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ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the passages that follow, some words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the answer column, you will find alternatives for the words and phrases that are underlined. Choose the alternative that you think is best, and fill in the corresponding bubble on your answer sheet. If you think that the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE,” which will always be either answer choice A or F. You will also find questions about a particular section of the

passage, or about the entire passage. These questions will be identified either by an underlined portion or by a number in a box. Look for the answer that clearly expresses the idea, is consistent with the style and tone of the passage, and makes the correct use of standard written English. Read the passage through once before answering the questions. For some questions, you should read beyond the indicated portion before you answer.

PASSAGE I

Hair-raising Problems

Why is it that we are so completely obsessive¹ with the hair on our heads? Millions of dollars are spent each year on cutting hair, lengthening hair, bleaching hair, straightening hair, curling hair, highlighting hair, and even growing hair; whatever you can do to hair, someone is willing to pay the money² to do it. Natural redheads long

for to be³ brunettes and dishwater blondes dream of shiny golden tresses. Both men and women cringe at the sight of each gray hair, so⁴ teenagers enjoy weekly experiments with magenta dyes, spikes, and tangerine streaks.

All of these thoughts cross my mind as I examine the result of⁵ my most recent hair adventure. As a mature

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. obsessed
C. obsessing
D. obsessed

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. pay
H. paying money
J. have paid

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. to have
C. to be
D. becoming for

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. however
H. yet
J. and

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. result for
C. result with
D. result by

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

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woman watching the gray hairs mixing in rapidly with my

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natural brunette tones, I decided over a year ago, to

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approach my stylist with the idea of highlights. Having seen many of my peers go this route, I figured that

highlighting was for to be the answer to my reluctance to look my age.

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[1] The monthly highlighting went well: excepting for those times when my hair turned out a little too subdued, making me look partially gray instead of brunette. [2] I suffered through it remarkably well, saying to myself, “She’ll get it right the next time.” [3] For the most part, I’ve enjoyed my year of highlights, so much so that I bravely approached Donna, my stylist, two months ago and proclaimed that I was done with wimpy highlighting and ready to go blonde. [4] The result was not quite what I expected, but I resolved to live with it! [11] [5] Donna was surprised at my suggestion, but quickly began sharing my

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unbridled enthusiasm as she gathers the appropriate chemicals and concoctions that would soon transform me.

12

Three months later, I find myself seesawing between tears and laughter as I attempt to cover up a patch of nearly bald scalp on the top of my head. For someone who has long been fanatical about the appearance of her hair, this absence of hair has proven to be quite a challenge to my ego and self-confidence. I’ve always enjoyed styling my hair, and suddenly, I have nothing to style.

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6. F. NO CHANGE
G. rapidly mixing
H. mixed rapidly in
J. rapidly mix in to

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. ago to
C. ago: to
D. ago to,

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. was being
H. could of been
J. was

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. well, except
C. well except
D. well. Except

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. Also
H. Instead
J. In light of this

11. For the sake of logic and coherence, Sentence 5 should be placed:
A. where it is now.
B. before Sentence 1.
C. after Sentence 2.
D. before Sentence 4.

12. F. NO CHANGE
G. she was gathering
H. she had been gathering
J. she gathered

13. A. NO CHANGE
B. along with
C. or
D. as well as

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Each time I begin to experience a new pang of disgust and despair over this new hair anomaly, I once again ask myself why we are so obsessed with the hair on our heads. The answer always comes to me in a flash, in a simple two-word phrase: pure vanity. Soon after this realization, I cease my crying. [14]

14. The writer is considering deleting the preceding sentence. If the sentence was deleted, the essay would primarily lose:
- F. a summary of the essay.
 - G. the narrator's ability to put her situation into perspective.
 - H. a stylistic link to the essay's introduction.
 - J. an understanding of the author's purpose in writing the essay.

