SAT READING & WRITING SECTION

i.e.

SAT ENGLISH SECTION

FROM: WALTER WHITE HEISENBERG

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SAT - WRITING / GRAMMAR

TRANSITIONS

i) Continuers: sentences expressing similar ideas.
ii) Cause-&-Effect: sentences expressing one action is result of another.
iii) Contradictors: sentences expressing different ideas.

CONTINUERS:

- For Adding information – {Also, And, Furthermore, Moreover, In addition}
- For giving example – {For example, for instance, specifically}
- For emphasizing – {In fact, Indeed}
- For comparing – {Similarly, Likewise}
- Sequence of events – {Previously, Subsequently, Finally, Second, First, Lastly}

CAUSE-&-EFFECT: Accordingly, As a result, As such, For, Hence, Because, Since, So, Thus, Therefore, Consequently, etc.

CONTRADICT: Alternatively, Alternately, But, However, Instead, Meanwhile, Nevertheless, Although, Though, Even though, On the contrary, Otherwise, Rather, Yet, While, Whereas, Conversely, etc.

QUICK TRICKS FOR SOLVING TRANSITION QUESTIONS (may be applicable to only some cases, but not all):

- If the sentences express similar ideas/views - contradictors are eliminated
- If the sentences express different ideas/views – continuers & cause-&-effects are eliminated
- Look out for grammatically identical transitions, those answers are automatically eliminated because no questions can have more than one answer.

  Suppose – in a question, if there are options such as: (Furthermore, Though, Because, However)

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→ However & Though can be eliminated, since they act as identical transitions i.e. contradictors

Examples:

i) Ram was sick. _____ he didn't go to school.
(Also, Therefore, But)
Soln: Sentence 1, Sentence 2 (express one action is result of another) – "Therefore" is the answer.

ii) Hari was sick, _____ he went to school.
(also, therefore, but)
Soln: Sentence 1, Sentence 2 (express different views/ideas) – "but" is the answer.

iii) Ramesh eats bread every morning. _____, he applies jam to the bread before eating.
(Infact, Therefore, But)
Soln: Sentence 1, Sentence 2 (express similar views/ideas in emphasizing way) – "Infact" is the answer.

iv) Although Eliot devoted several years to writing "The Waste Land," it sold only 330 copies in 6 months following its publication in 1922. _____ Eliot was forced to seek other sources of income and he took a job as director of F&F.
(Alternatively, Consequently, Infact, Moreover)
Soln: Sentence 1, Sentence 2 (express one action is result of another) – "Consequently" is the answer.

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- **Additionally** - indicating an added element or circumstance
- **Also** - indicating that something is true in addition to what was already stated
- **Furthermore** - indicating an additional supporting point

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- **Moreover** - indicating that something is true in addition to what was already stated
- **Likewise** - indicating that something is similar to what was previously stated
- **Similarly** - indicating that something is similar to what was previously stated
- **However** - indicating a contrast or exception to what was previously stated
- **Nonetheless** - indicating a contrast or exception to what was previously stated
- **Nevertheless** - indicating a contrast or exception to what was previously stated
- **On the other hand** - indicating a contrast or alternative
- **In contrast** - indicating a contrast or difference
- **Alternatively** - indicating an alternative option or possibility
- **Alternatively, also, as well** - indicating an additional or alternative option or possibility
- **In addition** - indicating an additional element or circumstance
- **Notwithstanding** - indicating a contrast or exception to what was previously stated
- **In fact** - indicating that something is actually true despite what may have been assumed
- **Indeed** - emphasizing that something is true or significant
- **In summary** - indicating a brief overview of what was previously discussed
- **To summarize** - indicating a brief overview of what was previously discussed
- **Therefore** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated

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- **Consequently** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated
- **Thus** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated
- **Hence** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated
- **As a result** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated
- **Accordingly** - indicating a conclusion or consequence based on what was previously stated
- **For example** - introducing an illustrative example to support a point
- **Specifically** - indicating a specific example or detail to support a point
- **In particular** - indicating a specific example or detail to support a point
- **To illustrate** - introducing an illustrative example to support a point

