacturer charts are only the first considerations, learn to balance these competing factors by adjusting their parameters based on specific variables, such as the cutting depth, desired surface finish and workpiece rigidity.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. operators; have recognized

B. operators recognize

C. operators, recognizing

D. operators can recognize

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q61 · Level 17 · Find the existing verb after a description

College Board SAT Practice Test 11 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 25 · M1 Q25 · PDF p13

Helical _____ widely understood to confer stability and efficiency in the locomotion of a variety of microscopic organisms—including bacteria, eukaryotic algae, and ciliates—bestows similar advantages, albeit via different propulsive modes, to larger oceanic macroplanktons, such as salps.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. swimming, is

B. swimming is

C. swimming has been

D. swimming,

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q62 · Level 17 · Find the main verb after interruptions

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 25 · M1 Q25 · PDF p13

English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne’s _____ much admired during his lifetime (1572–1631) and in the decades that followed, had, at the time of their enthusiastic rediscovery by the early twentieth-century modernists, been essentially gathering dust for the intervening 250 years.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. works were

B. works, were

C. works,

D. works had been

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q63 · Level 17 · Find a main verb after a long subject

College Board SAT Practice Test 8 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 22 · M2 Q22 · PDF p27

In 1966, Emmett Ashford became the first African American to umpire a Major League Baseball game. His energetic gestures announcing when a player had struck out and his habit of barreling after a hit ball to see if it would land out of _____ transform the traditionally solemn umpire role into a dynamic one.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. bounds helped

B. bounds, helping

C. bounds that helped

D. bounds to help

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q64 · Level 17 · Separate a main clause from an added phrase

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 25 · M2 Q25 · PDF p27

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, automobiles were commonly referred to as horseless carriages after the older technology they still resembled. Known as the Brass Era, this period in automotive design is remembered for its grandeur and artistry, its vehicles _____ by collectors for their ornate detailing and gleaming brass fittings.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are highly prized

B. had been highly prized

C. highly prized

D. were highly prized

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q65 · Level 18 · An -ing description plus a main verb later in the sentence

Supplied October 2026 Int 3 · M2 Q18 · PDF p48

The statement “all cats have whiskers” is scientific because it could be proved false by a single observation to the contrary, according to Karl Popper. Popper’s theory ____ that scientific hypotheses must be refutable, termed the criterion of falsifiability, rejects the confirmationist position that uses verifiability as the standard for scientific hypotheses.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. dictates

B. dictating

C. dictated

D. was dictating

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q66 · Level 18 · Find an existing main verb after a long description

College Board SAT Practice Test 9 · Reading and Writing · Module 1 · Question 25 · M1 Q25 · PDF p13

Recent pollen analyses of the Aran Islands have led some researchers to propose that the now treeless islands were once wooded. This hypothesis _____ that certain trees, such as P. sylvestris, survived without interruption or human intervention throughout the Holocene cannot stand, researchers Michael O’Connell and Karen Molloy counter, unless other explanations can first be ruled out.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. suggesting

B. suggested

C. suggests

D. has suggested

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q67 · Level 18 · Find the distant main verb

March 2026 International B · M2 Q18 · PDF p17

Roger Angell's reputation as one of the greatest baseball writers of all _____ bolstered by dozens of New Yorker essays in which he demonstrated a deep affection for and knowledge of the game, has perhaps overshadowed his remarkable career as a fiction editor: during his decades-long tenure at the New Yorker, Angell helped shape the work of John Updike, Ann Beattie, and other contributors of note.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. time was

B. time,

C. time had been

D. time, was

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q68 · Level 18 · Separate an -ing description from the main verb

College Board SAT Practice Test 11 · Reading and Writing · Module 2 · Question 26 · M2 Q26 · PDF p28

CONTINUE 1 Module 2 26 If an animal can recognize itself in a reflective surface (“the mirror test”), it is considered to have self-awareness. In a recent study, scientists _____ for evidence of self-awareness in snakes, species that rely primarily on olfactory rather than visual processing, adapted the test to foreground smell, modifying the scent trails of North American eastern garter snakes and African ball pythons.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. searched

B. searching

C. were searching

D. have searched

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q69 · Level 19 · A singular subject needs a complete verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M2 Q16 · PDF p19

The instrument’s protective casing _____ mainly of layered cork and thin aluminum sheets.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. consisting

B. having consisted

C. to consist

D. consists

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q70 · Level 19 · Missing main verb in a past event

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M1 Q17 · PDF p9

During a 1946 restoration project, technician Amira Holt _____ a concealed latch beneath the clock’s wooden case.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. finding

B. to find

C. having found

D. found

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q71 · Level 19 · Compound subject with a complete past verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAB · M1 Q17 · PDF p8

During the early twentieth century, education advocates Mina Dorr and Salim Farr _____ for free evening classes in the northern districts.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to campaign

B. campaigning

C. campaigned

D. having campaigned

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q72 · Level 19 · A complete irregular past verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAA · M2 Q17 · PDF p16

In 1986, botanist Dara Sen _____ the first director of the newly established Westhaven Seed Archive. Her portrait was later placed in the archive's entrance hall.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. becoming

B. to become

C. having become

D. became

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q73 · Level 19 · A complete past-tense verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAA · M1 Q14 · PDF p9

Weavers' guilds _____ in the city of Caldra during the seventeenth century. These organizations benefited from busy trade routes and a steady demand for patterned cloth.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. flourishing

B. having flourished

C. to flourish

D. flourished

My answer: ___ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q74 · Level 19 · Singular present verb versus verb phrases

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAB · M2 Q19 · PDF p17

When a sand lizard encounters a warm surface, it sometimes lifts alternate feet from the ground. The lizard _____ this behavior to reduce the time each foot remains in contact with the hot sand.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to use

B. having used

C. using

D. uses

My answer: ___ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q75 · Level 20 · Missing main verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT8A · M2 Q19 · PDF p24

To conserve energy during extended cold periods, larvae of the mountain beetle Ferana lenta _____ a state of greatly reduced activity. During this period, the larvae remain sheltered beneath the bark until temperatures rise.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. adopting

B. to adopt

C. having adopted

D. adopt

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q76 · Level 20 · Plural subject with a missing main verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATSEP26INTA · M2 Q44 · PDF p18

The angled panels on the prototype roof _____ rainwater toward a central collection tank.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to direct

B. direct

C. having directed

D. directing

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q77 · Level 20 · Verb in a relative clause

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M1 Q19 · PDF p12

Cartographer Imani Cole is remembered for her contribution to the Coastal Navigation Atlas, which _____ detailed diagrams of shallow channels for the region's fishing crews.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. included

B. to include

C. having included

D. including

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q78 · Level 20 · One modal with two verbs

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT8A · M1 Q20 · PDF p11

Engineers designing a flood-control gate propose adding a narrow side channel. The channel would divert excess water away from the main gate and _____ pressure on the gate's hinges during heavy storms.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. reduces

B. reduce

C. reducing

D. reduced

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q79 · Level 20 · A past participle describes; it is not the main verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTDEC25USAA · M1 Q20 · PDF p10

At the Laren School of Performance, students learn the mirror-response method. _____ by drama teacher Elia Venn, this method trains performers to respond naturally to a partner's movements.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. Developed

B. Develops

C. Developing

D. Develop

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q80 · Level 20 · A complete verb before a describing phrase

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT10A · M1 Q20 · PDF p11

During the dry season, the clay beneath the community’s houses loses moisture and contracts. This movement can leave narrow gaps under the foundations, _____ builders to reinforce vulnerable sections before the next rainy season.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. prompts

B. to prompt

C. prompting

D. prompted

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q81 · Level 21 · Long compound subject and missing verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT8A · M2 Q21 · PDF p25

In the early years of the Alven Museum, visitors often hurried past the mineral displays. Curator Sora Pell's practice of inviting visitors to handle sample stones and her habit of connecting each specimen to a familiar household object _____ transform the gallery into one of the museum's busiest spaces.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. to help

B. helping

C. helped

D. that helped

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q82 · Level 21 · Find the delayed main verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT11A · M2 Q23 · PDF p24

In a study of urban noise, researchers _____ for evidence of changes in bird communication, rather than changes in the number of birds present, compared recordings made before and after road construction.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. have looked

B. looking

C. were looking

D. looked

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q83 · Level 21 · Find the verb after a long description

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M1 Q22 · PDF p13

Several maps have prompted a new explanation for the abandonment of East Quay. The theory _____ that repeated flooding forced the residents inland cannot be accepted, historian Pavel Renn argues, until the maps' dates have been independently verified.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. has proposed

B. will propose

C. proposing

D. proposes

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q84 · Level 21 · Read past two interruptions to find the verb

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26USAB · M2 Q14 · PDF p19

To investigate changes in a wetland, ecologist Rafi Chen deployed an automated sampler. The device _____ water from three channels, which differed in their exposure to agricultural runoff, transmitted a separate chemical profile for each channel to the field station.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. collected

B. was collecting

C. collecting

D. collects

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

KEEP GOING

Test & mock practice

Q85 · Level 21 · Main verb versus an attached description

Gouda Academy mock GASATOT9A · M2 Q22 · PDF p26

During the early years of mechanical printing, decorated title pages often imitated the elaborate borders of handwritten books. The period is remembered for its visual richness, its surviving volumes _____ by collectors for their intricate lettering and engraved ornaments.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. are still admired

B. still admired

C. were still admired

D. had been admired

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

Q86 · Level 21 · Main verb after a long relative clause

Gouda Academy mock GASATRTMAR26INTA · M2 Q17 · PDF p20

A laboratory was assembling a reference collection to compare mountain insects gathered at different elevations over several decades. A technician _____ the specimens, which had arrived in boxes bearing only the dates of collection and the names of the field stations, noticed that several labels had been transposed and began matching them against the original survey records.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. catalogs

B. was cataloging

C. cataloged

D. cataloging

My answer: ____ Subject: _____ Verb: _____

CHECK AFTER YOU TRY

Quick answer key

Read the explanations whenever an answer surprises you.