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. Suppose the writer had chosen to write a how-to article for people wanting to change their hair color. Would this essay fulfill the writer's goal?
- A. Yes, because the author's approach to changing her own hair color would ease the anxiety of others wishing to do the same.
 - B. Yes, because this essay emphasizes the universality of people changing their hairstyles and hair color.
 - C. No, because this article only deals with the narrator's own experimentation with her hair and does not provide steps for others to do the same.
 - D. No, because the essay discourages people from changing their hair color.

PASSAGE II

A Modern Blacksmith

You will probably never find his name in a history book, but to this day, Walker Lee continues to contribute to

America heritage. Walker Lee is an old-fashioned, modern-

16

day blacksmith who still practices the fine art of

manipulating metal over a hot fire. In his words,

"Blacksmithing is no dying art!"

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. American heritage.
H. Americas heritage.
J. American's heritage.

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. who still continues to practice
C. who continues to still practice
D. who practices still

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Walker Lee had begin his career in hand-forged
ironwork at the age of 30. The idea of creating an object

out of iron, a most intractable material, appealed to him.
He started on this new venture by collecting and reading
every book he could find that described the process of
blacksmithing: its history, its practical and decorative uses,
and the equipment needed to establish and outfit his own
smithy. During the course of his research, Lee discovered a
tool necessary for the success of any blacksmith: the anvil,
a heavy block of iron or steel upon which the blacksmith
hammered and shaped the malleable metal.

Lee bought his first anvil from 84-year-old Hurley
Alford Templeton of Philadelphia, lugging it home to
Michigan in the back of a 4-H county bus. This anvil
weighed 100 pounds, about the minimum size Walker Lee
needed to get started in his craft.

Lee's first anvil cost him \$100, and four months later,
he paid \$75 for an additional implement—a vice—from
Cornell University in New York. This important tool also
made its way back to Michigan in the back of Lee's 4-H bus.

Lee had spent the summer carting 4-H groups out
from Michigan to the east coast for

18. F. NO CHANGE
G. had begun
H. begun
J. began

19. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. one of the most intractable metals, iron,
B. a most intractable material, that being iron
C. iron (a most intractable material)
D. a most intractable material, iron,

20. Which choice most emphasizes the difficulty in moving the large anvil?
F. NO CHANGE
G. taking
H. driving
J. transporting

21. At this point, the writer wants to express how Lee first began the craft of blacksmithing. Which choice would most effectively accomplish this task?
A. NO CHANGE
B. continue
C. keep going
D. move on

22. F. NO CHANGE
G. it's
H. its'
J. the

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. Carting 4-H groups out from Michigan to the east coast for various county fairs and expositions, Lee had spent the summer.
C. Lee had spent the summer, for various county fairs and expositions, carting 4-H groups out from Michigan to the east coast.
D. OMIT the underlined portion.

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various county fairs and expositions.

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Once Lee obtained his first portable forge, he was ready to build his blacksmith shop, commonly referred to as a “smithy.” In the interest of economy, he constructed this shop out of inexpensive oak planks and tarpaper. It

was a crude little shack but stood for only nine years. Lee, who by then was completely hooked on blacksmithing, replaced his first shop with a finer one made of more expensive wood; this shop also had glass windows, a definite improvement over Lee’s original “smithy.”

[1] The very first object Lee forged was a long, pointed Hudson Bay dagger.
 [2] Many people refer to this type of knife as a “dag.”
 [3] As he recalls that event he says, “From the minute I first saw the thing take shape, I was hooked . . . still am. There’s an element of magic in it to me. You heat it up and pound it with a hammer and it goes where you want it to go.” [4] Years later at a family event Lee, discovered that his Italian ancestors were accomplished coppersmiths.
 [5] During the gathering, Lee’s great uncle Johnny was proclaiming that Lee’s propensity for blacksmithing was “in the blood” as he happily presented Lee with a new 125-pound anvil. [29]

24. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would most effectively introduce the subject of this paragraph?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. Obtaining a portable forge for the shop proved to be Lee’s biggest challenge.
- H. Blacksmith shops can be difficult to construct, but the most challenging task is moving the necessary equipment into it.
- J. A blacksmith’s forge requires some type of blower in order to keep the fire hot enough to bend the steel.

