GOUDA ACADEMY

EST I • LITERACY

PREDICTED PRACTICE

TEST 5

WITH EXPLANATIONS

2026 EDITION



85 Questions • 3 Modules

90-Minute Practice Test

Answer Key + Explanations

www.goudasat.com | WhatsApp +1 919 671 2842



GOUDA ACADEMY • PRACTICE EXAM BOOKLET

EST I – Literacy Test
Practice Test #5

Duration: 90 Minutes (Recommended: 32 min Module 1 • 30 min Module 2 • 28 min Module 3)
Format: 3 Modules • 85 Multiple-Choice Questions
Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions:
This test consists of three modules. Each module contains reading passages followed by questions. After reading a passage, or part of a passage, choose the best answer to each question.
• In the first type, a part of the passage is underlined.
• The second type is based on a certain part of the passage or an accompanying visual.
• The third type is based on the entire passage.
One of the answer choices for some questions is **"NO CHANGE."** Choosing this answer means you believe the best answer is to make no change in the passage.

Module 1

35 Questions • 3 Passages • Recommended Time: 32 Minutes

Passage 1: The Keeper of Point Judith Light

Adapted from 19th-Century Maritime Memoirs

During the winter of 1874, the storms along the Rhode Island coast were unusually fierce, yet the keeper of the stone lighthouse remained steadfast at his post. Because the causeway was frequently flooded by freezing tides, he was **[1]** compel and obliged to haul oil casks up the cliff path by hand before dusk. The local newspapers later printed a curiously **[2]** exaggerated account of his solitary vigil, claiming that he had gone three weeks without sleep. In truth, the real strength of the **[3]** keepers' household lay in his eldest daughter, Clara, who shared the midnight watch whenever the fog bell froze.

1. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. compel and obliging
C. compelled and obliged
D. compelling and obligatory

2. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. diminished
C. verified
D. concealed

3. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. keeper's
C. keepers's
D. keepers

[4] In the end, the winter gales passed without a single vessel coming near the reef. On the night of February 11, a timber schooner lost its rudder in the sleet and drifted toward the outer shoals. Clara climbed the iron spiral staircase, trimmed the brass wicks, and kept the Fresnel lens **[5]** revolving steadily through the gale. **[6]** Conversely, the ship's captain spotted the beam through the mist and steered clear of the submerged rocks before dawn.

4. Which option provides the most logical introduction to paragraph 2?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Yet one night in February tested their vigilance to the utmost.
C. Lighthouse lenses were imported from France during that decade.
D. The causeway was eventually repaired by the harbor commission.

5. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. revolved
C. to revolving
D. revolve

6. Which option provides the most logical transition?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Nevertheless
C. Consequently
D. Meanwhile

When the storm had finally worn itself out and the exhausted crew could take account, **[7]** they discovered that the wooden vessel, along with all of its cargo and rigging, had remained completely safe and secure, save for a split mainsail. Along the icy headland the wind still roared **[8]** ; sending sheets of salt spray across the lantern glass. The grateful captain rowed ashore at noon to thank the keeper, **[9]** or the old man insisted that Clara deserved the credit. **[10]** She had kept the lamp burning when the cold nearly overcame him, and he declared that no seasoned sailor could have shown greater nerve in [11] my place.

7. Which option is the most concise and precise?

A. NO CHANGE
B. they found that the ship, together with everything aboard it, survived undamaged
C. they found the vessel and its cargo safe
D. it was realized by the sailors that nothing on the ship had been lost

8. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. , sending
C. : sending
D. sending

9. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. so
C. but
D. nor

10. The author is considering deleting the underlined clause 'when the cold nearly overcame him' in sentence 10. Should it be kept or deleted?

A. Kept, because it highlights the difficulty Clara overcame.
B. Kept, because it defines a nautical term used earlier.
C. Deleted, because it contradicts the keeper's bravery.
D. Deleted, because it repeats the captain's exact words.

11. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. our
C. her
D. your

Passage 2: On the Structure of Coral Atolls

Adapted from 19th-Century Natural History

[12] The ring-shaped coral islands of the Pacific Ocean; often enclosing a calm turquoise lagoon, have long puzzled voyagers and naturalists alike. Because reef-building polyps cannot survive below a depth of roughly twenty fathoms, early explorers wondered how living reefs could rise from ocean floors thousands of feet deep. **[13]** A conspicuous feature of every true atoll is the steep outer slope, which plunges abruptly into dark water while the inner lagoon remains shallow and sheltered.

12. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. The ring-shaped coral islands of the Pacific Ocean, often enclosing a calm turquoise lagoon, have long puzzled voyagers and naturalists alike.
C. The ring-shaped coral islands of the Pacific Ocean: often enclosing a calm turquoise lagoon, have long puzzled voyagers and naturalists alike.
D. The ring-shaped coral islands of the Pacific Ocean, often enclosing a calm turquoise lagoon; have long puzzled voyagers and naturalists alike.

13. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. An invisible
C. A hesitant
D. A temporary

In 1842, a careful theory of subsidence offered a clear explanation. **[14]** 1. First, a fringing reef forms directly around the shore of a newly risen volcanic island. **2.** As the heavy volcanic cone slowly sinks beneath the waves, the corals grow upward toward the sunlight, forming a barrier reef separated from the shrinking peak by a channel. **3.** Finally, the central peak vanishes altogether beneath the surface, leaving only a ring of living limestone around a central lagoon. **[15]** 4. This slow subsidence, occurring over immense spans of time, links all three reef types into a single continuous sequence. **[16]** Many Pacific islands also support groves of coconut palms harvested by local sailors.

14. Which option best supports the chronological flow of paragraph 2 if inserted right before sentence 1?

A. Corals require cold arctic currents to thrive.
B. According to this view, every atoll passes through three distinct stages.
C. Few sailors ever mapped the interior of Pacific lagoons.
D. Volcanic islands never sink once their lava cools.