F01 A F02 A F03 A F04 B F05 A F06 B F07 B F08 A

F09 A F10 A F11 A F12 B F13 B F14 A F15 A F16 B

F17 B F18 A F19 B F20 A F21 B F22 A F23 B F24 B

F25 A F26 B F27 B F28 A F29 A F30 A F31 B F32 B

F33 A F34 B F35 A F36 B F37 A F38 B F39 A F40 B

F41 A F42 B F43 A F44 B F45 A F46 A F47 B F48 A

Q01 B Q02 D Q03 D Q04 D Q05 C Q06 A Q07 D Q08 C

Q09 B Q10 C Q11 A Q12 C Q13 A Q14 C Q15 A Q16 C

Q17 D Q18 D Q19 D Q20 C Q21 A Q22 D Q23 A Q24 C

Q25 B Q26 A Q27 C Q28 A Q29 B Q30 D Q31 B Q32 A

Q33 A Q34 B Q35 D Q36 B Q37 B Q38 B Q39 D Q40 B

Q41 B Q42 C Q43 C Q44 A Q45 B Q46 D Q47 D Q48 A

Q49 D Q50 D Q51 C Q52 A Q53 B Q54 A Q55 B Q56 C

Q57 C Q58 A Q59 B Q60 C Q61 D Q62 C Q63 A Q64 C

Q65 B Q66 A Q67 B Q68 B Q69 D Q70 D Q71 C Q72 D

Q73 D Q74 D Q75 D Q76 B Q77 A Q78 B Q79 A Q80 C

Q81 C Q82 B Q83 C Q84 C Q85 B Q86 D

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

The main verb may be outside the blank.

F01 · Answer A

Subject: dog
Matching verb: barks

Short sentence: The dog barks.

Dog is a noun naming one animal. Barks is a verb telling what it does.

A. Correct: dog names the animal.

B. Barks names the action, not the animal.

Return to F01 (question page 18)

F02 · Answer A

Subject: dogs
Matching verb: bark

Short sentence: The dogs bark.

Dogs is a plural noun. Its s tells us there is more than one dog.

A. Correct: dogs is plural.

B. Bark is the verb; it tells what the dogs do.

Return to F02 (question page 18)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F03 · Answer A

Subject: she
Matching verb: runs

Short sentence: She runs.

Runs is the simple-present form for she, he, or it. They takes run.

A. Correct: she runs.

B. Say they run, without s.

Return to F03 (question page 18)

F04 · Answer B

Subject: they
Matching verb: play

Short sentence: They play.

They takes play. The verb does not gain s because the subject is plural.

A. Plays matches he, she, or it.

B. Correct: they play.

Return to F04 (question page 19)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F05 · Answer A

Subject: student
Matching verb: reads

Short sentence: The student reads.

One student can be replaced by he or she. He or she reads.

A. Correct: one student reads.

B. Read matches they, I, or you in the simple present.

Return to F05 (question page 19)

F06 · Answer B

Subject: students
Matching verb: read

Short sentence: The students read.

Students is plural. Replace it with they: they read.

A. Reads matches a third-person singular subject.

B. Correct: students read.

Return to F06 (question page 19)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F07 · Answer B

Subject: I
Matching verb: walk

Short sentence: I walk.

I is singular, but it takes walk. The present-tense s pattern is for he, she, and it.

A. I walks is not standard English.

B. Correct: I walk.

Return to F07 (question page 20)

F08 · Answer A

Subject: you
Matching verb: speak

Short sentence: You speak.

You takes speak whether you means one person or several people.

A. Correct: you speak.

B. Speaks matches he, she, or it.

Return to F08 (question page 20)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F09 · Answer A

Subject: Maya
Matching verb: carries

Short sentence: Maya carries the boxes.

Maya carries. Boxes receive the action.

A. Correct: Maya is the subject.

B. Boxes are what Maya carries.

Return to F09 (question page 20)

F10 · Answer A

Subject: boys
Matching verb: watch

Short sentence: The boys watch.

The boys do the watching. Bird is the object of watch.

A. Correct: boys controls watch.

B. The bird is being watched.

Return to F10 (question page 21)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F11 · Answer A

Subject: window
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The window is open.

The sentence describes the window. Open is the description.

A. Correct: window is the subject.

B. Open is an adjective here, not the subject.

Return to F11 (question page 21)

F12 · Answer B

Subject: box
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The box is heavy.

The sentence is about one box. Of crayons tells us what is in it.

A. Crayons is inside the of phrase.

B. Correct: box is the main subject word.

Return to F12 (question page 21)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F13 · Answer B

Subject: pictures
Matching verb: look

Short sentence: The pictures look old.

Pictures is the subject. On the wall tells where the pictures are.

A. Wall is inside a location phrase.

B. Correct: pictures controls look.

Return to F13 (question page 22)

F14 · Answer A

Subject: teacher
Matching verb: helps

Short sentence: The teacher helps.

Teacher is one person. Students is plural, but it is not the subject here.

A. Correct: the subject teacher is singular.

B. Students receive the help.

Return to F14 (question page 22)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F15 · Answer A

Subject: children
Matching verb: wait

Short sentence: The children wait.

The children wait. Near the gate only tells their location.

A. Correct: children is the subject.

B. Gate belongs to the phrase near the gate.

Return to F15 (question page 22)

F16 · Answer B

Subject: basket
Matching verb: sits

Short sentence: A basket sits.

Basket is the main noun. Of apples and on the table give extra details.

A. Apples is not the main subject, and apples sits would not agree.

B. Correct: a basket sits.

Return to F16 (question page 23)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F17 · Answer B

Subject: baby
Matching verb: sleeps

Short sentence: The baby sleeps.

Sleeps tells what the baby does.

A. Baby is the subject noun.

B. Correct: sleeps is the verb.

Return to F17 (question page 23)

F18 · Answer A

Subject: soup
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The soup is warm.

Is connects soup to its description. A verb does not have to show movement.

A. Correct: is is a verb.

B. Warm describes the soup.

Return to F18 (question page 23)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F19 · Answer B

Subject: students
Matching verb: have finished

Short sentence: The students have finished.

Have is a helping verb. Have finished works as the verb team.

A. Students is the subject.

B. Correct: have finished is the full verb.

Return to F19 (question page 24)

F20 · Answer A

Subject: artist
Matching verb: is painting

Short sentence: The artist is painting.

One artist is painting; several artists are painting. Is changes to are. Painting stays the same.

A. Correct: is matches one artist.

B. Painting stays the same with is and are.

Return to F20 (question page 24)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F21 · Answer B

Subject: girl
Matching verb: waves

Short sentence: The girl waves.

Running across the park describes the girl. The main message is the girl waves.

A. Running is part of a description here.

B. Correct: waves gives the main action.

Return to F21 (question page 24)

F22 · Answer A

Subject: birds
Matching verb: sing

Short sentence: The birds sing.

Flying above the lake describes birds. We still need a complete verb: sing.

A. Correct: the birds sing.

B. Singing alone would not supply the missing main verb.

Return to F22 (question page 25)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F23 · Answer B

Subject: student
Matching verb: is studying

Short sentence: The student is studying.

Studying needs the helper is here. The student is studying is a complete statement.

A. Studying by itself leaves the sentence without a complete main verb.

B. Correct: is studying is a complete verb team.

Return to F23 (question page 25)

F24 · Answer B

Subject: she
Matching verb: can sing

Short sentence: She can sing.

After can, use the base form sing. Do not add s even with she.

A. Can sings is not standard English.

B. Correct: can sing.

Return to F24 (question page 25)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F25 · Answer A

Subject: child
Matching verb: has

Short sentence: The child has a book.

Child is singular. He or she has.

A. Correct: child has.

B. Have does not match child here.

Return to F25 (question page 26)

F26 · Answer B

Subject: children
Matching verb: have

Short sentence: The children have books.

Children is plural, even without s. They have.

A. Has matches he, she, or it.

B. Correct: children have.

Return to F26 (question page 26)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F27 · Answer B

Subject: players
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: The players are ready.

Players is plural. They are ready.

A. Is would match one player.

B. Correct: players are.

Return to F27 (question page 26)

F28 · Answer A

Subject: news
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The news is surprising.

News ends in s but is treated as a singular noun. It is surprising.

A. Correct: news is.

B. The final s does not make news plural.

Return to F28 (question page 27)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F29 · Answer A

Subject: everyone
Matching verb: gets

Short sentence: Everyone gets a turn.

Everyone takes a singular verb. Think each person gets a turn.