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- **Namely** - introducing a specific or explicit detail or example
- **In other words** - indicating an alternative or clearer way to express what was previously stated
- **That is** - indicating an explanation or clarification of what was previously stated
- **Put another way** - indicating an alternative or clearer way to express what was previously stated
- **To put it simply** - indicating a simplified or clearer way to express what was previously stated
- **As previously stated** - referring back to a previously stated point
- **As mentioned earlier** - referring back to a previously mentioned point
- **To conclude** - indicating a final statement or conclusion
- **Finally** - indicating a final point or conclusion
- **In conclusion** - indicating a final statement or conclusion
- **Lastly** - indicating a final point or conclusion

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STUDENT NOTES

- What we want to present/introduce/emphasize/generalize

COMPARISONS & CONTRASTS: indicates us that two subjects i.e. people/things are either similar of different

Tip-off words used: like, unlike, whereas

FAMILIAR & UNFAMILIAR: indicates us to identify a task/trait that a subject has or doesn't have previous knowledge of it.

Tip-off: "Familiar questions" (stating familiar with/knows about) shouldn't contain background information in the answer options, related to subject mentioned in the question

"Unfamiliar questions" (stating unfamiliar with/doesn't know about) should contain background information in the answer options related to subject mentioned in the question

The student wants to present a similarity between dinosaurs & modern birds. Which choice most effectively was relevant information from the notes to achieve this goal?

a) Dinosaurs' mouths contained teeth; however, birds evolved toothless pick.
b) Mei long, a duck sized bipedal dinosaur was found preserved in volcanic ash.
c) Bird's bones are hollow, a trait that was shared by many dinosaur species.
d) Birds are descended from the theropod group of dinosaurs, which contained Tyrannosaurus rex.

Soln: Read the question: what the question is asking–
A similarity betn dinosaurs & modern birds.
Option (A) has however-> eliminate
Option (B) is unclear to the question asked-> eliminate

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Option (C) tells that a trait is being shared-> keep this as answer
Option (D) is unclear about sharing/having similarity-> eliminate

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PUNCTUATION

NOUN: person (e.g.: Ram), place (e.g.: Oman), object/things (e.g.: Bed), abstract nouns –ends in ment/tion/tude (e.g.: magnitude, judgement)

PRONOUN: you, we, one, he, she, him, her, they, their, this, that, these, those, some, few, many, it

ADJECTIVE: modify nouns/pronouns or other adjectives. (e.g.: large, cute, solid, smart, blue) → ……+adj.+noun/pronoun/other-adj+…….. → e.g.=There is a small fish in the pond.

CONJUNCTION: create relations (e.g.: but, and, because, however, etc.)

ADVERB: for SAT, conjunctive adverbs serves as transitional words (look TRANSITIONS topic)

PREPOSITION: time & location words (e.g.: About, Above, Across, After, Against, Along, Among, Around, Before, Behind, Below, Beneath, Beside, Between, By, For, During, From, In, Inside, Near, Next to, Off, On, Opposite, Outside, Toward, Under, With, Without)

VERB: Tense plays a major role. Infinite verb → to + form of a verb ||| to +be →for past & present ||| to + have →for present tense only I/he/she/it/one are always singular ||| we/they are always plural ||| you can either be singular or plural (depends on case, but mostly plural)

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SENTENCES & FRAGMENTS

Who was one of the greatest dancers of the 20th century.

This is a sentence or a fragment?

➔ Full stop at the end even when starting with wh-word. So, this is a fragment

BUILDING THE SENTENCE

a. Simple sentence ➔ The tomato grows.
b. Prepositional phrase(s) ➔ The tomato grows around the world.
c. Pronoun as a subject ➔ It grows around the world (replace tomato with it).
d. Adverbs ➔ Today, the tomato grows around the world.
   (Slowly, Currently, Importantly, Again, Next, Consequently, Meanwhile, Moreover, Next, Never, Now, Often, Still, Sometimes, Then, Today, Yesterday,…are adverbs of time)
e. Non-essential information ➔ They are surrounded by commas, mostly often begin with wh-words & are usually followed by a verb.
   e.g.: - The tomato, which is actually a fruit, grows around the world.