25. A. NO CHANGE
 B. that stood for
 C. which standing for
 D. and stands for

26. F. NO CHANGE
 G. long pointed,
 H. long, and pointed
 J. long-pointed

27. A. NO CHANGE
 B. later at a family, event Lee
 C. later, at a family event, Lee,
 D. later, at a family event, Lee

28. F. NO CHANGE
 G. proclaimed
 H. had been proclaiming
 J. having proclaimed

29. Which of the following sentences in this paragraph is LEAST relevant to the main focus of the essay and, therefore, could be deleted?
 A. Sentence 2
 B. Sentence 3
 C. Sentence 4
 D. Sentence 5

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As an outside observer watches Walker Lee ³⁰ bending and shaping a hot metal rod into some recognizable form, it is difficult to discern the origin of the magic Lee spoke of; is it in the glowing, orange steel or in Walker himself?

30. F. NO CHANGE
G. was watching
H. had been watching
J. watched

PASSAGE III

Scorpion Scare

As my sister begins by telling me about the ³¹ scorpion in her bed that stung her as she slumbered, I could feel my eyes popping out of my head ³² and my jaw dropping to the floor. She seemed so calm telling me this story, and all I could think about was ³³ how that she's lucky to be alive. Diana's terrifying story ³⁴ continued, detailing how her husband threw back the bed covers, began beating the dreaded thing with a broom, and then quickly flushed it down the toilet. Only later did they ³⁵ learn that the corpse should have been kept for identification purposes. Some Arizonan scorpions are deadlier than others, and it is important to know which ³⁶ species is responsible for a given attack.

My sister characteristically chose not to seek medical treatment as her upper arm first swelled, then ached with pain, and finally became numb and useless. ³⁷ As her condition worsened, she searched the Internet for general information, discovering time and again that species identification is important in administering proper care to the sting victim.

31. A. NO CHANGE
B. begun
C. had begun
D. began
32. F. NO CHANGE
G. slumbered I could
H. slumbered I could,
J. slumbered, I could,
33. A. NO CHANGE
B. could have thought
C. think
D. had thought
34. F. NO CHANGE
G. because she is
H. how she is
J. she is
35. A. NO CHANGE
B. flush
C. flushing
D. flushes
36. F. NO CHANGE
G. are more deadlier than others
H. being more deadly than others
J. more deadly than others
37. Assuming that all of the choices are true, which one best links the preceding sentence with the rest of the paragraph?
A. You could say that Diana is afraid of hospitals, doctors, and nurses.
B. Most scorpion bites should be examined by a medical professional.
C. My sister's physician had treated many scorpion bites.
D. Symptoms of a scorpion sting can vary from one person to another.

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Scorpions will sting anyone they accidentally encounter as they crawl inadvertently into human habitats. Most problems occur at construction sites where the

scorpions natural homes have been upset and uprooted by

bulldozers and dump trucks. Of the ninety scorpion species native to the United States, 30 percent live in

Arizona. Unfortunately, one of those species is the

Bark Scorpion, just about the only species whose venom is considered truly dangerous and often fatal to humans.

My sister and her husband just moved into a new home a year ago, and dozens of homes are still being built all around them. This, indeed, is a perfect explanation for the presence of a scorpion in their bedclothes. Scorpions hide during the day and search for food and water at night. Arizonans will tell you that it's a good idea to refrain from going barefoot in the dark, both outside and inside.

Checking your shoes and clothes before putting them on wouldn't hurt, either, particularly if you know you're in an area where scorpions have been found. Wherever there is one scorpion, there are probably dozens more that can be easily detected with a black light at night when they're on the move.