A. Correct: everyone gets.

B. Get would match they, not everyone.

Return to F29 (question page 27)

F30 · Answer A

Subject: each
Matching verb: has

Short sentence: Each has a notebook.

Each means each individual person. Of the students does not make each plural.

A. Correct: each has.

B. Students is inside the of phrase.

Return to F30 (question page 27)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F31 · Answer B

Subject: Maya and Omar
Matching verb: are waiting

Short sentence: Maya and Omar are waiting.

Two separate people joined by and make a plural subject. They are waiting.

A. Is does not match these two people.

B. Correct: they are waiting.

Return to F31 (question page 28)

F32 · Answer B

Subject: visitors
Matching verb: were

Short sentence: The visitors were here.

Visitors is plural. In this past-tense sentence, they were.

A. Was matches a singular third-person subject in this context.

B. Correct: visitors were.

Return to F32 (question page 28)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F33 · Answer A

Subject: list
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The list is on the board.

One list is on the board. Names is inside of names.

A. Correct: list is.

B. Names does not control this verb.

Return to F33 (question page 28)

F34 · Answer B

Subject: pages
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: The pages are colorful.

Pages is plural. In the book is extra information.

A. Book is not the main subject.

B. Correct: pages are.

Return to F34 (question page 29)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F35 · Answer A

Subject: collection
Matching verb: sits

Short sentence: A collection sits in the case.

One collection takes sits. The plural coins is inside the of phrase.

A. Correct: collection sits.

B. Sit would match collections, not collection.

Return to F35 (question page 29)

F36 · Answer B

Subject: keys
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: The keys are missing.

Keys is the plural subject. Near the door tells where they should be.

A. Door does not control the verb.

B. Correct: keys are.

Return to F36 (question page 29)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F37 · Answer A

Subject: teacher
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The teacher is here.

Along with adds information. It does not join teacher and students into the main subject.

A. Correct: teacher is.

B. Along with is not the same as and.

Return to F37 (question page 30)

F38 · Answer B

Subject: paintings
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: The paintings are valuable.

Paintings controls the main verb. Museum is the subject inside the which clause.

A. Museum belongs to the inside clause.

B. Correct: paintings are.

Return to F38 (question page 30)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F39 · Answer A

Subject: author
Matching verb: teaches

Short sentence: The author teaches.

Author is one person. Of several books tells us about the author.

A. Correct: author teaches.

B. Books does not control the verb.

Return to F39 (question page 30)

F40 · Answer B

Subject: songs
Matching verb: sound

Short sentence: The songs sound familiar.

Songs is plural. The new album is part of an extra phrase.

A. Sounds would match one song.

B. Correct: songs sound.

Return to F40 (question page 31)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F41 · Answer A

Subject: collection
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The collection is valuable.

The main subject is one collection. Letters and artists are inside the description.

A. Correct: collection is.

B. Neither letters nor artists controls this main verb.

Return to F41 (question page 31)

F42 · Answer B

Subject: results
Matching verb: suggest

Short sentence: The results suggest a pattern.

Results is plural. The study and its experiments are details between the subject and verb.

A. Suggests would match one result.

B. Correct: results suggest.

Return to F42 (question page 31)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F43 · Answer A

Subject: one
Matching verb: was

Short sentence: One was damaged.

One is singular. Paintings and rooms are inside phrases attached to one.

A. Correct: one was.

B. Plural nouns inside the phrases do not control was.

Return to F43 (question page 32)

F44 · Answer B

Subject: three reasons
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: Three reasons exist.

The real subject is three reasons. There does not determine the number.

A. Is would fit there is one reason.

B. Correct: there are three reasons.

Return to F44 (question page 32)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F45 · Answer A

Subject: reading old letters from distant relatives
Matching verb: takes

Short sentence: Reading letters takes time.

The whole activity is one subject. Think it takes time. Letters and relatives do not control the verb.

A. Correct: the activity takes time.

B. The plural nouns are inside the activity phrase.

Return to F45 (question page 32)

F46 · Answer A

Subject: number
Matching verb: is rising

Short sentence: The number is rising.

The sentence is about one number. Visitors is inside of visitors.

A. Correct: the number is.

B. Visitors does not control this verb.

Return to F46 (question page 33)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

F47 · Answer B

Subject: a number of visitors
Matching verb: are waiting

Short sentence: Several visitors are waiting.

A number of means several here. It refers to plural visitors, so use are.

A. This expression means several, not one numerical value.

B. Correct: a number of visitors are waiting.

Return to F47 (question page 33)

F48 · Answer A

Subject: scientist
Matching verb: publishes

Short sentence: The scientist publishes a report.

Scientist is singular. Who studies these unusual animals describes the scientist; animals does not control publishes.

A. Correct: scientist publishes.

B. Publish would match scientists, not scientist.

Return to F48 (question page 33)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q01 · Answer B

Subject: forests
Matching verb: were

Short sentence: There were forests.

The word there introduces the sentence, but the thing being described is forests. Forests is plural. The sentence needs a complete past-tense verb, so choose were. None of the other forms can be the only main verb here.

A. Having been is not a complete finite main verb here.

B. Correct. Plural forests matches were: “There were forests.”

C. To be is an infinitive and leaves the sentence without a main verb.

D. Being alone leaves the sentence without a complete finite verb.

Return to Q01 (question page 34)

Q02 · Answer D

Subject: example
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: One example is the work First Generation.

Ask what is the work First Generation. The answer is “One example.” The subject head is example, which is singular. “Of public art” and the words in parentheses add details; they do not change the subject. Use is: “One example is the work First Generation.” Being alone cannot complete the main clause.

A. Being is not a complete main verb here. A form such as “is being” needs a helping verb, and this sentence simply identifies one example.

B. Were does not match the singular subject “One example” in this ordinary statement.

C. Are is for a plural subject. The subject is one example, not several examples.

D. Correct: the singular subject “One example” takes is.

Return to Q02 (question page 34)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q03 · Answer D

Subject: example
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: One example is the work Mustangs of Las Colinas.

The subject head is example. “One example” is singular, even though the artwork’s name contains the plural word Mustangs. The words “of public art” and the parenthetical definition add detail between the subject and the blank. They do not supply a different subject. Choose is to form “One example is the work Mustangs of Las Colinas.”

A. Are requires a plural subject here. One example is singular.

B. Were does not agree with one example in this ordinary statement.

C. Being alone is nonfinite and leaves the main clause without a complete verb.

D. Correct: singular example takes is. The name Mustangs of Las Colinas does not control the verb.

Return to Q03 (question page 35)

Q04 · Answer D

Subject: museums
Matching verb: showcase

Short sentence: Puerto Rico's museums showcase everything.

Use the subject of the second sentence: “Puerto Rico’s museums.” The head word museums is plural. Puerto Rico’s tells whose museums; it does not make the subject singular. The first sentence talks about one museum, but that is not the subject of this sentence. Plural museums takes showcase. Each other choice contains a singular present-tense verb: showcases, has, or is.

A. Showcases is singular: one museum showcases. The subject here is plural museums.

B. Has showcased uses the singular helper has. Plural museums would require have showcased.

C. Is showcasing uses singular is. Plural museums would require are showcasing.

D. Correct: plural museums takes showcase.

Return to Q04 (question page 35)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q05 · Answer C

Subject: writing
Matching verb: has been honored

Short sentence: Her writing has been honored before.

Find what received the honor: her writing. Writing names one body of work here, so it is singular. The full verb is has been honored. The first helping verb, has, matches the singular subject. Her is only a word showing ownership; it is not the subject. Choose C.

A. Were is plural here. Singular writing does not take were in this statement.

B. Have been needs a plural subject here. Use has been with writing.

C. Correct. Writing is singular, so has been honored fits.

D. Are is plural. Singular writing does not take are.

Return to Q05 (question page 36)

Q06 · Answer A

Subject: word
Matching verb: derives

Short sentence: The word "rodeo" derives from rodear.

The blank belongs to the subject “the word rodeo”: one word. The parenthesis explains what rodeo means and does not change the subject. Use singular derives. The phrase after and has its own subject and verb: “cinch derives.” It does not turn the first subject into a plural one.

A. Correct. The singular word rodeo derives from rodear.

B. Have derived is plural here. A singular word would require has derived.

C. Were deriving is plural and does not agree with the singular word.

D. Derive matches a plural subject such as words. This subject is the singular word.

Return to Q06 (question page 36)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q07 · Answer D

Subject: both
Matching verb: are remembered

Short sentence: Both are remembered.

Work on the second sentence. Its subject is “both of these women.” The head word both means two people, so it is plural. The full verb is “are remembered”: are is the helping verb, and remembered completes the passive verb phrase. Today also tells us that the remembering is happening now. The first sentence’s verb were cannot serve as the verb of the second sentence.

A. Was is singular and past; it does not fit plural both or the present-time word Today.

B. Is is singular. Both refers to two women, so it needs are.

C. Being remembered has no finite helping verb here. The sentence would still lack a complete main verb.

D. Correct: both is plural, so are remembered completes the sentence.

Return to Q07 (question page 37)

Q08 · Answer C

Subject: that
Matching verb: outlines

Short sentence: The document outlines the basic freedoms.