15. To make paragraph 2 most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

A. where it is now.
B. before sentence 1.
C. before sentence 2.
D. before sentence 3.

16. The author is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should it be kept or deleted?

A. Kept, because it explains how coral polyps obtain food.
B. Kept, because it proves that volcanic islands sink rapidly.
C. Deleted, because it introduces an unrelated detail about palms.
D. Deleted, because it contradicts the depth limit of twenty fathoms.

Wave action plays an equally vital role in shaping the **[17]** atolls rim. Storm breakers tear loose fragments of dead coral and pile them **[18]** under the windward crest, gradually building a narrow ridge above high tide. **[19]** In the first place, this coral rubble, is cemented together, by rainwater dissolved with lime until it hardens into solid rock. Driftwood and seabirds soon carry seeds **[20]** aloft or across the currents, clothing the bare ring in hardy coastal shrubs. **[21]** Neither the relentless surf nor the fierce tropical sun can easily undo what millions of tiny organisms have built; **[22]** for instance, the reef grows strongest on the very side where the ocean beats most violently, proving how life adapts to the harshest conditions on **[23]** my planet.

17. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. atoll's
C. atolls's
D. atoll

18. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. between
C. upon
D. beneath

19. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. In the first place, this coral rubble is cemented together by rainwater
C. In the first place this coral rubble, is cemented together by rainwater
D. In the first place, this coral rubble is cemented, together, by rainwater

20. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. downward
C. backward
D. beneath

21. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Neither the relentless surf or the fierce tropical sun
C. Either the relentless surf nor the fierce tropical sun
D. Neither the relentless surf and the fierce tropical sun

22. Which option provides the most logical transition?

A. NO CHANGE
B. indeed
C. however
D. otherwise

23. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. your
C. our
D. his

Passage 3: The Craft Guilds of Medieval Towns

Adapted from 19th-Century Economic History

For nearly three centuries, the craft guilds of Europe governed almost every branch of skilled manufacturing. An apprentice entered a master's workshop as a boy, bound by strict indentures to learn his trade without wages in return for lodging and instruction. Not only did the guild regulate the quality of cloth, leather, and ironware, **[24]** and it fixed fair prices and limited the number of looms a single master might operate. By preventing any one workshop from monopolizing the market, the guild sought to protect the livelihood of all **[25]** its members.

24. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. or
C. but
D. nor

25. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. their
C. our
D. his

[26] The guild system encouraged reckless competition and ignored the quality of finished goods. Inspectors visited workshops without warning, and any artisan who **[27]** sold inferior wool or used short weights faced heavy fines or expulsion. Each trade guarded **[28]** craftsmens' secrets with jealous pride, passing techniques from master to journeyman through years of patient labor. **[29]** This system—though rigid by modern standards, fostered a deep sense of civic dignity and artistic care that still endures in the carved stonework of old European halls.

26. Which option provides the most logical introduction to paragraph 2?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Strict oversight of workmanship was the cornerstone of guild authority.
C. Most medieval towns were surrounded by high defensive walls.
D. Apprentices rarely remained in the same town after finishing their training.

27. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. sells
C. selling
D. had sell

28. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. craftsmen's
C. craftsmens
D. craftsmans'

29. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. This system—though rigid by modern standards—
C. This system; though rigid by modern standards—
D. This system, though rigid by modern standards;

By the sixteenth century, however, expanding overseas trade began to strain these local regulations. Wealthy merchants who **[30]** financed voyages and supplying raw silk to rural weavers operated beyond the reach of town inspectors. When royal charters were **[31]** withdrew from the older associations, the guilds gradually lost their monopoly over urban labor. **[32]** Although their legal power faded, their legacy survived in the standards of apprenticeship and mutual aid. **[33]** Many modern trade associations still mirror the guild habit of pooling dues to support injured workers, [34] and historians agree that the rise

30. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. financing voyages and supplied
C. financed voyages and supplied
D. finance voyages and supplying

31. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. withdraw
C. withdrawn
D. withdrawing

of factory towns [35] was totally changing everything about how people made stuff.

32. Which option provides the most logical transition?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Because
C. Therefore
D. Similarly

33. The author is considering deleting the underlined clause 'Many modern trade associations still mirror the guild habit of pooling dues to support injured workers'. Should it be kept or deleted?

A. Kept, because it provides a concrete example of the guild legacy.
B. Kept, because it explains why overseas trade expanded.
C. Deleted, because it repeats the definition of an apprentice.
D. Deleted, because it contradicts the loss of royal charters.

34. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. yet
C. nor
D. for

35. Which choice is the most concise and consistent with the style of the passage?

A. NO CHANGE
B. fundamentally transformed traditional methods of production
C. made huge and really dramatic shifts in how goods were created
D. kind of overturned the old workshop way of doing things

Module 2

25 Questions • 2 Passages • Recommended Time: 30 Minutes

Passage 1: The Work of Valley Glaciers

Adapted from 19th-Century Physical Geology

To the casual traveler who gazes upon an Alpine glacier for the first time, the river of ice appears utterly motionless, frozen as firmly to the mountain gorge as the granite cliffs above it. Yet patient measurements with rows of wooden stakes driven across the ice prove that the entire mass is steadily descending. Like a sluggish stream of pitch, the center moves faster than the margins, which are retarded by friction against the rocky valley walls. Though the advance may scarcely exceed a few inches in a single day, the cumulative weight of hundreds of feet of ice exerts an irresistible grinding force upon the bedrock beneath.

This relentless motion explains why glaciated valleys differ so unmistakably from valleys carved by ordinary rivers. A mountain stream cuts mainly downward along a narrow channel, leaving steep V-shaped slopes that interlock like teeth. A valley glacier, by contrast, fills the entire trough from wall to wall, plucking loose boulders and scouring the sides as vigorously as the floor. Over thousands of years, the moving ice widens and deepens the gorge into a broad, smooth U-shaped trough whose upper cliffs stand nearly vertical.

As the glacier descends, frost shatters rock from the overhanging peaks, showering angular debris onto the margins of the ice. These dark bands of stones and gravel, known as lateral moraines, ride along the flanks of the glacier like freight upon a conveyor. Where the ice reaches lower, warmer elevations, melting overtakes forward motion. The ice snout wastes away, dumping its unsorted burden of boulders and clay across the valley floor while rushing subglacial streams emerge from beneath the ice, weaving braided channels of milky meltwater through the newly deposited gravel.