[1] If a scorpion happens to sting you, please don't follow my sister's example. [2] All medical facilities in Arizona have antivenin on hand. [3] Seek medical

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. inadvertently crawl
H. are crawling inadvertently
J. crawl

39. A. NO CHANGE
B. scorpion's naturally
C. scorpion natural
D. scorpions' natural

40. F. NO CHANGE
G. In Arizona, about 30 percent of the ninety scorpion species native to the United States live.
H. Arizona has about 30 percent of the ninety scorpion species, living in the United States.
J. Of the ninety species of scorpions, 30 percent native to the United States live in Arizona.

41. A. NO CHANGE
B. Bark Scorpion which is just about the only species
C. only one that is the Bark Scorpion species,
D. Bark Scorpion, yet just about the only species

42. If the author were to delete the phrase "both outside and inside," the essay would primarily lose a detail that:
F. adds essential information to the discussion of Arizona.
G. is not particularly necessary to the impact of the essay.
H. supports the reference to the scorpions' behavior.
J. adds an element of humor to the essay's theme.

43. A. NO CHANGE
B. happened to sting
C. happen to sting
D. stung

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treatment immediately, especially if you've flushed the critter down the toilet and have no way of knowing the exact nature of the perpetrator! [4] This way, you will certainly save yourself from some amount of pain and discomfort, and you might even save your life. [44]

44. For the sake of coherence, Sentence 2 should be placed:
- F. Where it is now.
 - G. Before sentence 1.
 - H. After sentence 3.
 - J. Omit it; it is not relevant to the paragraph.

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. Suppose the writer had intended to write a medical column that would offer professional advice on the treatment of scorpion stings. Would this essay successfully fulfill this goal?
- A. Yes, because this essay describes the steps that need to be taken if a person is stung by a scorpion.
 - B. Yes, because it is clear in the essay that the writer possesses professional knowledge on the topic of scorpion stings.
 - C. No, because the writer is describing only one personal incident about a scorpion sting and is offering personal, not professional, advice.
 - D. No, because there are too many species of scorpions to allow a short essay to provide professional advice on the treatment of scorpion stings.

PASSAGE IV

Unfulfilled Promises

If you have ever entered a contest of any sort—you are well aware of the legal requirements, ⁴⁶exclusions, and

disclaimers that always accompany the contest's entry form. Many laws today ⁴⁷regulate a contest sponsor's responsibilities to the entrants, and courts are filled with lawsuits asserting with non-compliance on both sides. ⁴⁸However, this was not always the case.

In 1896, a contest motivated a Norwegian immigrant, Helga Estby, to travel nearly 3,500 miles on foot from the state of Washington to New York City. Unfortunately, as is ⁴⁹still sometimes true, Helga won the competition

46. F. NO CHANGE
G. sort; you
H. sort you
J. sort, you
47. A. NO CHANGE
B. always are accompanying
C. accompany always
D. are accompanying
48. F. NO CHANGE
G. lawsuits asserting non-compliance
H. lawsuits of non-compliance asserting
J. non-compliance lawsuits asserting
49. A. NO CHANGE
B. on foot, 3,500 miles
C. 3,500 miles on feet
D. 3,500 miles per foot

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only to find that the promise \$10,000 award was mysteriously absent.
50

[1] Helga had been living on her farm with her husband and nine children in Spokane, Washington, when she read of a \$10,000 prize being offered to a woman who was willing to walk across the country. [2] Because the Estby farm was facing foreclosure, Helga decided that walking across the country in a bicycle skirt for that kind of money was a small price to pay for a greater rewarding. [3] At the
52

time, this style of skirt was considered to be inappropriate because it revealed the female ankle. [4] The only requirement, from all accounts, was that she wear a modern, newfangled bicycle skirt as she traveled. [53]

So, in May of 1896, Helga and her 18-year-old daughter, Clara, had set off on their long journey.
54