The clause at the blank starts a document that. That refers to one document, so it takes a singular verb. Use outlines, C. Eleanor Roosevelt and Hansa Mehta are the subjects of the earlier clause, with were instrumental. They are not the subject of the clause at this blank.

A. Have outlined is plural here. That refers to a singular document.

B. Were outlining starts with plural were. That refers to one document.

C. Correct. The singular document is the thing that outlines the freedoms.

D. Outline is the plural present form here. One document takes outlines.

Return to Q08 (question page 37)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q09 · Answer B

Subject: shape
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The shape is unique.

Find the subject of the clause after that: the shape of each statue’s ears. Shape is the head word, and it is singular. Ears is plural, but the ears are not the subject of is unique. The phrase like the shape of each person’s ears is a comparison, not another subject. Choose B: the shape is unique.

A. Are would match a plural subject. The head word shape is singular.

B. Correct. The singular head word shape takes is.

C. Were is plural in this statement. Singular shape does not take were here.

D. Have been starts with plural have. Singular shape would need has.

Return to Q09 (question page 38)

Q10 · Answer C

Subject: transfer
Matching verb: is known

Short sentence: This transfer is now known as the Columbian Exchange.

The main subject word is transfer: one transfer. The phrases “of species” and “between hemispheres” add details. They do not make transfer plural. The sentence needs the complete verb phrase “is known.” The word now also tells us to use the present.

A. Were does not agree with the singular subject transfer. It also refers to the past, while the sentence says now.

B. Being known is not a complete main verb here. The sentence would still be missing a finite verb.

C. Correct. One transfer is known as the Columbian Exchange.

D. Are would match a plural subject, such as transfers. The subject here is transfer.

Return to Q10 (question page 38)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q11 · Answer A

Subject: landing
Matching verb: allows

Short sentence: Landing allows a player to skip ahead.

The subject is the activity landing on one of the good spaces. This whole activity counts as one thing, so it is singular. Spaces is plural, but it sits inside the phrase describing where the landing happens. Use allows. Choose A. An -ing word can name an activity and act as a subject; it is not always a verb.

A. Correct. The singular activity landing takes allows.

B. Are allowing starts with plural are. The subject activity is singular.

C. Have allowed starts with plural have. The subject activity is singular.

D. Allow is the plural present form here. Singular landing takes allows.

Return to Q11 (question page 39)

Q12 · Answer C

Subject: case
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The locative case is among several noun cases.

This sentence puts the subject after the verb. Ask “What is among the noun cases?” The answer is the locative case—one case. The plural words cases and languages appear in the opening detail; they do not control the verb. Put the sentence in ordinary order: “The locative case is among several noun cases.”

A. Have been needs a plural subject here. One case would take has been.

B. Are is plural, but the subject is the singular locative case.

C. Correct. The locative case is singular, so use is.

D. Were is plural, but the subject is the singular locative case.

Return to Q12 (question page 39)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q13 · Answer A

Subject: approach
Matching verb: allows

Short sentence: Variation theory’s approach allows researchers to study similarities.

Find the thing that allows researchers to study: the approach. Approach is one thing, so it takes allows. Theory’s tells us whose approach; it is not the subject head. The phrases about literary analysis, dialogues, and interpretations add information. Their plural nouns do not change the singular subject. Emphasizing and rejecting describe the approach; they are not the main verb. The sentence still needs the finite verb allows.

A. Correct: the singular subject approach takes the singular present-tense verb allows.

B. Have allowed does not agree with singular approach. A singular present-perfect form would be has allowed.

C. Allow is the plural present-tense form here. One approach allows.

D. Allowing alone is an -ing form, not a complete main verb. There is no helping verb before it.

Return to Q13 (question page 40)

Q14 · Answer C

Subject: that (referring to a pattern)
Matching verb: results

Short sentence: A pattern of fracturing results in parallel arrays.

The main sentence already says “Devils Tower is ...” But the clause beginning that also needs its own complete verb. That refers to the singular pattern of fracturing. The clause says this pattern results in arrays of prisms. Rocks is inside the phrase “in rocks”; it is not the subject of results.

A. Resulting is not a complete finite verb after the subject that.

B. To result is an infinitive, not a complete verb for this that-clause.

C. Correct. The singular pattern results in arrays of prisms.

D. Were resulting is plural. It does not agree with that referring to a singular pattern.

Return to Q14 (question page 40)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q15 · Answer A

Subject: pieces
Matching verb: explore

Short sentence: Barrada’s pieces explore the ways humans organize nature.

What explores these ideas? Barrada’s pieces do. Pieces is plural. The long phrase starting with utilizing describes the pieces; it does not finish the main clause. Explore is a complete present-tense verb that matches plural pieces. Choose A. Barrada’s shows ownership; it does not make pieces singular.

A. Correct. Plural pieces takes explore, and this supplies the main verb.

B. Has explored starts with singular has. Plural pieces would need have.

C. Explores is the singular present form. The subject pieces is plural.

D. Exploring alone is not a finite verb. There would be no main verb for pieces.

Return to Q15 (question page 41)

Q16 · Answer C

Subject: many
Matching verb: study

Short sentence: Many scientists study this mechanism.

Focus on the clause after the dash. Its subject is many of whom, meaning many scientists. Many is plural. The example Elba Serrano names one of those scientists; it does not change many to singular. Use study, so C is correct. The earlier subject interest belongs to a different clause with its own verb, is expanding.

A. Is studying starts with singular is. Many scientists needs a plural verb.

B. Has studied starts with singular has. Many scientists would need have.

C. Correct. Plural many takes study.

D. Studies is the singular present form. The subject many is plural.

Return to Q16 (question page 41)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q17 · Answer D

Subject: accomplishments
Matching verb: attest

Short sentence: The accomplishments attest to the value of scholars.

What points to the value of these scholars? The accomplishments do. Accomplishments is plural. The words about Goldin and her prize give extra information; they do not change the subject. Use attest with plural accomplishments. Choose D. In this ordinary present-tense verb pair, one accomplishment attests, but several accomplishments attest.

A. Attests is the singular present form. The subject accomplishments is plural.

B. Has attested begins with singular has. Plural accomplishments would need have.

C. Is attesting begins with singular is. Plural accomplishments would need are.

D. Correct. Plural accomplishments takes attest.

Return to Q17 (question page 42)

Q18 · Answer D

Subject: Perelman
Matching verb: is credited

Short sentence: Grigori Perelman is credited with proving the conjecture.

The subject is mathematician Grigori Perelman: one person. The phrase sometimes in conjunction with mathematicians Richard S. Hamilton and Shing-Tung Yau adds information. It does not make Hamilton and Yau part of the grammatical subject. Use is credited. Choose D.

A. Are is plural, but the subject Perelman names one person.

B. Have been is plural here. One person would take has been.

C. Are being starts with plural are. The subject Perelman is singular.

D. Correct. Perelman is one person, so is credited fits.

Return to Q18 (question page 42)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q19 · Answer D

Subject: achievements
Matching verb: were not confined

Short sentence: The trailblazing achievements were not confined to the realm of athletics.

The subject is achievements, not Roger Bannister or the English track star. There is more than one achievement, so the subject is plural. The of phrase and the description between commas tell us whose achievements they were. Remove those details: The achievements were not confined to athletics. Weren’t means were not. It agrees with achievements and fits the past events. Bannister also became a neurologist, so the sentence needs not confined.

A. Isn’t means is not. Is is singular, but achievements is plural.

B. Hasn’t been means has not been. Singular has does not agree with plural achievements.

C. Wasn’t means was not. Was is singular, but the subject is achievements.

D. Correct: weren’t means were not; were agrees with plural achievements and fits the past context.

Return to Q19 (question page 43)

Q20 · Answer C

Subject: applications
Matching verb: were

Short sentence: Commercial applications were responsible for launching a manufacturing revolution.

Ask what was responsible for the change: the commercial applications. Applications is plural. Of this new synthetic dye technology explains which applications; singular technology is not the subject head. The information between dashes is also extra. Remove those parts and read Commercial applications were responsible. Were agrees with the plural subject and fits the passage’s past events.

A. Was is singular. The head word applications is plural.

B. Is is singular and present. The sentence needs agreement with applications and describes past events.

C. Correct: were agrees with plural applications and fits the past context.

D. Has been uses singular has. Plural applications would take have, not has.

Return to Q20 (question page 43)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q21 · Answer A

Subject: one
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: Each one is thematically and logically autonomous.

The subject of the clause after that is each one of a ghazal’s couplets. Its head word is one. Each one is singular, even though couplets is plural. The long phrase starting with while gives extra information. Remove it and read each one is autonomous. Choose A.

A. Correct. Singular each one takes is.

B. Were is plural in this statement. The subject each one is singular.

C. Have been starts with plural have. Each one would need has.

D. Are is plural. Each one is singular.

Return to Q21 (question page 44)

Q22 · Answer D

Subject: features
Matching verb: reveal

Short sentence: Interactive features reveal an impressive early vision of hypertext.

The subject is interactive features, not patent, button, or text. Features is plural. Skip the description beginning “described in her 1949 patent” and the example between the dashes. You get “features reveal.” The earlier clause beginning Though does not provide the main verb for features.