Long after a climate shift has melted the glacier completely away, these characteristic signatures remain legible to the trained geologist. Polished bedrock surfaces marked by parallel scratches—called striations—reveal the exact direction in which the ancient ice flowed. Vast ridges of unsorted boulders perched far from their parent cliffs testify to a transporting power that no ordinary flood could match. By reading these mute stone records, naturalists have demonstrated that regions now covered by fertile farms and quiet forests once lay buried beneath rivers of moving ice.



Fig. 1. Valley glacier descending between mountain walls, flanked by lateral moraines and discharging braided meltwater streams across the lower valley floor.

1. What is the central idea of the passage?

A. Alpine glaciers move too slowly to alter solid granite mountains.

B. Valley glaciers are moving rivers of ice that reshape landscapes and leave lasting geological evidence.

C. Ordinary mountain rivers erode bedrock more powerfully than glaciers do.

D. Modern climate shifts have eliminated all traces of ancient glaciers.

2. Why does the author mention rows of wooden stakes in paragraph 1?

A. To prove that glaciers move steadily despite appearing stationary.

B. To explain how early travelers marked safe climbing routes.

C. To show that friction stops the center of a glacier from moving.

D. To illustrate how geologists measure the depth of granite cliffs.

3. As used in paragraph 1, 'retarded' most nearly means

A. accelerated.

B. slowed.

C. melted.

D. shattered.

4. According to paragraph 1, which part of a valley glacier moves most rapidly?

A. The margins touching the valley walls

B. The frozen bedrock beneath the ice

C. The center of the ice mass

D. The rock debris resting on the peaks

5. How does the author contrast river valleys with glaciated valleys in paragraph 2?

A. River valleys are broad and flat, while glaciated valleys are narrow and crooked.

B. River valleys form narrow V-shaped channels, whereas glaciers scour wide U-shaped troughs.

C. River valleys contain no loose boulders, whereas glaciated valleys lack water.

D. River valleys form over millennia, whereas glaciated valleys form in a single season.

6. Which detail best supports the idea that glaciers transport rock material over long distances?

A. Wooden stakes move a few inches each day across the ice.

B. Mountain streams cut downward along narrow channels.

C. Lateral moraines ride along the flanks of the glacier like freight upon a conveyor.

D. Alpine travelers often mistake glaciers for motionless ice.

7. What happens when a valley glacier reaches lower, warmer elevations?

A. The ice freezes more solidly to the granite walls.

B. Forward motion speeds up while melting stops completely.

C. Melting overtakes forward motion, depositing debris and releasing braided meltwater streams.

D. Lateral moraines dissolve entirely into clear drinking water.

8. As used in paragraph 4, 'legible' most nearly means

A. readable.

B. fragile.

C. decorative.

D. hidden.

9. What is the purpose of mentioning 'striations' in paragraph 4?

A. To argue that floods can polish bedrock as smoothly as ice.

B. To provide an example of evidence that reveals the direction of ancient ice flow.

C. To explain why fertile farms cannot grow in glaciated valleys.

D. To contrast modern glaciers with volcanic lava flows.

10. What can be reasonably inferred about the boulders perched far from their parent cliffs?

A. They were carried there by ancient glaciers rather than ordinary rivers.

B. They were placed there intentionally by early farmers.

C. They formed from molten rock that cooled in place.

D. They are smaller and more rounded than stream pebbles.

11. Which choice best evaluates the logic of the author's reasoning in the passage?

A. The reasoning is weak because it relies solely on travelers' impressions.

B. The reasoning is logical because it connects measurable ice movement and observable landforms to past glacial activity.

C. The reasoning is flawed because it ignores the role of melting water.

D. The reasoning is speculative because striations cannot be observed today.

12. What is the overall tone of the passage?

A. Urgent and alarmed

B. Sarcastic and critical

C. Informative and analytical

D. Nostalgic and mournful

13. How does the accompanying engraving (Fig. 1) best support the explanation in the passage?

A. It compares V-shaped river valleys with volcanic craters.

B. It visually confirms how a valley glacier fills a U-shaped trough, carries lateral ridges along its sides, and feeds braided streams at its snout.

C. It shows wooden stakes lined up across the ice to measure daily speed.

D. It illustrates fertile farms growing on top of an active glacier.

Passage 2: A Winter Visit to the Mill-House

Adapted from 19th-Century Domestic Fiction

The parlor of the old mill-house had not changed by a single brass candlestick since Arthur had left for London seven years before. The same tall mahogany clock ticked with measured solemnity in the corner, and the same faded engraving of a ship in full sail hung above the hearth. Yet to Arthur, who had grown accustomed to the hurried clamor of Fleet Street, the stillness of the room felt less like peace than like a gentle reproach. His uncle sat upright in the leather armchair, spectacles perched low on his nose, studying the ledger as though the passing of seven winters were a minor accounting entry.

'You find the roof still standing, then,' Mr. Hale remarked at last, without lifting his eyes from the column of figures. 'Though I daresay a gentleman of the press expects grander wainscoting than oak seasoned by his grandfather.' The remark was delivered in a dry, even tone, free of overt anger, yet Arthur caught the familiar edge beneath it. For years, Mr. Hale had regarded Arthur's departure from the family mill as a reckless abandonment of solid bread for ink and paper.

Arthur set his traveling-bag beside the fender and warmed his gloved hands at the grate. 'The oak looks sturdier than half the brick fronts in Cheapside, Uncle,' he replied quietly. 'And I have not come to find fault with the mill—only to bring you the bound volume of the journal I promised last spring.' He laid the cloth-covered book upon the corner of the desk, careful not to disturb the inkstand or the neat stack of grain receipts.

For a long moment, Mr. Hale did not touch the volume. His pen hovered above the ledger, then was set deliberately into its porcelain tray. Slowly he drew the book closer, running a flour-dusted thumb along the gilt lettering on the spine. 'So,' he murmured, his gaze softening by a shade too slight for a stranger to notice, 'they have put your name on the title-page after all. Well—sit down, lad. Martha will have the kettle boiling in five minutes, and we may as well hear what London has taught you besides fine phrases.'