Helga carried a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper for protection. Presumably, Helga and Clara found food and shelter along the way, and they arrived in New York City in December, seven months after their departure. The contest sponsors, however, were to be found nowhere.
55
56

This story of bravery and persistence had therefore been kept a secret for nearly a century, primarily because Helga's seven-month absence from the farm wreaked havoc on her family. Two of her children died of diphtheria while she was gone. Even worse, her husband had sequestered the surviving children in an

- 50. F. NO CHANGE
- G. promise for the
- H. promised
- J. promising

- 51. A. NO CHANGE
- B. been living
- C. has been living
- D. had lived

- 52. F. NO CHANGE
- G. greatly rewarding
- H. great reward
- J. greatest reward

- 53. Which of the following sequences of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?
- A. NO CHANGE
- B. 1, 3, 2, 4
- C. 3, 2, 4, 1
- D. 1, 4, 3, 2

- 54. F. NO CHANGE
- G. have set off
- H. set off
- J. went to set off

- 55. A. NO CHANGE
- B. For protection, Helga carried a revolver as well as a red pepper-containing spray gun.
- C. Helga, for protection, she carried a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper.
- D. Carried by Helga for protection were a revolver and a spray gun containing red pepper.

- 56. F. NO CHANGE
- G. were nowhere when found
- H. to be found nowhere
- J. were nowhere to be found

- 57. A. NO CHANGE
- B. had been kept a secret
- C. had been actually kept a secret
- D. had in fact been kept a secret

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unheated shed, thinking that this was the only way to keep them from being infected with the disease. Since the contest sponsor failed to award Helga the money, the Estbys ended up losing the farm; her expedition had been a disaster.

At the time, Helga's trip was considered an embarrassment by the Norwegian-American community and was kept utterly quiet. After Helga's death, her own children burned the hundreds of pages Helga had written through the years, leaving only a small scrapbook of newspaper clippings and very few details of Helga's life or her ill-fated trip. Looking back 100 years, one can only marvel at the boldness and bravery that must have energized Helga Estby to make that journey on foot across the country in an effort to save her family farm. ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ ⁶⁰

58. F. NO CHANGE
 G. years leaving only
 H. years; leaving only
 J. years leaving only,

59. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would best conclude the sentence while providing the reader with the most specific explanation for Helga's motivation to walk across the country?
 A. NO CHANGE
 B. to win \$10,000.
 C. in an effort to save her children from diphtheria.
 D. to help her daughter Clara gain experience.

Question 60 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

60. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence:
- In 1984, Helga's great-great-grandson wrote a story about his ancestor for a history assignment.
- Should the writer make this addition here?
- F. Yes, because it links the ending of the essay to its introduction.
 G. Yes, because this information is highly relevant to the rest of the essay.
 H. No, because this story might not focus on Helga's farm.
 J. No, because this information introduces a new subtopic of the essay.

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PASSAGE V

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. You may be asked questions about the logical order of the paragraphs, as well as where to place sentences logically within any given paragraph.

Jet Lag

[1]

Traveling across time zones particularly via airplane, can be very disconcerting to the human body, both physically and mentally. When you “gain” or “lose” time going from Point A to Point B, a condition (*desynchronosis*) likely affects you in some form. Jet lag is medically considered a sleeping disorder, although it is normally a temporary

condition and not as serious as other sleeping dysfunctions.

