



# PSAT/NMSQT® Practice Test #1

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1

**A No. 2 pencil is required for the test. Do not use a mechanical pencil or pen.**

2

**Sharing any questions with anyone is a violation of Test Security and Fairness policies and may result in your scores being canceled.**

3

**Requests to cancel scores must be received in writing by the Wednesday following the test date.**

**(This cover is representative of what you'll see on test day.)**

**Questions 29-37 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is from Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," originally published in 1889. Arriving penniless in Pennsylvania from Scotland in 1848, Carnegie became one of the richest people in the United States through the manufacture of steel.

The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth, that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in *Line* harmonious relationship. The conditions of human life have not only been changed, but revolutionized, within the past few hundred years. In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers. . . . The contrast between the palace of the millionaire and the cottage of the laborer with us to-day measures the change which has come with civilization. This change, however, is not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial. It is well, nay, essential, for the progress of the race that the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts, and for all the refinements of civilization, rather than that none should be so. Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor. Without wealth there can be no Maecenas.\* The "good old times" were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to-day. A relapse to old conditions would be disastrous to both—not the least so to him who serves—and would sweep away civilization with it. But whether the change be for good or ill, it is upon us, beyond our power to alter, and, therefore, to be accepted and made the best of. It is a waste of time to criticize the inevitable.

It is easy to see how the change has come.

One illustration will serve for almost every phase of the cause. In the manufacture of products we have the whole story. It applies to all combinations of human industry, as stimulated and enlarged by the inventions of this scientific age. Formerly, articles were manufactured at the domestic hearth, or in small shops which formed part of the household. The master and his apprentices worked side by side,

the latter living with the master, and therefore subject to the same conditions. When these apprentices rose to be masters, there was little or no change in their mode of life, and they, in turn, educated succeeding apprentices in the same routine. There was, substantially, social equality, and even political equality, for those engaged in industrial pursuits had then little or no voice in the State.

The inevitable result of such a mode of manufacture was crude articles at high prices. To-day the world obtains commodities of excellent quality at prices which even the preceding generation would have deemed incredible. In the commercial world similar causes have produced similar results, and the race is benefited thereby. The poor enjoy what the rich could not before afford. What were the luxuries have become the necessities of life. The laborer has now more comforts than the farmer had a few generations ago. The farmer has more luxuries than the landlord had, and is more richly clad and better housed. The landlord has books and pictures rarer and appointments more artistic than the king could then obtain.

The price we pay for this salutary change is, no doubt, great. We assemble thousands of operatives in the factory, and in the mine, of whom the employer can know little or nothing, and to whom he is little better than a myth. All intercourse between them is at an end. Rigid castes are formed, and, as usual, mutual ignorance breeds mutual distrust. Each caste is without sympathy for the other, and ready to credit anything disparaging in regard to it. Under the law of competition, the employer of thousands is forced into the strictest economies, among which the rates paid to labor figure prominently, and often there is friction between the employer and the employed, between capital and labor, between rich and poor.

Human society loses homogeneity.

The price which society pays for the law of competition, like the price it pays for cheap comforts and luxuries, is also great; but the advantages of this law are also greater still than its cost—for it is to this law that we owe our wonderful material development, which brings improved conditions in its train.

\* Gaius Maecenas (70-8 B.C.E.) was a great patron of the arts.

29

Which choice best describes the structure of the first paragraph?

- A) A personal history is narrated, historical examples are given, and a method is recommended.
- B) A position is stated, historical context is given, and earnest advice is given.
- C) Certain principles are stated, opposing principles are stated, and a consensus is reached.
- D) A historical period is described, and its attributes are reviewed.

30

The author most strongly implies which of the following about “the ties of brotherhood” (line 2)?

- A) They were always largely fictitious and are more so at present.
- B) They are stronger at present than they ever were before.
- C) They are more seriously strained in the present than in the past.
- D) They will no longer be able to bring together the rich and the poor.

31

The author uses “dwelling, dress, food, and environment” (lines 7-8) as examples of

- A) things more valued in the present than in the past.
- B) bare necessities of life.
- C) things to which all people are entitled.
- D) possible indications of differences in status.

32

The author describes the people who live in the “houses of some” (line 15) as interested in the

- A) materials from which their houses are constructed.
- B) size of their homes.
- C) advantages of culture.
- D) pedigree of their guests.

33

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 9-10 (“the palace . . . laborer”)
- B) Lines 15-16 (“all . . . arts”)
- C) Lines 18-19 (“Much . . . squalor”)
- D) Lines 19-20 (“Without . . . Maecenas”)

34

The author uses the phrase “good old times” (line 20) as an example of

- A) a cliché that still has life and usefulness left in it.
- B) a bit of folk wisdom from his childhood.
- C) something said by those who have acquired great riches.
- D) something said by people who do not share his viewpoint.

35

What is the author’s main point about the disadvantages of the modern economic system?