14. What is the central idea of the passage?

A. Arthur returns home to demand his share of the family mill.

B. A quiet reunion reveals lingering tension between uncle and nephew, followed by a subtle sign of pride and reconciliation.

C. Mr. Hale decides to close the old mill and move to London.

D. Arthur regrets leaving Fleet Street because the mill-house is too noisy.

15. Why does the stillness of the parlor feel like 'a gentle reproach' to Arthur in paragraph 1?

A. He feels quietly reminded of the steady family life he left behind for London.

B. He is angry that his uncle refused to repair the mahogany clock.

C. He dislikes the engraving of the ship hanging above the hearth.

D. He fears that the mill has gone bankrupt during his absence.

16. As used in paragraph 1, 'solemnity' most nearly means

A. humor.

B. seriousness.

C. speed.

D. carelessness.

17. What does Mr. Hale's remark about 'a gentleman of the press' in paragraph 2 reveal about his attitude?

A. He openly celebrates Arthur's career from the very first moment.

B. He harbors lingering skepticism and mild sarcasm toward Arthur's choice of journalism.

C. He is confused about what kind of work Arthur does in London.

D. He wants Arthur to redesign the parlor wainscoting.

18. Which phrase best supports the idea that Mr. Hale values practical stability over writing?

A. 'studying the ledger as though the passing of seven winters were a minor accounting entry'

B. 'a reckless abandonment of solid bread for ink and paper'

C. 'careful not to disturb the inkstand'

D. 'running a flour-dusted thumb along the gilt lettering'

19. How does Arthur respond to his uncle's dry remark in paragraph 3?

A. With heated anger and defensive boasts about London

B. With calm respect, complimenting the house and modestly presenting his book

C. By leaving the parlor immediately before the tea arrives

D. By criticizing the outdated grain receipts on the desk

20. What is the effect of describing Arthur as 'careful not to disturb the inkstand or the neat stack of grain receipts'?

A. It shows Arthur's respect for his uncle's orderly world and his desire to avoid conflict.

B. It suggests Arthur is afraid of spilling ink on his new coat.

C. It implies Mr. Hale's desk is cluttered and poorly kept.

D. It indicates that Arthur plans to audit the mill's finances.

21. What does Mr. Hale's action of setting his pen down and tracing the gilt lettering suggest?

A. He is disappointed by the quality of the book's binding.

B. He is quietly moved and proud of Arthur's achievement despite his earlier reserve.

C. He intends to return the book to the publisher in London.

D. He cannot read the title without brighter candlelight.

22. As used in paragraph 4, 'deliberately' most nearly means

A. hastily.

B. accidentally.

C. purposefully.

D. nervously.

23. Which detail shows that Mr. Hale's emotional shift is subtle rather than dramatic?

A. 'his gaze softening by a shade too slight for a stranger to notice'

B. 'The same tall mahogany clock ticked with measured solemnity'

C. 'Arthur set his traveling-bag beside the fender'

D. 'the hurried clamor of Fleet Street'

24. What is the purpose of Mr. Hale's final line inviting Arthur to sit down for tea?

A. To signal a thawing of the tension and an opening for genuine conversation.

B. To dismiss Arthur's book as meaningless 'fine phrases.'

C. To complain that Martha is late with the kettle.

D. To insist that Arthur return to working at the mill immediately.

25. Whose perspective primarily shapes the narration of the passage?

A. A first-person narrator who is a stranger to both men

B. A third-person narrator closely aligned with Arthur's observations

C. Mr. Hale writing in his private ledger

D. Martha recounting the visit years later

Module 3

25 Questions • 10 Short Passages • Recommended Time: 28 Minutes

Passage 1: Letters on Natural Philosophy

19th-Century Science

> When a bar of iron is heated in a forge, it expands in every direction, though the increase in length is the most readily measured. Engineers who lay iron rails for a locomotive track must **[1]** therefore leave a narrow gap between consecutive bars; otherwise, the summer heat would buckle the entire roadway. A bridge designer who ignores this simple law of expansion risks **[2]** weakening the arches and to crack the stone piers.

1. Which option provides the most logical transition?

A. NO CHANGE
B. conversely
C. nevertheless
D. meanwhile

2. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. weakening the arches and cracking
C. to weaken the arches and cracking
D. weakened the arches and cracked

Passage 2: The Habits of Honeybees

19th-Century Entomology

> A single worker bee rarely gathers nectar from more than one species of blossom during a given flight. If she begins the morning among white clover, she passes over buttercups and daisies without pausing, returning to the hive dusted solely with clover pollen. Botanists observe that this remarkable fidelity ensures cross-pollination is not wasted upon incompatible plants.

3. As used in the passage, 'fidelity' most nearly means

A. loudness.
B. consistency.
C. fragility.
D. hesitation.

4. What conclusion is best supported by the passage?

A. Honeybees prefer buttercups over white clover in the morning.
B. The worker bee's selective foraging directly benefits plant reproduction.
C. Incompatible plants prevent bees from returning to their hives.
D. Worker bees collect pollen only from flowers of the same color.

Passage 3: A Voyage Along the Danube

19th-Century Travelogue

> At daybreak the steamer cast off from the stone quay **[5]** ; gliding past terraced vineyards that rose sharply from the water's edge. The passengers gathered along the upper rail to watch the

> mist lift from the ruins of a medieval watchtower. According to the **[6]** captains' chart, the narrows ahead were the swiftest stretch of the entire river.

5. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. , gliding
C. : gliding
D. . Gliding

6. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. captains
C. captain's
D. captains's

Passage 4: On Public Libraries

19th-Century Civic Essay

> Some critics contend that free town libraries discourage citizens from purchasing books of their own. Yet booksellers in towns that have opened reading-rooms report the very opposite result: a taste for reading, once awakened by borrowed volumes, almost invariably leads the reader to assemble a modest shelf at home. A public library is not the rival of the bookshop, but its most reliable schoolmaster.

7. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

A. To argue that public libraries harm local booksellers
B. To refute a criticism of free libraries by showing they stimulate book ownership
C. To explain how town councils fund new reading-rooms
D. To compare the cost of borrowed books with purchased volumes

8. How does the final metaphor ('its most reliable schoolmaster') support the author's claim?

A. It implies that booksellers must teach citizens how to read.
B. It reinforces the idea that libraries cultivate readers who later become book buyers.
C. It suggests that libraries should be placed inside public schools.
D. It criticizes readers who borrow books without buying them.

Passage 5: The Watchmaker's Apprentice

19th-Century Fiction

> **[9]** 1. Thomas bent closer over the brass balance-wheel, holding his breath lest the faintest draft disturb the hairspring. **2.** For three hours he had filed the tiny pivot with a magnifying lens screwed into his eye. **3.** At last the escapement caught with a crisp, steady tick, and he let out a quiet sigh of triumph. **[10]** 4. The workshop was already dark outside, for the street-lamps had been lit an hour before. **[11]** He placed the finished watch in [11] our velvet case and locked the bench.

9. Which option best describes the tone of the passage?

A. Mocking and sarcastic
B. Focused and quietly triumphant
C. Anxious and despairing
D. Detached and scientific

10. To make the paragraph most logical, sentence 4 should be placed

A. where it is now.
B. before sentence 1.
C. before sentence 2.
D. after sentence 1.

11. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. their
C. its
D. my

Passage 6: Roman Roads in Britain

19th-Century History

> Long after the Roman legions departed from Britain, their paved highways continued to shape the geography of the island. Built in straight lines over marsh and moor with deep foundations of gravel and dressed stone, these roads resisted centuries of rain and wagon traffic. Even today, many English market towns stand at the very junctions where Roman surveyors planted their milestones.

12. Which statement best evaluates the logic of the author's evidence?

A. It is logical because it cites specific construction methods and surviving town locations to support the claim of lasting influence.
B. It is flawed because it never mentions when the Roman legions arrived.
C. It relies purely on emotional nostalgia for the Roman Empire.
D. It is weak because gravel roads cannot survive heavy rainfall.

13. What can be inferred about Roman road engineering?

A. It prioritized curved scenic routes over direct travel.
B. It was durable enough to outlast the empire that built it.
C. It depended on wooden planks rather than stone.
D. It was abandoned immediately after the legions left.

Passage 7: Migratory Songbirds

19th-Century Ornithology

> **[14]** Many woodland warblers travel thousands of miles each autumn, yet they return to the very same orchard or hedgerow the following spring. Ornithologists have long marveled at this unerring navigation across featureless seas. **[15]** The birds fly mostly at night—when the air is calmer and hawks are asleep, resting in coastal thickets by day to replenish their strength. **[16]** Either a sudden gale or a dense fog may delay their arrival by several days.

14. Which option is the most concise and precise?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Lots of small birds fly really far every single fall and then come right back to the same exact trees
C. Woodland warblers undertake journeys of great distance and subsequently appear once more in identical locations
D. Many birds leave in autumn and sometimes visit orchards later

15. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. The birds fly mostly at night—when the air is calmer and hawks are asleep—
C. The birds fly mostly at night; when the air is calmer and hawks are asleep,
D. The birds fly mostly at night: when the air is calmer and hawks are asleep—

16. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Either a sudden gale nor a dense fog
C. Neither a sudden gale or a dense fog
D. Either a sudden gale and a dense fog

Passage 8: The Early Life of Michael Faraday

19th-Century Biography

> Apprenticed to a London bookbinder at fourteen, young Michael Faraday spent his evenings reading the very volumes he had stitched by day. An encyclopedia article on electricity captured his imagination so completely that he built a crude battery from copper coins and zinc discs in his attic room. Without wealth or university patronage, his habit of testing every claim by experiment soon opened the doors of the Royal Institution.

17. Which detail best supports the idea that Faraday was resourceful?

A. He was apprenticed to a London bookbinder at fourteen.
B. He built a crude battery from copper coins and zinc discs in his attic.
C. He lacked wealth and university patronage.
D. The Royal Institution was located in London.

18. What is the central idea of the passage?

A. Bookbinding was the most profitable trade in nineteenth-century London.
B. Faraday's self-directed reading and hands-on experimentation overcame his modest beginnings.
C. University patronage was required to enter the Royal Institution.
D. Encyclopedia articles rarely inspired young apprentices.

Passage 9: The Harbor of Alexandria

19th-Century Classical History

> Because the Egyptian coast near the Nile delta is low and featureless, ancient mariners approaching from the open sea often struggled to identify the harbor entrance before running aground. To remedy this peril, the builders of the Pharos erected a towering limestone lighthouse on the island before the port, **[19]** whose beacon fire could be seen for leagues across the Mediterranean. By day a polished mirror reflected the sun; by night resinous wood burned **[20]** in the summit chamber, guiding grain ships safely to anchor. The tower stood for more than a millennium, **[21]** extinguishing only after repeated earthquakes shattered its masonry.

19. Which option is the most grammatically correct?

A. NO CHANGE
B. who's
C. where
D. what

20. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. between
C. beneath
D. into

21. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. collapsing
C. expanding
D. ascending

Passage 10: On Habit and Memory

19th-Century Psychology

> When we first learn to play a musical scale or steer a bicycle, every slight movement demands conscious effort and deliberate attention. Yet through steady repetition, the nervous system hands these motions over to automatic habit, freeing the higher mind for finer tasks. **[22]** In consequence, the accomplished pianist need not think of each separate finger, **[23]** but may devote full attention to the feeling and phrasing of the melody.

22. Which option provides the most logical transition?

A. NO CHANGE
B. Conversely
C. Nevertheless
D. Otherwise

23. Which word works best in this context?

A. NO CHANGE
B. nor
C. or
D. for

24. As used in the passage, 'automatic' most nearly means

A. mechanical and effortless.
B. clumsy and slow.
C. rigid and unfeeling.
D. loud and rhythmic.

25. What can be inferred about the benefit of habit according to the passage?

A. Habit eliminates the need to practice difficult skills.
B. Habit allows the mind to focus on higher-level expression once basic motions are mastered.
C. Habit prevents musicians from learning new melodies.
D. Habit works only for physical sports like cycling.

