

SAT and ACT Combo Test: Answer Explanations

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Section 4 – SAT Writing and Language Test

9 minutes, 11 questions

1. **The correct answer is D** because it relates to the theme of this passage, digital media. A, B, and C all discuss a topic other than digital media.
2. **The correct answer is A** because it offers information on the current topic of comparing the expanding use of digital media and the diminishing use of literature. B is incorrect because the passage doesn't mention any critics of the author. C is incorrect because this sentence does match the academic tone of the passage. D is incorrect because the sentence supports, rather than contradicts, the author's central claim.
3. **The correct answer is B** because it correctly places a comma before the conjunction in a list with three or more items. (This is often referred to as the Oxford comma. Some businesses and journalists stopped using the Oxford comma for the sake of brevity, but the SAT still uses it.)
4. **The correct answer is A.** When you work on a question about a transition word, read the sentence before and the sentence after the word. Then, select the transition word that best describes the relationship between those two sentences. The two sentences here provide information that is related but not the same. "Moreover" is a good transition for this situation. C and D are incorrect because this is not a cause and effect relationship. B is incorrect because the author is describing something with a generally negative tone.
5. **The correct answer is C** because "lives" should be plural but not possessive. A and D both incorrectly use the possessive. B is an example of poor diction.
6. **The correct answer is C** because the antecedent of this pronoun is "young adults." Therefore, the pronoun needs to be plural. A and B are incorrect because they are singular. D is incorrect because this spelling of the word "there" denotes location.

7. **The correct answer is C** because the word “understanding” commonly pairs with the preposition “of.” A and B are incorrect because “understanding about” and “understanding for” are not idiomatically correct. D is incorrect because it needs a preposition to maintain parallel construction with the phrase “arguments on.”
8. **The correct answer is B** because it correctly places the transition “another benefit” at the beginning of the sentence. A and C abruptly change the topic to reading groups without first connecting to the previous topic. D is incorrect because it incorrectly incorporates a cause-and-effect relationship with the word “since.”
9. **The correct answer is B** because other sentences in the paragraph use the present tense. Both C and D are past tense, and A adds the unnecessary word “being.”
10. **The correct answer is D** because it correctly matches the author’s tone and message. B is incorrect because “embrace” is the opposite of what the author intends to say. A is too casual in tone, and C is too extreme.
11. **The correct answer is D** because the transition “in other words” means this sentence needs to follow another sentence on the same topic. Sentence 4 restates and clarifies the statement “...the perception of otherness by the self.” Therefore, it needs to appear directly after sentence 2.