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37	A	B	C	D	E
38	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

College Student (DSST)

SN301

Principals of Advanced English Composition

Uploaded by tex_erin

EDITION

Original Demo

QUESTIONS

5

ISSUED

October 14, 2026

Before you begin

What this is

5 practice questions for College Student (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.

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

Which sentence is grammatically correct and uses punctuation correctly?

- ☐ **A** Although the study had a small sample size its findings were still significant.
- ☒ **B** The committee decided to postpone the vote, because several members were absent.
- ☐ **C** Each of the participants were given a survey to complete before leaving the room.
- ☐ **D** Neither the principal nor the teachers has been informed about the schedule change.

ANSWER B

WHY B correctly uses a comma before the coordinating conjunction linking an independent clause to a dependent clause. A is a comma splice/run-on. C has subject-verb agreement error ('Each...was'). D has subject-verb agreement error ('Neither...nor' takes a singular verb matching the nearer subject 'teachers', which would be 'have been').

QUESTION 2 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are characteristics of an effective thesis statement for an academic argument essay? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** It presents a single, arguable claim that can be supported with evidence.
- ☐ **B** It is phrased as an open-ended question to invite reader exploration.
- ☐ **C** It is broad enough to require multiple paragraphs of focused development.
- ☐ **D** It states an indisputable fact that everyone already accepts.
- ☒ **E** It signals the specific scope and direction of the essay.

ANSWER A - E

WHY An effective thesis must be arguable (A) and specific in scope (E). Open-ended questions (B), indisputable facts (D), and excessive breadth (C) all weaken a thesis because they do not commit the writer to a defensible position that the essay can systematically develop.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A student is writing a body paragraph in an argumentative essay and wants to improve its coherence. Which revision best improves coherence?

- ☐ **A** Remove the topic sentence so the paragraph can flow more naturally into the next one.
- ☒ **B** Begin each supporting sentence with a transitional word or phrase that links back to the topic sentence and to the preceding sentence.
- ☐ **C** Insert several long quotations in place of the writer's own analysis.
- ☐ **D** Begin the paragraph with a general statement about the entire field before narrowing to the specific point.

ANSWER B

WHY Coherence is created when sentences are visibly connected through transitions that refer back to prior content and forward to what follows. Removing the topic sentence (A) sacrifices unity; substituting quotations for analysis (C) weakens development; a broad-to-narrow funnel (D) is acceptable in introductions but not as a coherence strategy within a body paragraph.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A student is told that a paragraph in her essay lacks sufficient development. Which change would most directly address this issue?

- ☒ **A** Add a vivid quotation from a credible source and then explain how it supports the topic sentence.
- ☐ **B** Replace the topic sentence with a question.
- ☐ **C** Combine the paragraph with the previous one to reduce repetition.
- ☐ **D** Remove transitions so the paragraph reads more like a list.

ANSWER A

WHY Development means supplying evidence and analysis that fully support the topic sentence. Adding a relevant, credible quotation and then interpreting it (A) directly extends development. Changing a sentence into a question (B), merging paragraphs (C), and removing transitions (D) do not add the substance needed for development.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

An essay claims that a new policy 'will devastate small businesses.' Which type of evidence would best strengthen this claim?

- ☐ A Anecdotes from a single business owner who opposes the policy.
- ☒ B Statistical data from a credible source showing projected economic impact on small businesses.
- ☐ C Anecdotes from business owners who support the policy.
- ☐ D General statements about how policies sometimes have negative effects.

ANSWER B

WHY A sweeping causal claim like 'will devastate small businesses' requires quantitative, generalizable evidence to be credible. Statistical projections (B) are the strongest fit. Single anecdotes (A), opposing anecdotes (C), and vague generalities (D) do not adequately support a broad predictive claim.