The red-highlighted part is non-essential information. If you remove it, the sentence would still be meaningful →The tomato grows around the world.

Appositives ➔ non-essential clause (NEC) that begins with noun
e.g.: - A popular salad ingredient, the tomato grows everywhere.

*Exception ➔ "wh-words" functions as a subject too.
e.g.: - Where the meeting would be located was a topic of the intense debate.

f. Participles & Gerunds → Verb+ed/n & Verb+ing.
   Examples: Grown originally in the US, the tomato is now produced in many greenhouses.
   Originating in the US, the tomato is now produced in many greenhouses.

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g. Conjunction →
   a) Coordinating conjunctions – join two independent clauses.
      FANBOYS – (For/And/Nor/But/Or/Yet/So)
   b) Subordinating conjunctions – join an independent clause & a dependent clause.
      Because/Although/Though/As/Despite/Whenever/While/Unless/Whereas/Until/….

Fragment: Today, the tomato being grown in many greenhouses.

Sentence: Today, the tomato is grown in many greenhouses.

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JOINING & SEPARATING SENTENCES

(INDEPENDENT + INDEPENDENT SENTECNCE)

1) PERIOD OR SEMICOLON:
   Period means (.) & Semicolon means (;).
   After using period, the word after it should have first letter capitalized.
   After using semicolon, the word after it shouldn't have first letter capitalized.
   For example:

- Tomatoes are used in different types of cooking. Farmers grow them in fields.
- Tomatoes are used in different types of cooking; farmers grow them in fields.

** Conjunctive adverbs when used to begin a clause, these transitions must follow a period or a semicolon, never a comma.
Incorrect: The tomato is often treated as a vegetable, however, it is actually a fruit.
Correct: The tomato is often treated as a vegetable; however, it is actually a fruit.

Example: American painter Alice Neel is acclaimed for her powerful, psychologically revealing _____ she depicted a wide range of subjects, from her family & friends to prominent critics, artists & strangers.

A. portraiture over the course of her career
B. portraiture. Over the course of her career,
C. portraiture, over the course of her career,
D. portraiture over the course of her career,

First sentence: Alice Neel is ….. – Sub + verb + …..
Second sentence: she depicted ….. – Sub + verb + …..
Two independent clauses means look out for period/semicolon in the option to separate those two sentences. B is the correct answer.

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2) COMMA + FANBOYS:
Comma (,)
F-For, A-And, N-Nor, B-But, O-Or, Y-Yet, S-So.

- When a FANBOYS Conjunction is used without a comma to join the sentences, the result is a run-on sentence.
- Likewise, a FANBOYS Conjunction shouldn't be used after a period or a semicolon. They are incorrect & can be automatically eliminated from the options.
- When the subject is same in both clause & is not repeated in 2nd clause, do not use a comma.

Tomatoes are used in many different types of cooking and they are grown around the world. (This is a run-on sentence)
Correction : Tomatoes are used in many different types of cooking, and they are grown around the world.

Incorrect: Tomatoes are used in many different types of cooking, and are grown around the world.
Correction: Tomatoes are used in many different types of cooking and are grown around the world.

VERY IMPORTANT :

SEMICOLON (;) = PERIOD (.) = COMMA (,)+FANBOYS
are grammatically identical, you will not be asked to choose among them. If more than one of these appeared as options (in correct format), you can eliminate them because there is only one possible answer to the question.

Let's check and understand with an example:

Astronomers have long suspected that the tilt of Saturn's rings comes from gravitational interaction between Saturn & Neptune. Recent modeling suggests that although the orbits of Saturn & Neptune were once _____ has escaped Neptune's pull.

A. in sync, Saturn
B. in sync. Saturn
C. in sync; Saturn

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D. in sync, but Saturn

Remember → (;) = (.) = (, + but)

Option B, C, D are grammatically identical. So, option A is correct.

3) COLON = DASH:

Colon means (:) & Dash means (–).

It is also possible to separate two independent clauses with colon or dash, but only when the 2nd clause explains or describes about the 1st clause.