A. Revealing alone is not a finite main verb. “Features revealing a vision” leaves the main clause unfinished.

B. Has revealed begins with singular has. A plural subject would need have revealed.

C. Reveals matches a singular subject, such as a feature. Features is plural.

D. Correct. The plural subject features matches reveal.

Return to Q22 (question page 44)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q23 · Answer A

Subject: Distinguishing
Matching verb: was

Short sentence: Distinguishing the commodities was among their primary aims.

The subject is the whole activity “Distinguishing ... commodities.” It means the act of telling two kinds of commodities apart. One activity takes a singular verb: was. Commodities, crops, and metals are inside the description of that activity; none is the main subject. The sentence also needs a complete finite verb.

A. Correct. One activity—distinguishing the commodities—was an aim.

B. Were is plural. The subject is the activity of distinguishing, not the plural noun commodities.

C. Having been is not a finite main verb. The sentence would be unfinished.

D. Being is not a finite main verb here. It does not finish the sentence.

Return to Q23 (question page 45)

Q24 · Answer C

Subject: artwork
Matching verb: has been recognized

Short sentence: Her artwork has been recognized before.

Artwork names the work as one whole. Use the singular helper has, not have. The whole verb is has been recognized; the sentence gives an earlier example of recognition.

A. Were does not agree with singular artwork in this statement.

B. Have is the wrong helper for singular artwork.

C. Correct: has agrees with artwork.

D. Are does not agree with singular artwork.

Return to Q24 (question page 45)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q25 · Answer B

Subject: Faris
Matching verb: teaches

Short sentence: Leila Faris teaches at an arts center.

Leila Faris is one person. The words whose photographs document changes describe her, but photographs is not the main subject. Use teaches, the present form for she.

A. Are is plural, but Leila Faris is singular.

B. Correct: Faris teaches.

C. Have is plural here; Faris would need has.

D. Teach is the wrong present form for she.

Return to Q25 (question page 46)

Q26 · Answer A

Subject: example
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: One example is the sculpture Turning Leaves.

The subject starts with One example, which is singular. The of phrase describes the example. Use is to connect one example to the sculpture’s name.

A. Correct: one example is.

B. Being alone cannot supply the main verb.

C. Are is plural, but one example is singular.

D. Were is plural in this statement, but one example is singular.

Return to Q26 (question page 46)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q27 · Answer C

Subject: both
Matching verb: are remembered

Short sentence: Both educators are remembered.

Both means the two educators, so the subject is plural. The word Today points to the present. Are remembered fits both the subject and the time.

A. Is is singular, but both means two.

B. Was is singular and past, conflicting with both and Today.

C. Correct: both are remembered.

D. Being alone leaves the sentence without a complete main verb.

Return to Q27 (question page 47)

Q28 · Answer A

Subject: collection
Matching verb: provides

Short sentence: This collection provides a detailed record.

Collection is singular, even though the collection contains many materials from many archives. Cover of materials and from several private archives. The core is this collection provides.

A. Correct: one collection provides.

B. Provide is the plural present form, but collection is singular.

C. Providing alone leaves the sentence without a complete main verb.

D. Have is plural here; collection would need has.

Return to Q28 (question page 47)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q29 · Answer B

Subject: term
Matching verb: refers

Short sentence: The term “plait” refers to a braid.

The subject of the blank is the term, one term. Glossaries and illustrations belong to other sentences. The term refers; the singular present verb has -s.

A. Refer is not the correct present form for one term.

B. Correct: the term refers.

C. Have does not agree with the singular term.

D. Are does not agree with the singular term.

Return to Q29 (question page 48)

Q30 · Answer D

Subject: gardens
Matching verb: were

Short sentence: Several public gardens were along the eastern canal.

In there were several public gardens, there introduces the sentence; the real subject is gardens. Several gardens is plural. The early years setting is past, so were fits both number and time.

A. Are is plural but present; the sentence describes the past.

B. Was is past but singular; gardens is plural.

C. Having been cannot be the complete main verb here.

D. Correct: several gardens were.

Return to Q30 (question page 48)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q31 · Answer B

Subject: that
Matching verb: specifies

Short sentence: A handbook specifies the required widths and slopes.

That refers to one handbook. The plural architects and advisers are the subject of produced, not the subject of the verb in the that clause. A handbook specifies.

A. Specify is the plural present form, but handbook is singular.

B. Correct: a handbook specifies.

C. Were is plural, but handbook is singular.

D. Have is plural here, but handbook is singular.

Return to Q31 (question page 49)

Q32 · Answer A

Subject: sculptures
Matching verb: convey

Short sentence: The sculptures convey a sense of balance.

Sculptures is plural. The long phrase beginning despite describes the support and sheets; it does not change the subject. Replace sculptures with they: they convey.

A. Correct: sculptures convey.

B. Conveying alone leaves the main verb incomplete.

C. Conveys is singular, but sculptures is plural.

D. Has is singular, but sculptures is plural.

Return to Q32 (question page 49)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q33 · Answer A

Subject: example
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: One example is The Listening Wall.

The main subject is One example. The clause that visitors can explore describes installation and has its own verb can explore. It does not change the singular main subject. Use one example is.

A. Correct: one example is.

B. Being alone is not a complete main verb.

C. Are is plural, but one example is singular.

D. Were is plural in this statement, but one example is singular.

Return to Q33 (question page 50)

Q34 · Answer B

Subject: placing
Matching verb: allows

Short sentence: Placing two matching tools allows the team to cross.

The subject is the whole activity of placing the tools. That activity counts as one thing. Replace it with it: it allows. Tools is plural, but tools is not the subject of allows.

A. Allow does not match the singular activity.

B. Correct: the activity allows the team to cross.

C. Have does not agree with the singular activity.

D. Are does not agree with the singular activity.

Return to Q34 (question page 50)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q35 · Answer D

Subject: that
Matching verb: were prized

Short sentence: The goods were highly prized.

That refers to goods: the boxes and mats. Goods is plural, and at that time points to the historical past. Were prized matches both number and time.

A. Was is singular, but goods is plural.

B. Has been is singular and does not fit the finished past setting.

C. Is is singular and present; both features are wrong here.

D. Correct: the goods were prized.

Return to Q35 (question page 51)

Q36 · Answer B

Subject: that
Matching verb: results

Short sentence: A pattern results in several bands.

That refers to one pattern of deformation. It needs a complete singular verb: results. The nearby plural ridges and bands are not the subject of this verb.

A. Resulting alone does not complete the that clause.

B. Correct: one pattern results.

C. To result is not a complete verb for this clause.

D. Were is plural, but the pattern is singular.

Return to Q36 (question page 51)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q37 · Answer B

Subject: Voss
Matching verb: is featured

Short sentence: Elena Voss is regularly featured.

Elena Voss is one person, so use is. The long description mentions plural images, factories, and bridges, but none of those is the main subject. The separate clause whose images are admired already has its own subject and verb.

A. Are wrongly matches the nearby plural images.

B. Correct: Elena Voss is featured.

C. Have is plural here; Voss would need has.

D. Were is plural in this statement, but Voss is singular.

Return to Q37 (question page 52)

Q38 · Answer B

Subject: curvature
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The curvature is different.

The subject is curvature, one property. Lens, alignment, ridges, and edge are inside describing phrases. Cover those details and read the curvature is different.

A. Have is plural in this sentence, but curvature is singular.

B. Correct: curvature is.

C. Were does not agree with singular curvature here.

D. Are does not agree with singular curvature.

Return to Q38 (question page 52)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q39 · Answer D

Subject: accounts
Matching verb: reveal

Short sentence: The detailed accounts reveal how the actors helped.

Accounts is plural. The words about rehearsals, a box, letters, and a manager describe the accounts; they do not replace the subject. Use reveal, the present form for they.

A. Has is singular; accounts is plural.

B. Reveals matches a singular subject, not accounts.

C. Is is singular; accounts is plural.

D. Correct: accounts reveal.

Return to Q39 (question page 53)

Q40 · Answer B

Subject: Bell
Matching verb: is credited

Short sentence: Rafi Bell is credited with developing the panel.

The subject is one person: Rafi Bell. Together with engineers adds information, but it does not join a second subject with and. Use the singular verb phrase is credited.

A. Are is plural, but Bell is singular.

B. Correct: Bell is credited.

C. Are being is still plural.

D. Have is plural here; Bell would need has.

Return to Q40 (question page 53)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q41 · Answer B

Subject: many
Matching verb: develop

Short sentence: Many of the researchers develop software.

Many of whom means many of the researchers, so the subject is plural. The example Ilya Kern is one researcher inside an interruption. It does not change many into one. Use develop.

A. Is is singular, but many is plural.

B. Correct: many develop software.

C. Develops is singular, but many is plural.

D. Has is singular, but many is plural.

Return to Q41 (question page 54)

Q42 · Answer C

Subject: adjustments
Matching verb: reveal

Short sentence: The adjustments reveal an understanding of calibration.

Adjustments is plural. The parenthesis describes one example—a wheel—but that example is not the subject. Notebook, wheel, angle, and mirror do not change adjustments into a singular subject. Use reveal.

A. Revealing alone does not supply the main verb.

B. Reveals is singular, but adjustments is plural.

C. Correct: adjustments reveal.

D. Has is singular, but adjustments is plural.

Return to Q42 (question page 54)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q43 · Answer C

Subject: one
Matching verb: presents

Short sentence: Each one presents a complete argument.