Answer Key — Practice Test #5

All 85 Questions Across Modules 1, 2, and 3

Module 1 (35 Questions)

1: C	**2**: A	**3**: B	**4**: B	**5**: A
6: C	**7**: C	**8**: B	**9**: C	**10**: A
11: C	**12**: B	**13**: A	**14**: B	**15**: A
16: C	**17**: B	**18**: C	**19**: B	**20**: A
21: A	**22**: B	**23**: C	**24**: C	**25**: A
26: B	**27**: A	**28**: B	**29**: B	**30**: C
31: C	**32**: A	**33**: A	**34**: A	**35**: B

Module 2 (25 Questions)

1: B	**2**: A	**3**: B	**4**: C	**5**: B
6: C	**7**: C	**8**: A	**9**: B	**10**: A
11: B	**12**: C	**13**: B	**14**: B	**15**: A
16: B	**17**: B	**18**: B	**19**: B	**20**: A
21: B	**22**: C	**23**: A	**24**: A	**25**: B

Module 3 (25 Questions)

1: A	**2**: B	**3**: B	**4**: B	**5**: B
6: C	**7**: B	**8**: B	**9**: B	**10**: A
11: C	**12**: A	**13**: B	**14**: A	**15**: B
16: A	**17**: B	**18**: B	**19**: A	**20**: A
21: B	**22**: A	**23**: A	**24**: A	**25**: B

Detailed Answer Explanations — Practice Test #5

Choice-First Breakdown for All 85 Questions

Module 1 Explanations (Questions 1–35)

Q1. Answer: C • Parallel Verb Form
After 'he was', both passive participles must match in form: 'compelled and obliged'. Choices A and B break parallelism ('compel'), while D changes the verb phrase into adjectives.

Q2. Answer: A • Word Choice in Context
The sentence explains that newspapers falsely claimed he went three weeks without sleep—so 'exaggerated' fits directly. B ('diminished'), C ('verified'), and D ('concealed') contradict the claim.

Q3. Answer: B • Singular Possessive
There is only one lighthouse keeper ('his eldest daughter'), so use singular possessive 'keeper's'. A ('keepers'') is plural possessive, C ('keepers's') is invalid, and D lacks an apostrophe.

Q4. Answer: B • Logical Introduction
Paragraph 2 immediately describes a fierce February 11 storm where a schooner nearly wrecked. Only B sets up that event; A directly contradicts it, and C/D are off-topic.

Q5. Answer: A • Verb Form / Participle
The idiom 'kept [something] + -ing' requires the present participle 'revolving' to show continuous motion. B ('revolved'), C ('to revolving'), and D ('revolve') are ungrammatical here.

Q6. Answer: C • Logical Transition
Because Clara kept the Fresnel lens revolving, the captain saw the light and avoided the rocks. That is a cause-and-effect link, so 'Consequently' (C) is right; A and B signal contrast, and D signals simultaneous time.

Q7. Answer: C • Concision & Precision
'they found the vessel and its cargo safe' conveys the exact meaning in 8 crisp words. A, B, and D repeat the same idea with wordy filler ('completely safe and secure', 'together with everything aboard it').

Q8. Answer: B • Clause Boundary
'sending sheets of salt spray...' is a participial phrase (not a complete sentence), so a semicolon (A) or colon (C) is illegal, and omitting punctuation (D) blurs the modifier. Use a comma (B).

Q9. Answer: C • Conjunction / Contrast
The captain wanted to thank the keeper, but the keeper redirected credit to Clara—a clear contrast requiring 'but' (C). A ('or'), B ('so'), and D ('nor') break the logic.

Q10. Answer: A • Keep or Delete
Keep the clause because it proves why Clara's help was essential—the freezing cold nearly overcame her father. B is false (no nautical term is defined), and C/D misread the sentence.

Q11. Answer: C • Pronoun Agreement
The keeper is speaking in third person about Clara ('She had kept...'), so 'her place' (C) matches Clara. A ('my'), B ('our'), and D ('your') are person-shift traps.

Q12. Answer: B • Paired Punctuation
'often enclosing a calm turquoise lagoon' is a non-essential middle phrase that must be framed by matching commas on both ends (B). A, C, and D illegally mix semicolons or colons into the middle of the subject-verb core.

Q13. Answer: A • Word Choice in Context
A steep outer slope plunging into deep water is a prominent, easily noticed trait—making 'A conspicuous' (A) right. B, C, and D contradict the vivid contrast described.

Q14. Answer: B • Supporting Setup
Sentences 1–3 walk through 'First... As... Finally...'—three clear stages. B introduces that three-stage structure directly, whereas A, C, and D contradict or distract from the sequence.

Q15. Answer: A • Sentence Placement
Sentence 4 summarizes the entire sequence ('links all three reef types into a single continuous sequence'), so it belongs right at the end of the paragraph ('where it is now').

Q16. Answer: C • Keep or Delete
Delete the sentence about coconut palms because paragraph 2 is strictly about how volcanic subsidence forms coral reefs. A, B, and D make false claims about what the sentence does.

Q17. Answer: B • Singular Possessive
The rim belongs to one atoll ('the atoll's rim'), requiring singular possessive 'atoll's' (B). A lacks an apostrophe, C ('atolls's') is nonstandard, and D fails to show possession.

Q18. Answer: C • Idiomatic Preposition
Storm waves pile coral rubble 'upon' (on top of) the crest to build a ridge above high tide (C). A ('under'), B ('between'), and D ('beneath') place the rubble in the wrong physical location.

Q19. Answer: B • Subject-Verb Comma Split
Do not place commas between the subject ('this coral rubble') and its verb ('is cemented'), or before 'by rainwater'. Only B keeps the introductory comma after 'In the first place,' and removes the illegal interior commas.

Q20. Answer: A • Word Choice in Context
Seabirds carry seeds 'aloft' (up in the air) across the ocean (A). B ('downward'), C ('backward'), and D ('beneath') make no sense for birds flying to an island.