- A) It provides only a few people with the advantages of culture.
- B) It replicates many of the problems experienced in the past.
- C) It creates divisions between different categories of people.
- D) It gives certain people great material advantages over others.

36

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 37-39 (“The master . . . conditions”)
- B) Lines 43-45 (“There was . . . State”)
- C) Lines 46-47 (“The inevitable . . . prices”)
- D) Lines 65-66 (“All intercourse . . . end”)

37

As used in line 82, “in its train” is closest in meaning to

- A) before it.
- B) with it.
- C) anticipating it.
- D) advancing it.

# Writing and Language Test

35 MINUTES, 44 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 2 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

## DIRECTIONS

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a “NO CHANGE” option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1–11 are based on the following passage.

### A Nod to Nodding Off

With 30 percent of United States workers not getting enough sleep at night, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, US companies **1** lose a yearly sum of \$63.2 billion annually due to the drop in employee productivity resulting from sleep deprivation. Sleep-deprived workers generally have lower morale and are less able to retain information than their better-rested colleagues.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) see an annual loss of \$63.2 billion each year
- C) lose \$63.2 billion annually
- D) have a yearly loss of \$63.2 billion annually

[1] One of the **2** big reasons behind workers' lack of sleep is the work itself. [2] To combat the problem of sleep deprivation in a demanding work environment, some companies have begun allowing workers to take naps. [3] The hours the average American **3** spend working have increased dramatically since the 1970s, making it hard for many workers to get a good night's sleep. [4] Although employees who sleep on the job are often considered lazy and unproductive, napping in the workplace has been shown to improve workers' efficiency and quality of life. [5] As long as companies continue to demand long hours from **4** workers, and managers should champion napping as a means to keep employees happy, healthy, and functional. **5**

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) main things leading up to
- C) huge things about
- D) primary causes of

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) have spent
- C) spends
- D) are spent

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) workers; managers
- C) workers, managers,
- D) workers, managers

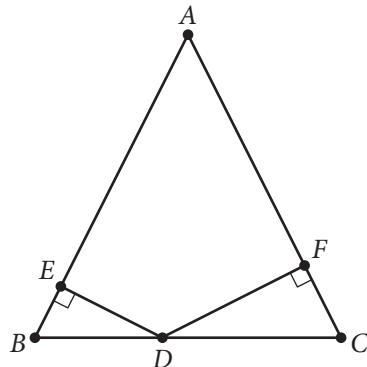
5

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 1.
- D) after sentence 4.



4



Note: Figure not drawn to scale.

Triangle  $ABC$  above is isosceles with  $AB = AC$  and  $BC = 48$ . The ratio of  $DE$  to  $DF$  is  $5 : 7$ . What is the length of  $\overline{DC}$ ?

- A) 12
- B) 20
- C) 24
- D) 28

5

In a certain game, a player can solve easy or hard puzzles. A player earns 30 points for solving an easy puzzle and 60 points for solving a hard puzzle. Tina solved a total of 50 puzzles playing this game, earning 1,950 points in all. How many hard puzzles did Tina solve?

- A) 10
- B) 15
- C) 25
- D) 35

6

$$2x^2 + 7x - 15 = 0$$

If  $r$  and  $s$  are two solutions of the equation above and  $r > s$ , which of the following is the value of  $r - s$ ?

- A)  $\frac{15}{2}$
- B)  $\frac{13}{2}$
- C)  $\frac{11}{2}$
- D)  $\frac{3}{2}$

7

To cut a lawn, Allan charges a fee of \$15 for his equipment and \$8.50 per hour spent cutting a lawn. Taylor charges a fee of \$12 for his equipment and \$9.25 per hour spent cutting a lawn. If  $x$  represents the number of hours spent cutting a lawn, what are all the values of  $x$  for which Taylor's total charge is greater than Allan's total charge?

- A)  $x > 4$
- B)  $3 \leq x \leq 4$
- C)  $4 \leq x \leq 5$
- D)  $x < 3$



Questions 30 and 31 refer to the following information.

$$v = v_0 - gt \quad (\text{speed-time})$$

$$h = v_0 t - \frac{1}{2} g t^2 \quad (\text{position-time})$$

$$v^2 = v_0^2 - 2gh \quad (\text{position-speed})$$

An arrow is launched upward with an initial speed of 100 meters per second (m/s). The equations above describe the constant-acceleration motion of the arrow, where  $v_0$  is the initial speed of the arrow,  $v$  is the speed of the arrow as it is moving up in the air,  $h$  is the height of the arrow above the ground,  $t$  is the time elapsed since the arrow was projected upward, and  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity ( $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ ).

30

What is the maximum height from the ground the arrow will rise to the nearest meter?

31

How long will it take for the arrow to reach its maximum height to the nearest tenth of a second?

**STOP**

If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.

Do not turn to any other section.