Each one is singular. Essays, images, connections, readers, and pieces are distracting plural words in extra details. Remove those details: each one presents.

A. Present does not agree with singular each one.

B. Are is plural; each one is singular.

C. Correct: each one presents.

D. Have is plural in this sentence; each one needs has.

Return to Q43 (question page 55)

Q44 · Answer A

Subject: camera
Matching verb: is

Short sentence: The infrared camera is among the instruments.

The sentence begins with Among the instruments, a location/group phrase. The actual subject comes after the blank: the infrared camera. Move it to the front to check: the infrared camera is among the instruments.

A. Correct: one camera is.

B. Are wrongly agrees with instruments inside the opening phrase.

C. Have is plural here; camera would require has.

D. Were is plural in this statement, but camera is singular.

Return to Q44 (question page 55)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q45 · Answer B

Subject: Distinguishing
Matching verb: was

Short sentence: Distinguishing pigments was among the central aims.

The whole subject names one activity: distinguishing pigments. Pigments, murals, variations, age, and composition are inside its details. Replace the activity with it: it was among the aims.

A. Were is plural; the named activity is singular.

B. Correct: the activity was among the aims.

C. Being alone leaves the main verb incomplete.

D. Having been alone leaves the main verb incomplete.

Return to Q45 (question page 56)

Q46 · Answer D

Subject: Distinguishing
Matching verb: was

Short sentence: Distinguishing the vessels from the copies was one aim.

The subject is the single activity of distinguishing one kind of vessel from another. The many plural nouns inside that activity do not control the verb. Read it was one of the aims.

A. Were would need a plural subject; the activity is singular.

B. Having been cannot be the complete main verb.

C. Being cannot be the complete main verb by itself.

D. Correct: the activity was one aim.

Return to Q46 (question page 56)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q47 · Answer D

Subject: core
Matching verb: consists

Short sentence: The core consists of iron and nickel.

The subject is core: one core. The sentence has no other main verb. Consists is a complete present-tense verb that matches this singular subject. The other choices cannot stand alone as its main verb.

A. To consist is an infinitive, not a finite main verb.

B. Consisting would need a helping verb to function as a complete verb phrase.

C. Having consisted is not a finite main verb.

D. Correct. The singular core consists of iron and nickel.

Return to Q47 (question page 57)

Q48 · Answer A

Subject: Susan B. Anthony
Matching verb: became

Short sentence: Susan B. Anthony became the first woman featured on a US coin.

The subject is Susan B. Anthony. This first sentence needs a complete main verb to tell what happened to her. Became is that verb. It gives a finished past event and fits “In 1979.” “Having become,” “becoming,” and “to become” are nonfinite forms: none can serve as this sentence’s only main verb. The verb appeared belongs to the next sentence, so it cannot complete the first sentence.

A. Correct: became is a complete past-tense verb for the subject Susan B. Anthony.

B. Having become begins a verb phrase that adds information, but it cannot complete this main clause by itself.

C. Becoming needs a helping verb if it is to be part of a complete main verb here.

D. To become is an infinitive. It does not provide the main verb this sentence needs.

Return to Q48 (question page 57)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q49 · Answer D

Subject: Ferns and conifers
Matching verb: thrived

Short sentence: Ferns and conifers thrived.

The subject is Ferns and conifers. The first sentence needs a complete main verb to tell what these plants did. Thrived is a past-tense verb and finishes the sentence. The other choices are verb forms that cannot stand alone as the main verb here.

A. Having thrived is an unfinished verb phrase here. It does not give the sentence a finite main verb.

B. To thrive is an infinitive. It cannot be the only main verb after this subject.

C. Thriving needs a helping verb such as were to make a complete main verb phrase.

D. Correct. “Ferns and conifers thrived” is a complete subject–verb statement.

Return to Q49 (question page 58)

Q50 · Answer D

Subject: Ann Caracristi
Matching verb: cracked

Short sentence: Ann Caracristi cracked a code.

The subject is Ann Caracristi. The sentence needs a complete main verb that tells what she did. Cracked is that verb. Revealing describes the code; it is not the main verb for Caracristi. The first three options all leave the sentence unfinished.

A. To crack is an infinitive. It cannot be the sentence’s only main verb here.

B. Cracking is an -ing form without a helping verb, so it does not complete the sentence.

C. Having cracked is a participle phrase, not a finite main verb.

D. Correct. “Ann Caracristi cracked a code” is complete.

Return to Q50 (question page 58)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q51 · Answer C

Subject: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony
Matching verb: campaigned

Short sentence: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony campaigned.

The two names joined by and form the subject. The sentence still needs a complete verb telling what they did. Campaigned is a past-tense verb and fits the nineteenth-century setting. The other three choices are nonfinite forms; by themselves, they leave this sentence without a main verb. This is not a choice between several complete past and present verbs: only campaigned can complete this main clause as written.

A. Campaigning needs a helping verb to serve as the main verb here, such as were campaigning. That helper is not present.

B. To campaign is an infinitive, not the complete main verb this sentence needs.

C. Correct: campaigned tells what the two women did and completes the sentence.

D. Having campaigned adds information but cannot be the only main verb of this sentence.

Return to Q51 (question page 59)

Q52 · Answer A

Subject: embryos
Matching verb: enter

Short sentence: Embryos enter a dormant state.

Who enters the dormant state? Embryos do. The words inside African turquoise killifish eggs tell where the embryos are. The sentence still needs a main verb for embryos. Enter fills that job and matches the plural subject. Choose A. To enter, entering, and having entered cannot serve as the main verb by themselves here.

A. Correct. Embryos enter gives the sentence its subject and main verb.

B. To enter is an infinitive. It does not give embryos a main verb.

C. Having entered adds a participle phrase. There would still be no main verb for embryos.

D. Entering alone is not a complete main verb. The sentence would need a helping verb, such as are.

Return to Q52 (question page 59)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q53 · Answer B

Subject: dog
Matching verb: uses

Short sentence: The dog uses this behavior.

The second sentence starts with the subject “The dog.” Its main clause needs a complete verb. Uses supplies that verb and agrees with the singular subject dog. “Called the flehmen response” is an added description of behavior, and “to transmit scents” tells the purpose. Neither of those phrases is the main verb for the dog. The other answer choices also lack the finite verb needed to complete this clause.

A. To use is an infinitive. “The dog to use this behavior” does not have a complete main verb.

B. Correct: uses is a complete present-tense verb and agrees with singular dog.

C. Using alone lacks a helping verb; “The dog using this behavior” is incomplete here.

D. Having used cannot be the only main verb of this sentence. It would introduce an added phrase instead.

Return to Q53 (question page 60)

Q54 · Answer A

Subject: which
Matching verb: provided

Short sentence: The handbook provided detailed guidance.

The main clause already says Mary Golda Ross is renowned. But the clause starting with which needs its own verb. Which refers to the handbook. Provided completes that clause: which provided detailed guidance. Choose A. A verb in one clause does not automatically finish another clause.

A. Correct. Which provided gives the relative clause a subject and a finite verb.

B. Having provided is not a finite verb. The which-clause would be missing its verb.

C. To provide is an infinitive. It cannot finish this which-clause as its finite verb.

D. Providing alone is an -ing form. The which-clause would be unfinished.

Return to Q54 (question page 60)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q55 · Answer B

Subject: lock
Matching verb: would increase and create

Short sentence: The lock would increase the salinity and create a barrier.

The subject is the lock. Its two actions share the helping word would: would increase and would create. After would, use the base form create. The sentence does not need to repeat would before the second action. Choose B. Even though lock is singular, do not add -s after would.

A. Creates has an extra -s. After would, use create, even with a singular subject.

B. Correct. Would controls both increase and create.

C. Creating is an -ing form. It does not fit would increase and create.

D. Created is a past form. After would, use the base form create.

Return to Q55 (question page 61)

Q56 · Answer C

Subject: archaeologists
Matching verb: analyzed

Short sentence: Archaeologists analyzed several sites on Caribbean islands.

The main action is analyzed several sites. Archaeologists is its subject. The long phrase seeking an explanation for the placement of petroglyphs near water describes those archaeologists. Seeking is an -ing form, so it can give that description while analyzed remains the main finite verb. Sought, had sought, and were seeking are all finite verb forms. Each would give the subject a second main verb without a connecting word.

A. Sought is a finite past-tense verb. The sentence already has analyzed, and there is no and joining the two.

B. Had sought is a finite verb phrase. It would leave the later analyzed without a proper connection.

C. Correct: seeking begins a description of the archaeologists; analyzed is the main finite verb.

D. Were seeking is a finite verb phrase, even though seeking ends in -ing. Were makes it finite, creating an unconnected extra verb.

Return to Q56 (question page 61)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q57 · Answer C

Subject: sources
Matching verb: may become

Short sentence: Those food sources may become unavailable, forcing the monkeys to hunt.

The main subject is those food sources. Its main verb, may become, is already present. Unavailable describes the food sources. The words after the comma explain the result: forcing the monkeys to hunt. Use forcing, C. This -ing phrase adds information; it is not the sentence's main verb.

A. Forces adds another finite verb without a proper connection. It also would not match plural sources.

B. To force would wrongly suggest a purpose: the food sources become unavailable in order to force hunting. The sentence describes a result.