- ; / . + Conjunctive adverbs (Transitional words) when used to begin a clause

  e.g.: – However, almost twenty of Devkota's plays survive.
- , + FANBOYS

Comma Splices

When a comma alone is used to separate two independent clauses, the result is known as comma splices.

Two reasons: Pronoun as a subject & Adverb at the start of a clause

If given: comma + pronoun → This is wrong

Example:

- Euripides is identified with many theatrical innovations that have profoundly influenced modern _____ for the representation of heroes as ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary sentences.

A. drama; and he is particularly known
B. drama, he is particularly known
C. drama he is particularly known
D. drama. He is particularly known

Option A is wrong because (; cannot be used before FANBOYS).
Option B is wrong because (comma + pronoun).
Option C is wrong because (it becomes run-on without separating).
Option D is correct as (period separates the sentence perfectly).

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- The production of ceramics in China, which began during the Neolithic period, has continued until the present _____ range from bricks to tiles, to hand-built pots & jars fired in kiln, to the refined porcelain wares made originally for imperial court & later for export.

A. day, although construction materials
B. day, construction materials
C. day: although construction materials
D. day; although construction materials

Two independent clauses – so, option A & B are eliminated. Now, remain options C & D. Here, D is correct option, not option C, because the 2nd clause is giving additional information about the subject, but not providing explanation.

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JOINING & SEPARATING SENTENCES & FRAGMENTS

(INDEPENDENT + DEPENDENT SENTECNCE)

Sentences → Independent clauses & Fragments → Dependent clauses

NEC → Non-Essential Clauses

- So, only comma, colon or dash are used, but not period & semicolon.

Clauses that begin with subordinating conjunctions are always dependent. (After / Although / As / Because / Before / Despite / Since / If / Though / When / Unless / Until / Whereas / Whenever / While / Eventhough)

- When a dependent clause begins by one of the above conjunctions come before an independent clause, a comma must be placed between the clauses.

Incorrect: Because Ram never learned to read music he learned his songs by ear.

Correction: Because Ram never learned to read music, he learned his songs by ear.

- When an independent clause comes first, comma is usually unnecessary, except in case of strong subordinating conjunctions such as although/though/eventhough.

Incorrect: Ram became one of the most famous singers although he never learned to read music.

Correction: Ram became one of the most famous singers, although he never learned to read music.

- 'which' can be used to join an independent & a dependent clause. The clause begun by 'which' is always dependent & must follow a comma.

➔ The Mid-Autumn Festival dates back to China's Shang Dynasty, which lasted from 1600 B.C. until 1064 B.C.

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DOUBLE CONJUNCTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE – only Subordinating conjunctions or FANBOYS can be used at once.

Example:

Most of the marine life that inhabits the tropics is characterized by a lack of fat reserves; however, this is not true for all species. For example, although the pompano has a substantial layer of fat beneath its _____ it is typically found in the warm waters around Florida.

A. skin, but (eliminate)
B. skin and (eliminate)
C. skin that (eliminate)
D. skin,

➔ There is a presence of 'although' in the question, which is a subordinating conjunction. Due to this, FANBOYS cannot be used (i.e. but, and). So, option D is grammatically correct.

Colon → any answer that places a colon before such as or including is incorrect.

E.g.: - George Picker chronicled artists such as: folk singers & jazz musicians (Incorrect)

→ George Picker chronicled artists such as folk singers & jazz musicians. (Correct)

Dash → mostly used to deliberately interrupt a statement or to create a dramatic pause or sense of suspense.

E.g.: - Universities have historically offered a wide variety of continuing education classes – but the ways in which those classes are offered in rapidly changing.

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NOT-ESSENTIAL & ESSENTIAL CLAUSES

➔ NEC often begins with 'wh-words' but they can also begin with nouns (appositives) & participles (-ing, -ed, -n)

Example: The city of London, which was originally built by the Romans along the banks of the Thames more than two thousand years _____ a number of extremely modern neighborhoods.

A. ago contains
B. ago; contains
C. ago, containing
D. ago, contains

→Plug in either C or D. Remove the NEC, then the suitable option will be D.