[2]

[64] The term “circadian” originates from the Latin *circa*, meaning “about,” and *diem* or “day.” Circadian rhythms refer to a variety of daily bodily functions such as temperature changes, sleep patterns, and digestive functions. Normally, the body operates on a 24-hour time period that coincides with the earth’s 24-hour cycle of night and day. The human body generally falls into a routine of sleeping and waking; that is, regular changes in body temperature, breathing, and digestion

take place. In addition, most

who’s inner clocks cause more sleepiness from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and again from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Body temperature usually rises as the day goes on, quickly drops around midnight, and then begins

61. A. NO CHANGE
B. zones; particularly
C. zones, particularly,
D. zones, particularly
62. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would provide the most detailed and relevant information at this point in the essay?
F. NO CHANGE
G. a condition called *desynchronosis*, commonly known as jet lag,
H. a condition known as *desynchronosis*
J. a condition of jet lag
63. A. NO CHANGE
B. not serious
C. serious as not
D. as serious as
64. Which of the following sentences would most effectively introduce the subject of this paragraph and act as a transition from the preceding paragraph?
F. Many scientific words have Latin origins.
G. Sleeping disorders can produce a great deal of stress and anxiety.
H. Most travelers are unaware of the exact moment that they leave one time zone and enter another.
J. Traveling across time zones over a short period of time disturbs the body’s circadian rhythms.
65. A. NO CHANGE
B. waking regular
C. waking, during which regular
D. waking. Regular
66. F. NO CHANGE
G. Likewise
H. Instead
J. For example
67. A. NO CHANGE
B. of our inner clocks
C. whose inner clocks
D. of us inner clock’s

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the cycle of rising again just before 6:00 a.m. Since these⁶⁸ changes occur on a twenty-four-hour cycle, so abrupt time zone changes can understandably upset the body's

highly well-tuned in⁶⁹ system of regulation.

[3]

Some symptoms of jet lag include excessive daytime sleepiness or some level of insomnia at night, changes in appetite and/or digestion, moodiness, and difficulty concentrating. Often, after traveling on a plane for⁷⁰ long periods,⁷⁰ people will also experience headaches, dry sinuses, earaches, and bloating. However, these symptoms

are more likely being attributable⁷¹ to the conditions of the

airplane cabin, which has a very dry pressurized,⁷² atmosphere, and are not symptomatic of jet lag.

[4]

[1] There are steps that can be taken to alleviate the effects of jet lag, primarily as preventive measures.

[2] First, it might be helpful to slightly alter your sleeping schedule for several days before your trip. [3] If you are⁷³ going east, for example,⁷³ go to bed one hour earlier and rise the next day an hour earlier so that you will be somewhat more acclimated to the new time zone. [4] Regulating your exposure to light can also be helpful, since light and darkness serve as triggers to the brain. [5] Before traveling west, expose yourself to evening light and avoid early morning light for several days as a way of simulating the new time zone you're headed toward. [6] Some say it takes about one day for every hour of time zone change to completely adjust to the new time zone. [7] Unfortunately

68. F. NO CHANGE
G. However, these
H. Because these
J. These

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. well-tuned
C. highly tuned well
D. high

70. F. NO CHANGE
G. Often, after doing a lot of traveling on a plane for long periods
H. After traveling for long periods on a plane sometimes
J. Traveling for long periods on a plane

71. A. NO CHANGE
B. are more likely to be attributable
C. are attributable, more likely,
D. are more likely attributable

72. F. NO CHANGE
G. dry, pressurized
H. dry, pressurized,
J. dry pressurized

73. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. trip. When traveling east, for example,
B. trip; if you are going east for example,
C. trip. For example, if you are going east,
D. trip, if you are going east for example,

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for many, that formula often coincides precisely with the return trip. [8] Avoiding caffeine and alcohol may also aid your body in adjusting to its new environment. [74]

74. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 8 should be placed:
- F. where it is now.
 - G. after Sentence 4.
 - H. before Sentence 6.
 - J. before Sentence 7.

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

75. The writer wishes to add the following sentence in order to show that jet lag can sometimes be a more serious problem:
- There are those, however, who routinely fly across continents either for pleasure or business, and jet lag can become a more serious issue for these people.
- The new sentence would best support and be placed at the end of Paragraph:
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

END OF THE ENGLISH TEST.

STOP! IF YOU HAVE TIME LEFT OVER, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.