C. Correct. Forcing adds the result after a complete main clause.

D. Forced does not express the needed result of the sources becoming unavailable. The active result phrase is forcing the monkeys to hunt.

Return to Q57 (question page 62)

Q58 · Answer A

Subject: approaches
Matching verb: are

Short sentence: Certain approaches are likely to face significant challenges.

Start with the core: Certain approaches are likely to face significant challenges. Approaches is the subject; are is the finite verb. The words between them describe which approaches. Focusing on quantum collective phenomena is that description. Focusing is an -ing form, so it does not create a second main verb. Are focused, focus, and have focused would each add a second finite verb without a word such as and to join it to are likely.

A. Correct: focusing starts a description of approaches; are remains the main finite verb.

B. Are focused would create one finite verb phrase, followed by another, are likely, without a proper connection.

C. Focus would be a second finite verb for approaches. The later are already completes the core sentence.

D. Have focused is a finite verb phrase. Adding it leaves two main verb phrases with no word joining them.

Return to Q58 (question page 62)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q59 · Answer B

Subject: drone
Matching verb: flew

Short sentence: The drone flew in a pattern.

The drone already has a complete main verb: flew. The blank describes which drone: the drone photographing the landscape. Photographing is an -ing description, not a second main verb. The words “which included…” describe the landscape and do not replace flew.

A. Photographs would add another finite verb for drone without a connector: “The drone photographs … flew.”

B. Correct. Photographing describes the drone. Flew remains its main verb.

C. Was photographing is a complete finite verb phrase. It would compete with flew without a connector.

D. Photographed would also act as an extra past-tense main verb here: “The drone photographed the landscape … flew.”

Return to Q59 (question page 63)

Q60 · Answer C

Subject: operators
Matching verb: learn

Short sentence: Experienced operators learn to balance these competing factors.

Read ahead to learn. The core is Experienced operators learn to balance these competing factors. The recognizing phrase explains what the operators know. It is extra information placed between the subject and its verb, so it needs commas at both ends. The text already has the closing comma after considerations. Operators, recognizing supplies the opening comma and an -ing description. Recognizing is not the main verb; learn is.

A. A semicolon cannot follow Experienced operators because those words have no main verb and are not a complete sentence.

B. Recognize would become a main verb, but learn is already the sentence’s main verb. There is no and to connect the two.

C. Correct: operators is the subject; recognizing starts extra information between commas; learn is the main verb.

D. Can recognize is a finite verb phrase. Adding it leaves the later learn without a proper connection.

Return to Q60 (question page 63)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q61 · Answer D

Subject: swimming
Matching verb: bestows

Short sentence: Helical swimming bestows similar advantages to larger macroplanktons.

The subject is helical swimming, one kind of activity. The main verb appears later: bestows. The words widely understood to confer stability and efficiency add a description. The comma after swimming opens that description, and the dash after ciliates closes it. Choose D. Adding is or has been would create a competing main verb before bestows.

A. Is creates an extra main-verb structure, even with the comma. The sentence already has bestows.

B. Is adds a second finite structure before bestows without connecting them properly.

C. Has been also adds a second finite structure before the existing bestows.

D. Correct. Swimming names the activity, and bestows is its main verb.

Return to Q61 (question page 64)

Q62 · Answer C

Subject: works
Matching verb: had been gathering

Short sentence: John Donne’s works had been gathering dust.

The sentence already has its main verb: had ... been ... gathering. The subject is John Donne’s works. The phrase much admired during his lifetime adds a description. Put a comma after works to open that description. Do not add were or had been there: that would leave two competing verb structures. Choose C. First remove the extra details and read John Donne’s works had been gathering dust.

A. Were adds a second finite verb before the existing had been gathering. The sentence does not connect those two structures.

B. The comma does not fix the extra were. The sentence already has had been gathering as its main verb.

C. Correct. Works is the subject; much admired adds description; had been gathering is the main verb.

D. Had been adds another finite verb structure before the existing had been gathering.

Return to Q62 (question page 64)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q63 · Answer A

Subject: gestures and habit
Matching verb: helped transform

Short sentence: His gestures and his habit helped transform the role.

The subject has two parts: his gestures and his habit. The long details describe those two things. Had struck out and would land belong to smaller clauses inside the description; they are not the main verb for gestures and habit. Helped supplies that missing main verb. Choose A. Helped is a past-tense form that works with both singular and plural subjects.

A. Correct. Helped gives gestures and habit their main verb.

B. Helping is an -ing form with no helping verb. The main clause would be unfinished.

C. That helped begins a describing clause. It does not supply the main verb for the whole subject.

D. To help is an infinitive. The main clause would still have no finite verb.

Return to Q63 (question page 65)

Q64 · Answer C

Subject: period
Matching verb: is remembered

Short sentence: This period is remembered, its vehicles highly prized by collectors.

The main clause is already complete: this period is remembered. After the comma, its vehicles highly prized by collectors adds a description connected to that period. Highly prized is a participle phrase here, not a second main verb. Choose C. Adding are, had been, or were would create another complete clause after only a comma. That would be a comma splice.

A. Are highly prized creates a second complete clause after only a comma. The sentence would need a stronger boundary or a joining word.

B. Had been highly prized creates a second complete clause after only a comma.

C. Correct. Highly prized keeps the ending as an added phrase, not a second complete clause.

D. Were highly prized creates a second complete clause after only a comma.

Return to Q64 (question page 65)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q65 · Answer B

Subject: theory
Matching verb: rejects

Short sentence: Popper’s theory rejects the confirmationist position.

Find the sentence’s core: Popper’s theory rejects the confirmationist position. Theory is the subject head, and rejects is the main finite verb. The blank begins a description of the theory: dictating that scientific hypotheses must be refutable. Dictating can introduce that description. Dictates, dictated, and was dictating would each add another finite verb for theory without a connection to rejects. Must be is a verb inside the that clause; it belongs to hypotheses, not theory.

A. Dictates would be a second finite verb for theory. Rejects already serves as the main verb, and the two are not joined by and.

B. Correct: dictating describes theory, while rejects remains its main finite verb.

C. Here, dictated would read as a past-tense main verb. But theory already has the main verb rejects, and there is no connecting word to join them.

D. Was dictating is a finite verb phrase. It would add an unconnected second main verb before rejects.

Return to Q65 (question page 66)

Q66 · Answer A

Subject: hypothesis
Matching verb: cannot stand

Short sentence: This hypothesis cannot stand unless other explanations can be ruled out.

The subject is this hypothesis. Its main verb appears much later: cannot stand. The blank starts a description of the hypothesis, so use suggesting. Choose A. The words suggesting that certain trees survived tell us what the hypothesis says. They do not replace cannot stand as the main verb. Survived belongs to the smaller clause about trees.

A. Correct. Suggesting adds a description while cannot stand remains the main verb.

B. Suggested creates an extra finite verb in this sentence before cannot stand.

C. Suggests creates an extra finite verb before cannot stand. There is no structure connecting them as two main actions.

D. Has suggested also creates an extra finite verb structure before cannot stand.

Return to Q66 (question page 66)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q67 · Answer B

Subject: reputation
Matching verb: has overshadowed

Short sentence: Roger Angell's reputation has perhaps overshadowed his career as a fiction editor.

The subject is reputation. Its main verb comes much later: has overshadowed. The words “bolstered by dozens of … essays” describe the reputation and belong between commas. Choice B starts that description with a comma and adds no extra main verb. The sentence then has one clear subject–verb pair: reputation has overshadowed.

A. Was would make “was bolstered” an extra main verb before has overshadowed, with no connector between them.

B. Correct. The comma begins a description; has overshadowed is the main verb.

C. Had been would create another main verb phrase, had been bolstered, without connecting it to has overshadowed.

D. Adding was after the comma still creates an extra main verb. The comma does not connect the two verb phrases.

Return to Q67 (question page 67)

Q68 · Answer B

Subject: scientists
Matching verb: adapted

Short sentence: Scientists adapted the test to foreground smell.

The subject is scientists. Their main verb is adapted, which appears after the long description. Searching for evidence explains which scientists we mean and what they were doing. Choose B. Searched, were searching, and have searched would add another finite verb before adapted without a proper connection.

A. Searched would add another finite verb before adapted. The sentence does not join them as two main actions.

B. Correct. Searching describes the scientists, while adapted remains the main verb.

C. Were searching would create another finite verb structure before adapted.

D. Have searched would also create another finite verb structure before adapted.

Return to Q68 (question page 67)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q69 · Answer D

Subject: casing
Matching verb: consists

Short sentence: The casing consists mainly of cork and aluminum.

Casing is one thing. Consists is a complete present-tense verb and agrees with it. Cork and sheets come after the verb inside an of phrase; they do not control agreement.

A. Consisting alone does not make the sentence complete.

B. Having consisted is not a complete main verb by itself.

C. To consist is an infinitive, not the main verb here.

D. Correct: the casing consists.

Return to Q69 (question page 68)

Q70 · Answer D

Subject: Holt
Matching verb: found

Short sentence: Amira Holt found a concealed latch.

The subject is Amira Holt. The sentence needs a complete verb for what she did in 1946. Found is the past form of find. The other forms do not make a complete main clause by themselves.