Note: Phrase between two commas are not always NEC. So, read and observe carefully whether the meaning of the sentence alters or not when removing them.

Example: During the Middle ages, London was one of the largest cities in Europe, and today it remains an important cultural center.
If we remove: London ……Europe, there will be no sense.

Two commas vs Period or Semicolon

For single-word transitions such as however, therefore, for example, etc.

- The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest. Nearly a thousand years later, however, it still remains standing.
- The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest. However, nearly a thousand years later, it still remains standing.

Incorrect: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest, however, nearly a thousand years later, it still remains standing.

If removing this 'however', there will be two independent clauses without any punctuation.

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Two commas / Two dashes /Two parentheses

➔ In place of two commas, two dashes or two parentheses can be used, but they can't be mix-matched.

, which ……..in KTM,
-which ……..in KTM-
(which ……..in KTM)

(which ……..in KTM-
-which ……..in KTM,

Note: Another potential error involves placing both commas & parentheses around NEC. Either commas or parentheses should be used, not the one having both.

Example: In the decades following the Norman invasion of England in1066, many important defensive structures were built. For example, The Tower of _____ remains one of the largest fortifications in England.

A. London, (which was begun by William in 1078),
B. London, (which was begun by William in 1078)
C. London (which was begun by William in 1078),
D. London (which was begun by William in 1078)

Checking: Option A: comma/ open parentheses/ close parentheses/comma
Option B: comma/ open parentheses / close parentheses
Option C: open parentheses / close parentheses/comma
Option D: open parentheses / close parentheses

Note: Sometimes only when a comma is grammatically necessary for other reasons, however, it is acceptable to place one after a close parenthesis.

Example: The tower of London was constructed as a prison in the 11th century (the year _____ but over the centuries it has been used as everything from a treasury to an armory.

A. (1078 to be exact);
B. 1078, to be exact
C. 1078 to be exact),

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D. 1078 to be exact-

The clause inside the parenthesis is NEC, so remove that.
Then → in the 11th century _____ but over the [Here, but is FANBOYS conjunction, so use comma before but]
So, option C is correct.

Option A is wrong because no semicolon before FANBOYS
Option B & D are wrong because a closing parenthesis is required.

ESSENTIAL CLAUSES WITH & WITHOUT THAT

- Clauses beginning with 'that' are essential.
- Use of a comma before or after 'that' is virtually always wrong.

Note: On very rare occasions, NEC may be placed after the word 'that'. In such case, it is acceptable for a comma to be placed after 'that'.

COMMAS WITH NAMES & TITLES

When a name/title appears in middle of a sentence i.e. not as first or last words, there are generally only two correct options:

- Two commas, one before & one after it
- No commas at all

Occasionally, a single comma may be required after the name/title; however, a single comma before a name/title is always incorrect.

Trick to solve: Treat name/title as NEC. Remove them & read full sentence. If it makes sense, commas are necessary. If it doesn't make sense, no commas are required.

|| No sense : No commas ||

Example:
Ada Lovelace and her _____ were two of the most influential figures in the history of Comp. science. After Babbage sketched out

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his ideas for an “analytical engine,” Lovelace demonstrated that the machine might be able to carry out a variety of complex tasks.

A. acquaintance, Charles Babbage,
B. acquaintance Charles Babbage
C. acquaintance Charles Babbage,
D. acquaintance, Charles Babbage

Solution: Since name/title is in the middle, we use either both commas or no commas. Option C & D are eliminated.

Now treat name/title as NEC, remove it and read the sentence. Since, here (her acquaintance) is only remained which makes no sense - who is her acquaintance or any details.

So, no sense → no commas , leading option B as correct.

Jamaica Kincaid eventually won a scholarship to Franconia College in New Hampshire but returned to NYC to write. In 1985, she published _____ a semi-autobiographical story of a young girl growing up in Antigua that won acclaim for honesty.

A. the novel, Annie John,
B. the novel Annie John,
C. the novel Annie John
D. the novel: Annie John

Solution: Cross the name & read the sentence. It makes no sense when the name of the novel is removed. So, no sense → no commas.

But wait a second, there is a rare exception here in the question: a comma is required to separate independent 1st clause from dependent 2nd clause.

