SAT Grammar Practice

Questions first. Answers and explanations at the end.

Question 1: Essential names

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tracks comparative price list data for its thirty-eight member countries. According to this data, in July 2021, a “basket” of goods and services priced at 100 US dollars (USD) in the United States would have cost 55 USD in fellow OECD member _____

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

A. nation: Costa Rica.

B. nation — Costa Rica.

C. nation Costa Rica.

D. nation, Costa Rica.

Question 2: Non-essential clauses

Many experts, like lawyer and cycling advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez, have proposed bike travel as one possible way to alleviate congestion on the busy roadways of Los Angeles County, California. Indeed, local bicycle paths like the El Dorado Park bicycle _____ have become an increasingly popular means of travel for commuter and recreational trips alike.

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

A. path, which is 4 miles long

B. path which is 4 miles long —

C. path, which is 4 miles long,

D. path: which is 4 miles long,

Question 3: Titles and names

In Los Angeles County, California, bicycle paths such as the Legg Lake bicycle path—which is 2.2 miles long—have become an increasingly popular means of travel. Moreover, lawyer and cycling _____ has identified several features of the Los Angeles landscape, like its temperate climate and mostly flat roads, that make the city naturally bike-friendly.

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

A. advocate, Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,

B. advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez,

C. advocate, Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez

D. advocate Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez

Question 4: Independent-clause boundaries

Sociologist Alton Okinaka sits on the review board tasked with adding new sites to the Hawaii Register of Historic Places, which includes Grove Farm, established in 1864, and the Kauai Belt Road, a section of Route 560 along the north coast. Okinaka doesn’t make such decisions single-handedly, ____ historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts.

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

A. however. All

B. however all

C. however, all

D. however and all

Question 5: Subject-verb agreement

Florence Este and Lily Everett were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City art exhibition that introduced modernism to American audiences. Though shocking at the time, an abstract cubist painting exhibited by Marcel Duchamp — one of several works that received scorn from critics— ____ the Western art canon more than a century later.

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

A. were entering

B. enter

C. has entered

D. have entered

Answers and explanations

Question 1: C

Costa Rica identifies the fellow OECD member nation. Keep the identifying name attached to nation, with no colon, dash, or comma.

Question 2: C

The added description ‘which is 4 miles long’ needs a comma at both ends. Remove it and the sentence still reads ‘local bicycle paths like the El Dorado Park bicycle path have become…’ A supplies only the opening comma, B mixes punctuation, and D inserts an invalid colon.

Question 3: D

The identifying description ‘lawyer and cycling advocate’ leads directly into Ernesto Hernandez-Lopez. No comma belongs between the description and name, and no lone comma belongs between the full subject and has identified.

Question 4: A

‘Okinaka doesn’t make such decisions single-handedly, however’ is one complete sentence. ‘All historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts’ is another. However belongs at the end of the first sentence here; the period supplies the boundary.

Question 5: C

The subject is the singular noun painting. The plural words works and critics sit inside the non-essential description and do not control the verb. Has entered supplies the singular finite verb the clause needs.

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