Q21. Answer: A • Correlative Conjunctions
'Neither... nor' is the only correct correlative pair (A). B ('Neither... or'), C ('Either... nor'), and D ('Neither... and') all break the fixed English pair.

Q22. Answer: B • Logical Transition
The second clause reinforces and intensifies the first ('grows strongest on the very side where the ocean beats most violently'). 'indeed' (B) signals emphasis; C/D wrongly show contrast, and A ('for instance') is weaker here.

Q23. Answer: C • Pronoun / Point of View
The passage uses general universal perspective ('our planet', C). A ('my'), B ('your'), and D ('his') create jarring person shifts.

Q24. Answer: C • Correlative Conjunctions
'Not only...' must pair with 'but' (C). A ('and'), B ('or'), and D ('nor') break the correlative structure.

Q25. Answer: A • Pronoun Agreement
The antecedent is singular ('the guild'), so singular 'its' (A) is correct. B ('their') is plural, and C/D shift person/gender.

Q26. Answer: B • Logical Introduction
Paragraph 2 immediately describes unannounced inspections, fines for poor wool, and guarded craft secrets. B ('Strict oversight of workmanship...') introduces this exact focus; A says the opposite, and C/D are off-topic.

Q27. Answer: A • Verb Tense Consistency
The paragraph is in simple past tense ('visited', 'used', 'faced'), so 'sold' (A) maintains consistent past tense. B ('sells'), C ('selling'), and D ('had sell') break tense or grammar.

Q28. Answer: B • Irregular Plural Possessive
'craftsmen' is already plural without an 's', so form the possessive by adding 's → 'craftsmen's' (B). A ('craftsmens'') and D ('craftsmans'') are incorrect spellings; C lacks possession.

Q29. Answer: B • Paired Punctuation
The interrupting phrase 'though rigid by modern standards' opens with an em-dash (—) and must close with a matching em-dash (B). A mixes dash + comma, and C/D illegally inject semicolons.

Q30. Answer: C • Verb Parallelism
Both actions by the wealthy merchants must share the same simple past tense: 'financed voyages and supplied' (C). A, B, and D mix '-ed' with '-ing' or present tense.

Q31. Answer: C • Past Participle (Passive)
Passive voice ('were + past participle') requires 'withdrawn' (C), not simple past 'withdrew' (A), base form 'withdraw' (B), or '-ing' (D).

Q32. Answer: A • Logical Transition
Their legal power faded, yet their legacy survived —a clear contrast best introduced by 'Although' (A). B/C signal cause-effect and D signals similarity.

Q33. Answer: A • Keep or Delete
Keep the clause because it gives a concrete modern example proving the previous sentence's claim that the guild legacy survived. B, C, and D misstate what the clause does.

Q34. Answer: A • Conjunction / Addition
The sentence adds a second supporting point about guild legacy and factory towns, so 'and' (A) is right. B ('yet') falsely signals contrast, and C/D break syntax.

Q35. Answer: B • Concision & Formal Tone
Choice B ('fundamentally transformed traditional methods of production') is crisp and matches the passage's formal historical style. A, C, and D use casual slang ('totally changing', 'stuff', 'kind of').

Module 2 Explanations (Questions 1–25)

Q1. Answer: B • Central Idea
Across all four paragraphs, the passage explains how valley glaciers move, carve U-shaped valleys, transport moraines, and leave legible bedrock evidence (B). A, C, and D directly contradict the text.

Q2. Answer: A • Rhetorical Purpose
Paragraph 1 introduces wooden stakes right after 'Yet' to prove that glaciers steadily descend even though they look motionless to casual travelers (A).

Q3. Answer: B • Vocab in Context
Plug the 4 choices into 'the margins, which are _____ by friction against the rocky valley walls': friction slows the edges down, so 'slowed' (B) fits directly.

Q4. Answer: C • Explicit Detail
Paragraph 1 explicitly states: 'the center moves faster than the margins' (C).

Q5. Answer: B • Compare & Contrast
Paragraph 2 contrasts mountain streams ('steep V-shaped slopes') with valley glaciers ('a broad, smooth U-shaped trough') (B).

Q6. Answer: C • Command of Evidence
Choice C directly cites the passage's conveyor-belt image showing lateral moraines riding long distances along the flanks of the moving ice.

Q7. Answer: C • Cause & Effect
Paragraph 3 states that at lower, warmer elevations 'melting overtakes forward motion,' dumping unsorted boulders/clay and releasing 'braided channels of milky meltwater' (C).

Q8. Answer: A • Vocab in Context
Plug the 4 choices into 'these characteristic signatures remain _____ to the trained geologist': geologists 'read' these stone records, so 'readable' (A) fits naturally.

Q9. Answer: B • Rhetorical Purpose
Paragraph 4 defines striations as parallel scratches that 'reveal the exact direction in which the ancient ice flowed' (B).

Q10. Answer: A • Inference
Paragraph 4 says those ridges of unsorted boulders 'testify to a transporting power that no ordinary flood could match,' implying ancient glaciers—not rivers—carried them there (A).

Q11. Answer: B • Evaluate Logic
The author backs every claim with measurable observations (wooden stakes, U-shaped troughs, moraines, striations), making the reasoning logical and evidence-based (B).

Q12. Answer: C • Tone
The passage explains geological mechanisms objectively and clearly—'Informative and analytical' (C), with no alarm, sarcasm, or mourning.

Q13. Answer: B • Visual / Graphic Support
Fig. 1 visually depicts the U-shaped trough, dark lateral moraines along the glacier's flanks, and braided meltwater channels emerging at the snout (B).

Q14. Answer: B • Central Idea
The passage moves from tense reunion (paragraphs 1–2) to Arthur's respectful gift (paragraph 3) and Mr. Hale's quiet pride and invitation to tea (paragraph 4) (B).

Q15. Answer: A • Inference / Phrase Effect
Comparing Fleet Street's clamor to the unchanged parlor, Arthur feels quietly reminded of the steady family life he left behind—hence 'a gentle reproach' (A).