1st clause: She published the novel Annie John
2nd clause: a semi-autobiographical story ……acclaim for honesty
So, option B is the correct.

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ADDITIONAL COMMA USES & MISUSES

Commas should be used

- To separate items in a list. E.g.: *I like playing football, chess and tennis.*

- Between two adjectives whose order could be reversed, or that could be separated by 'and'
  →When order of adjectives doesn't matter, a comma should be used to separate them. Use 'and' between adjectives & if they make sense afterwards, a comma should be used.
  E.g.: *There are cute, lovely portraits of different kinds of animals.*
➔ *There are lovely, cute portraits of different kinds of animals.*
➔ *There are cute and lovely portraits of different kinds of animals.*

- After introductory words or phrases.
  E.g.: *Nevertheless, Armstrong persisted & became a great musician.*
  However, He went to the school.
  Note: Although & Because cannot be used this way.

Commas shouldn't be used

- Before or after preposition – Do not use comma before/after a preposition.
  Incorrect: He is sitting, on the chair.
  Correct: He is sitting on the chair.
  Exception: When a preposition is used to begin a non-essential clause.

- Between adjectives and nouns – No comma should be placed between final adjective & noun.
  E.g.: NATAS is a well-known, national organization in USA.
  (here, final adjective is 'national' & noun is 'organization')

- Between adjectives when the first modifies the second.
  Incorrect: Reggae music emerged from a number of sources ranging from traditional, African songs to contemporary jazz.

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Correct: Reggae music emerged from a number of sources ranging from traditional African songs to contemporary jazz.
// modification: African songs which is traditional //

- Between Subjects & verbs
  → Unless a subject & a verb is separated from one another by NEC, no commas should be placed.
  Incorrect: He, was a great artist.
  Correct: He was a great artist.

When presence of NEC: Leonardo Da Vinci, a great artist, was born in Italy.

- Between Compound items
  → When two nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. are joined by 'and', no comma should be placed.
  Use: comma + and = period (check will there be two complete sentences or not

E.g.: NATAS & NASA are two most important, and popular organization of the USA.

NATAS & NASA are two most important. popular organization of the USA.
(No complete sentence, so, no use of comma before 'and')

- Between or Around 'self' words
  → No use of comma before/after/around 'self' words.
  Incorrect: The Tower of London is separated from the city, itself by a stretch of open space.
  Incorrect: The Tower of London is separated from the city, itself, by a stretch of open space.
  Correct: The Tower of London is separated from the city itself by a stretch of open space.

  Exception: Before FANBOYS conjunction or to set off NEC, it is acceptable to place comma.

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For example: The Tower of London is separated from the city itself, but it is nevertheless one of London's most popular tourist attractions.

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VERBS: AGREEMENT & TENSE

Subject-verb-agreement: answers 'singular' or 'plural'.

Verb tense: answers the question 'when?'.

Plural noun ends with 's' e.g.: birds, Plural verb doesn't end with 's' e.g.: eat
Singular noun doesn't end with 's' e.g.: bird, Sing. verb end with 's' e.g.: eats

- Some contemporary artists seek inspiration in historical as well as current events. For example, the works of California-based painter Alan Chin ____ elements commonly associated with the 19th century gold rush & transcontinental railroad.
  A. has included B. includes C. have included
  D. having included

➔ Focus on: works (plural subject). So, option: verb (plural)

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

a) Subject – NEC – Verb:
Trick: *Remove NEC from whole sentence, re-read and check the relation of subject & verb.*
Incorrect: Green tea with mint~~, which is popular drink,~~ are said to have many health benefits .
Green tea with mint → singular. So, in place of 'are', use 'is'.
Correct: Green tea with mint is said to have many health benefits.

ESSENTIAL CLAUSE WITH 'that'

Incorrect: The black widow spider has striking red hourglass markings that makes it one of the most recognizable spiders in USA.
Tricky. Subject is 'red hourglass marking' (plural) that should agree with verb, but not 'black widow spider'. So, change 'makes' to 'make'.
Or, another way to solve – rearrange the whole text: Striking red hourglass markings of the black widow spider make it one of the most recognizable spiders in USA.
Correct: The black widow spider has striking red hourglass markings that make it one of the most recognizable spiders in USA.

