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39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST)

SN301

Principals of Advanced English Composition

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST) SN301 , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, SN301
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following sentences demonstrates correct use of a restrictive clause?

- ☐ A The students, who passed the exam, were celebrated at the assembly.
- ☒ B The students who passed the exam were celebrated at the assembly.
- ☐ C The students, who passed the exam were celebrated at the assembly.
- ☐ D The students who passed the exam, were celebrated at the assembly.

ANSWER B

WHY A restrictive clause limits or defines the noun it modifies and should not be set off by commas. Option B correctly identifies 'the students who passed the exam' as a specific group without unnecessary punctuation. Option A incorrectly treats the clause as nonrestrictive with commas. Options C and D misuse commas by placing them in improper locations.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

In a deductive argument, the conclusion follows necessarily from the premises. Which of the following best illustrates a deductive argument?

- ☐ A All observed swans are white; therefore, all swans are white.
- ☒ B Every mammal has a heart; all dogs are mammals; therefore, all dogs have hearts.
- ☐ C Most professors hold advanced degrees; Dr. Smith is a professor; therefore, Dr. Smith holds an advanced degree.
- ☐ D The sun has risen every day in recorded history; therefore, it will rise tomorrow.

ANSWER B

WHY A deductive argument moves from a general premise to a specific, necessary conclusion. Option B follows this form: a general rule, a categorization, and a logically necessary conclusion. Options A and D are inductive generalizations based on observation. Option C uses an inductive premise ('most') rather than a universal claim, making the conclusion probable rather than certain.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Which revision most effectively reduces wordiness in the following sentence? 'The report, which was prepared by the committee that was appointed to investigate the matter, contained several recommendations that were significant.'

- ☒ **A** The report, prepared by the investigating committee, contained several significant recommendations.
- ☐ **B** The report which was prepared by the committee that was appointed to investigate the matter contained recommendations that were of significance.
- ☐ **C** The committee prepared a report with recommendations.
- ☐ **D** The report prepared by the committee contained several recommendations that were highly significant and important.

ANSWER A

WHY Option A retains the meaning and necessary detail while eliminating redundancy by converting 'the committee that was appointed to investigate the matter' into 'the investigating committee' and removing 'that were significant' in favor of 'significant.' Option B removes commas but adds words, increasing wordiness. Option C strips away too much detail. Option D adds redundant intensifiers ('highly significant and important'), increasing rather than reducing wordiness.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

Which sentence demonstrates effective parallel structure?

- ☐ A She enjoys running, to swim, and biking on the weekends.
- ☐ B The manager is responsible for hiring, training, and to supervise new employees.
- ☒ C The professor encouraged students to read widely, think critically, and write persuasively.
- ☐ D He wanted either to attend the conference or presenting his findings virtually.

ANSWER C

WHY Parallel structure requires that items in a list take the same grammatical form. Option C presents three infinitives ('to read,' 'to think,' 'to write') functioning as adverbial phrases — although written as bare verbs, they are parallel in form within the sentence. Option A mixes a gerund, infinitive, and gerund. Option B mixes a gerund with an infinitive. Option D mixes infinitives with a gerund.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

An advertisement claims that nine out of ten dentists recommend a particular brand of toothpaste. This appeal primarily relies on which rhetorical strategy?

- ☐ A Ethos
- ☐ B Pathos
- ☒ C Logos
- ☐ D Kairos

ANSWER C

WHY Logos refers to appeals to logic, reason, and evidence, often including statistical claims. Citing a numerical ratio from a credible-sounding professional source uses statistical evidence to support a logical claim. Ethos relies on the speaker's credibility; pathos appeals to emotion; kairos refers to timeliness or context. While ethos is also present, the primary strategy of the statistical claim itself is logos.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following sentences correctly uses a semicolon?

- ☐ A The conference was postponed; because the keynote speaker became ill.
- ☐ B The proposal was reviewed by three departments; finance, operations, and marketing.
- ☒ C The data were inconclusive; nevertheless, the team proceeded with the original plan.
- ☐ D She had completed the draft; and she had revised it twice before submission.

ANSWER C

WHY A semicolon connects two independent clauses that are closely related in thought, particularly when joined by a conjunctive adverb such as 'nevertheless.' Option C follows this rule correctly. Option A incorrectly joins a dependent clause after the semicolon. Option B should use a colon after a complete sentence or a comma in a list. Option D incorrectly pairs a semicolon with a coordinating conjunction.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

In a thesis-driven academic essay, which statement best serves as an effective thesis?

- ☐ A This essay will discuss the effects of climate change.
- ☐ B Climate change is a problem that many people are concerned about.
- ☒ C Rising sea levels, driven by climate change, threaten coastal economies and necessitate immediate policy reform.
- ☐ D There are some interesting facts about climate change in this paper.

ANSWER C

WHY An effective thesis states a specific, arguable claim that can be supported with evidence and analysis. Option C identifies a specific phenomenon, asserts its effect, and implies a direction for argument. Options A and D merely announce the topic without taking a position. Option B states an obvious fact rather than an arguable claim.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

A politician argues, 'My opponent's plan to reduce military spending will leave the country defenseless, so we must reject it.' Which logical fallacy is most evident in this argument?

- ☐ A Ad hominem
- ☒ B Straw man
- ☐ C Slippery slope
- ☐ D Begging the question

ANSWER B

WHY A straw man fallacy misrepresents an opponent's position to make it easier to attack. By claiming that reducing military spending will leave the country 'defenseless,' the politician distorts a moderate policy into an extreme outcome, then attacks the distorted version. Ad hominem attacks the person; slippery slope claims one step will inevitably lead to extreme consequences; begging the question assumes the conclusion. The strongest match here is straw man, since the opponent's nuanced plan is being caricatured.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following sentences contain subject-verb agreement errors? (Choose two.)

- ☒ A The list of recommended readings were distributed to the class.
- ☐ B Each of the participants has completed the registration form.
- ☐ C The committee, along with the chair and treasurer, are meeting tomorrow.
- ☒ D Neither the manager nor the employees was available for comment.

ANSWER A - D

WHY In Option A, the subject is 'list,' a singular noun, so the verb should be 'was.' In Option D, when subjects are joined by 'neither...nor,' the verb agrees with the nearer subject; 'employees' is plural, so the verb should be 'were.' Option B correctly uses the singular 'has' with 'each.' Option C correctly uses 'is' because the true subject is the singular 'committee,' not the prepositional phrase.