Q16. Answer: B • Vocab in Context
Plug the choices into 'ticked with measured _____': in the quiet, unchanged parlor, the tall clock ticks with steady 'seriousness' (B).

Q17. Answer: B • Character Perspective
Mr. Hale's dry comment about 'a gentleman of the press' expecting grander wainscoting carries mild sarcasm and lingering skepticism about Arthur's journalism career (B).

Q18. Answer: B • Command of Evidence
Paragraph 2 explicitly links Mr. Hale's values to 'solid bread' (practical mill work) vs. 'ink and paper' (writing) (B).

Q19. Answer: B • Character Action
Arthur stays calm, compliments the sturdy oak, and respectfully sets his promised book on the desk (B)—no anger, boasting, or criticism.

Q20. Answer: A • Rhetorical Craft
Arthur's care not to disturb the inkstand or neat receipts highlights his respect for his uncle's orderly routine and his desire to keep the peace (A).

Q21. Answer: B • Inference
Setting his pen down deliberately and tracing the gilt lettering before noting Arthur's name on the title-page reveals quiet pride beneath Mr. Hale's reserved manner (B).

Q22. Answer: C • Vocab in Context
Plug the choices into 'was set _____ into its porcelain tray': after hovering for a long moment, he places the pen down slowly and 'purposefully' (C).

Q23. Answer: A • Command of Evidence
Choice A directly quotes 'his gaze softening by a shade too slight for a stranger to notice,' proving the emotional shift is subtle.

Q24. Answer: A • Rhetorical Purpose
Inviting Arthur to sit down for tea and talk about London signals that the tension has thawed and reconciliation has begun (A).

Q25. Answer: B • Point of View
The narrator uses third-person ('Arthur', 'he') while sharing Arthur's inner perceptions ('felt less like peace...', 'Arthur caught the familiar edge') (B).

Module 3 Explanations (Questions 1–25)

Q1. Answer: A • Logical Transition
Because heated iron expands, engineers must leave gaps between rails—a direct cause-and-effect link requiring 'therefore' (A).

Q2. Answer: B • Parallelism
'risks weakening... and cracking' keeps both gerunds parallel (B). A, C, and D break parallel form.

Q3. Answer: B • Vocab in Context
Plug choices into 'this remarkable _____': sticking to one flower species throughout a flight shows 'consistency' (B).

Q4. Answer: B • Inference / Conclusion
The final sentence states that visiting one species 'ensures cross-pollination is not wasted upon incompatible plants,' proving it directly helps plant reproduction (B).

Q5. Answer: B • Clause Boundary
'gliding past terraced vineyards...' is a participial phrase, not an independent clause—use a comma (B), never a semicolon (A), colon (C), or period (D).

Q6. Answer: C • Singular Possessive
One steamer has one captain ('the captain's chart', C). A is plural possessive, B lacks an apostrophe, and D is invalid.

Q7. Answer: B • Primary Purpose
The passage opens with a criticism ('Some critics contend...') and immediately refutes it with booksellers' reports showing libraries inspire readers to buy books (B).

Q8. Answer: B • Rhetorical Craft
Calling the library the bookshop's 'schoolmaster' emphasizes that libraries train new readers who then become paying bookshop customers (B).

Q9. Answer: B • Tone
Holding his breath over the tiny pivot and letting out 'a quiet sigh of triumph' creates a 'Focused and quietly triumphant' tone (B).

Q10. Answer: A • Sentence Placement
Sentence 4 shows how long Thomas had been absorbed in his work until dark, providing a natural closing detail right 'where it is now' (A).

Q11. Answer: C • Pronoun Agreement
The velvet case belongs to the singular 'finished watch', so use 'its' (C), not 'our' (A), 'their' (B), or 'my' (D).

Q12. Answer: A • Evaluate Logic
The author supports the claim of lasting Roman influence with concrete construction details (gravel/stone foundations) and surviving English market-town locations (A).

Q13. Answer: B • Inference
Resisting centuries of rain and wagon traffic long after the legions departed shows Roman road engineering was durable enough to outlast the empire (B).

Q14. Answer: A • Concision & Precision
The original sentence (A) is clear, concise, and formal. B uses slang ('really far'), C is overly wordy, and D weakens the key detail ('sometimes').

Q15. Answer: B • Paired Punctuation
The non-essential phrase 'when the air is calmer and hawks are asleep' opens with an em-dash and must close with a matching em-dash (B).

Q16. Answer: A • Correlative Conjunctions
'Either... or' is the correct fixed pair (A). B ('Either... nor'), C ('Neither... or'), and D ('Either... and') are all ungrammatical.

Q17. Answer: B • Command of Evidence
Building a working battery out of spare copper coins and zinc discs in his attic directly demonstrates Faraday's resourcefulness (B).

Q18. Answer: B • Central Idea
The passage centers on how Faraday's self-taught reading and home experiments carried him from apprentice bookbinder to the Royal Institution (B).

Q19. Answer: A • Relative Pronoun
'whose beacon fire' correctly shows possession for the lighthouse (A). B ('who's') means 'who is', and C/D do not show possession.

Q20. Answer: A • Idiomatic Preposition
The fire burned inside ('in') the summit chamber (A). B ('between'), C ('beneath'), and D ('into') misstate the location.

Q21. Answer: B • Word Choice in Context
Earthquakes shattered the masonry of the tower, causing the structure to fall—'collapsing' (B). A ('extinguishing') applies to a fire, not a stone tower.

Q22. Answer: A • Logical Transition
Because habit frees the higher mind, the pianist can focus on melody—a clear result requiring 'In consequence' (A).

Q23. Answer: A • Conjunction / Contrast
'need not think of each finger, but may devote full attention...' uses the standard 'not X, but Y' contrast (A).

Q24. Answer: A • Vocab in Context
Plug the choices into 'hands these motions over to _____ habit, freeing the higher mind': habit runs without conscious effort, so 'mechanical and effortless' (A) fits best.

Q25. Answer: B • Inference
Freeing the higher mind so the pianist focuses on feeling and phrasing implies that habit lets the mind focus on higher-level expression once basics are mastered (B).