A. Finding alone needs a helping verb.

B. To find is not a complete main verb here.

C. Having found is not a complete main verb by itself.

D. Correct: Holt found.

Return to Q70 (question page 68)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q71 · Answer C

Subject: Dorr and Farr
Matching verb: campaigned

Short sentence: Mina Dorr and Salim Farr campaigned for classes.

Two people joined by and form the subject. The sentence needs a complete main verb for their past action. Campaigned supplies it. The other forms cannot be the only main verb.

A. To campaign cannot be the only main verb.

B. Campaigning alone needs a helper.

C. Correct: Dorr and Farr campaigned.

D. Having campaigned alone leaves the main verb incomplete.

Return to Q71 (question page 69)

Q72 · Answer D

Subject: Sen
Matching verb: became

Short sentence: Dara Sen became the first director.

The sentence needs a complete main verb for the subject Dara Sen. Became is the past form of become and fits the 1986 event. It has the same form with singular and plural subjects.

A. Becoming alone does not give a complete main verb.

B. To become is an infinitive, not a main verb here.

C. Having become is not a complete main verb by itself.

D. Correct: Sen became the director.

Return to Q72 (question page 69)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q73 · Answer D

Subject: guilds
Matching verb: flourished

Short sentence: Weavers’ guilds flourished in Caldra.

The sentence needs a main verb telling what the guilds did. Flourished is a complete past-tense verb. The other options cannot stand as the only main verb. Past-tense flourished has the same form for one guild or several guilds.

A. Flourishing alone is not a complete main verb.

B. Having flourished begins a phrase, not a complete predicate here.

C. To flourish cannot be the only main verb.

D. Correct: guilds flourished.

Return to Q73 (question page 70)

Q74 · Answer D

Subject: lizard
Matching verb: uses

Short sentence: The lizard uses this behavior.

The lizard is one animal. Uses supplies a complete present-tense main verb and matches it. The -s belongs to the singular present verb; it does not make the verb plural.

A. To use cannot serve as the only main verb here.

B. Having used is not a complete main verb by itself.

C. Using alone needs a helper.

D. Correct: the lizard uses.

Return to Q74 (question page 70)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q75 · Answer D

Subject: larvae
Matching verb: adopt

Short sentence: Larvae adopt a state of reduced activity.

Larvae is plural. The sentence needs a complete main verb for what the larvae do. Adopt supplies it. The -ing and to forms do not make a complete main clause by themselves.

A. Adopting alone leaves the main verb missing.

B. To adopt is an infinitive, not a complete main verb here.

C. Having adopted alone is not a complete main verb.

D. Correct: larvae adopt.

Return to Q75 (question page 71)

Q76 · Answer B

Subject: panels
Matching verb: direct

Short sentence: The panels direct rainwater toward a tank.

Panels is plural. On the prototype roof tells where the panels are; roof is not the subject. Direct is the complete present-tense verb for they.

A. To direct is not a complete main verb here.

B. Correct: panels direct.

C. Having directed is not a complete main verb by itself.

D. Directing alone needs a helper.

Return to Q76 (question page 71)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q77 · Answer A

Subject: which
Matching verb: included

Short sentence: The atlas included detailed diagrams.

Which refers to the atlas. The clause beginning which needs its own complete verb: which included. The earlier is remembered belongs to Imani Cole; it cannot serve as the verb inside this clause.

A. Correct: included supplies the complete verb inside the which clause.

B. To include cannot supply the clause’s complete verb.

C. Having included is not a complete verb by itself.

D. Including needs a helper; none is supplied.

Return to Q77 (question page 72)

Q78 · Answer B

Subject: channel
Matching verb: would divert and reduce

Short sentence: The channel would divert water and reduce pressure.

Would controls both actions: would divert and would reduce. The second would is understood. After would, use the base form reduce, even though channel is singular.

A. Reduces adds an -s after the shared modal would.

B. Correct: would divert and reduce.

C. Reducing does not match divert after would.

D. Reduced does not match the base form required after would.

Return to Q78 (question page 72)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q79 · Answer A

Subject: method
Matching verb: trains

Short sentence: This method trains performers to respond.

The main clause already has subject this method and verb trains. Developed by drama teacher Elia Venn describes the method: the teacher developed it. The method did not develop the teacher.

A. Correct: developed by describes the method.

B. Develops is a complete present verb and does not fit this opening describing phrase.

C. Developing would make the method the doer, but the teacher developed the method.

D. Develop does not form the needed passive description.

Return to Q79 (question page 73)

Q80 · Answer C

Subject: movement
Matching verb: can leave

Short sentence: This movement can leave narrow gaps.

This movement can leave narrow gaps is already a complete clause. Prompting adds what happens as a result: builders are prompted to reinforce the foundations. The blank does not need a new main verb.

A. Prompts adds a new complete verb without a proper join.

B. To prompt would present a purpose, but the sentence describes a result of the gaps.

C. Correct: prompting introduces the result.

D. Prompted does not fit the active result phrase here.

Return to Q80 (question page 73)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q81 · Answer C

Subject: practice and habit
Matching verb: helped

Short sentence: Her practice and her habit helped transform the gallery.

The subject joins two things: her practice and her habit. All the words explaining those activities come before the main verb. Helped supplies the complete past-tense verb. Regular past-tense helped has the same form for singular and plural subjects.

A. To help cannot be the only main verb.

B. Helping needs a helper to serve as the main verb here.

C. Correct: the two activities helped transform the gallery.

D. That helped starts a describing clause and leaves the main clause without its own verb.

Return to Q81 (question page 74)

Q82 · Answer B

Subject: researchers
Matching verb: compared

Short sentence: Researchers compared recordings.

The main verb comes later: researchers compared recordings. Looking describes which researchers and what they were seeking. Do not insert another complete verb before compared without a joining word.

A. Have looked adds an unjoined complete verb before compared.

B. Correct: looking describes researchers.

C. Were looking is a complete verb phrase and conflicts with the unjoined compared.

D. Looked adds a second complete verb without a join.

Return to Q82 (question page 74)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q83 · Answer C

Subject: theory
Matching verb: cannot be accepted

Short sentence: The theory cannot be accepted.

Read past the blank: the main verb is already cannot be accepted. Proposing begins a description of the theory. The sentence does not need a second complete verb at the blank.

A. Has proposed adds a second unjoined verb before cannot be accepted.

B. Will propose also adds a second unjoined verb.

C. Correct: proposing describes the theory; cannot be accepted remains the main verb.

D. Proposes adds a second complete verb without a joining word.

Return to Q83 (question page 75)

Q84 · Answer C

Subject: device
Matching verb: transmitted

Short sentence: The device transmitted a separate chemical profile.

The main verb is transmitted, after the long description of channels. Collecting describes the device. The clause which differed has its own subject and verb and does not replace transmitted.

A. Collected adds a second complete verb without a join before transmitted.

B. Was collecting is a complete verb phrase; it is not joined to transmitted.

C. Correct: collecting describes the device, whose main verb is transmitted.

D. Collects adds a second unjoined complete verb.

Return to Q84 (question page 75)

UNDERSTAND THE PAIR

Worked explanations

Q85 · Answer B

Subject: period
Matching verb: is remembered

Short sentence: The period is remembered for its visual richness.

The main clause is already complete: The period is remembered for its visual richness. The words its surviving volumes still admired add a description. Adding are, were, or had been would make a second complete clause joined by only a comma.

A. Are still admired creates a second complete clause after only a comma.

B. Correct: still admired stays part of the attached description.

C. Were still admired creates a second complete clause after only a comma.

D. Had been admired also makes a second complete clause; changing tense does not fix the boundary.

Return to Q85 (question page 76)

Q86 · Answer D

Subject: technician
Matching verb: noticed and began

Short sentence: A technician noticed the problem and began matching labels.

Continue to the end: the technician noticed something and began matching labels. Cataloging tells what the technician was doing. The words about specimens and boxes delay the main verb; they do not remove it.

A. Catalogs adds an unjoined complete verb before noticed.

B. Was cataloging adds a complete verb phrase without a join to noticed.

C. Cataloged adds a second unjoined complete verb.

D. Correct: cataloging describes the technician; noticed and began are the main actions.

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WHERE THE PRACTICE CAME FROM

Source notes

Original teaching exercises and source questions are labeled separately.

Foundation exercises

The 48 short foundation exercises and all teaching explanations were written for Gouda Academy.

Official practice tests

19 questions come from official College Board digital Practice Tests 8–11. Available official keys were used for Tests 8, 9, and 11. Test 10 answers were independently solved.

Supplied test compilations

26 questions come from your March, October, and December files. These compilations have not been independently authenticated as official releases. Source dates refer to the supplied filenames.

Gouda Academy mock exams

41 questions come from 11 distinct saved mock forms. These are practice questions, not official SAT questions. Answers were checked against corrected supplied keys.

Selection and repeats

The focus is agreement and finding complete verbs. Unrelated tense-only, pronoun, modifier-reference, and pure infinitive-complement questions were excluded. A defective supplied December question was excluded. Repeated copies were merged; genuine variants remain.

Affiliation

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F03 · Level 1 · Question p18 · Answer p79
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F06 · Level 1 · Question p19 · Answer p80
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F07 · Level 1 · Question p20 · Answer p81
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