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b) Subject – Prepositional phrase – Verb:
For example: The patient for the mechanical pencils ____ granted for major company during the early 19th century.

A. Were B. Was

→ 'patient' : singular subj., so use 'singular verb'

c) Compound subject: joined by 'and' , obviously take plural verbs.
d) Gerunds: -ing words take singular verbs when they act as subjects.
e) Collective Nouns: take singular verbs (in SAT).
[agency, school, committee, jury, city, company, university, team,..]

f) That, What or Whether as a subject: take singular verbs.
That → the fact that, Whether/what → the question of whether/what take singular verbs.
For example: That Jane Smith became the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees was the topic of the research in our program.

g) There + is/are/has been/was/were/have been:
There is/ There was/ There has been → go with singular nouns
There are/ There were/ There have been → go with plural nouns
For example: In recent years, there _____ many questions raised about the safety of modified foods.
A. Has been B. Have been C. having been

h) Verb before subject: *Structure* = Prep. Phrase + Verb + Subject
→ Sentences may begin with prepositional phrase, followed by verb and then subject.
Incorrect: Among the finds from a recent archaeological dig was earthenware knobs originally used for "pay wall" boxes into which Elizabethan theater-goers deposited their fees.
Here, prepositional phrase – Among …… dig
subject – earthenware knobs (plural)
Verb – was (singular), which is wrong. Correct answer is 'were'.

But, sometimes there mayn't be prepositional phrase too.

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Incorrect: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear is its long-term effects.

Let's figure out step-by-step-what is actually wrong here with my understanding way:

Step 1: *First, shorten the question (if possible)*
Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful but less clear is its long-term effects.
[for me, (when ……. periods) is NEC]
Step 2: *Secondly, separate the sentences*
Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful
Less clear is its long-term effects.
This sentence has error. Let's modify it to know what is wrong.
Long –term effects of radioactivity is less clear.
[Long-term effects → plural subject, is → singular verb]
{ in place of 'is', there should be 'are' }

➔ Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear are its long-term effects.

i) Indefinite Pronouns:

Takes which verbs	Singular	Plural	Singular or Plural
	None, No one, Any, One, Each, Every, Another, The number	Few, Both, Many, Several, Others, A number	Neither, Some, Most, More, All

Note:

a) When either/neither are paired with or/nor with two nouns, the verb must agree with the noun before the verb (later one):
E.g.: Neither he nor they are present.

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b) When either/neither is not paired with or/nor & is used with two singular nouns, a singular verb should also be used.
E.g.: Both Migi & Dali were son of the king, but neither was provided a throne to rule.

c) When some, more, most & all are paired with + of singular noun/pronoun, they take singular verbs.
E.g.: Most of the state of Florida was unpopulated until 19th century.

d) When some, more, most & all appear alone or are paired with + of plural noun/pronoun, they take plural verbs.
E.g.: Some (of them) were also farmers of the royal palace.

VERB TENSE: Unless there is a clear reason for tense to change, a verb should be parallel to other verbs in sentence or passage.

- The tomato is consumed widely in many different ways, including raw, as an ingredient in many dishes and sauces, and in drinks. Botanically a fruit, it ___ considered a vegetable for culinary purpose. It belongs to the nightshade family, and its plants typically grow from 3 to 10 feet high.

  A. Was B. Had been C. Would be D. is

➔ All other verbs in the passage are present tense, therefore, answer should be related to present tense i.e. 'is'

a) Present Progressive (action is happening right now)
→ is/am/are + verb-ing
b) Present Perfect (tasks began in the past & that are continuing to the present)
→ has/have + past participle
{*For, since, over & during*}, present perfect is required.

Note: That questions presenting the present perfect are likely to only on the sentence in which they appear.

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c) Simple Past (finished action in the pasts)
→ is/am/are + verb-ing
'Dates & Time periods' usually tip-off that simple past is required.
Example: During the 19th century, people of the US suffered from Malaysia.

d) Past Perfect (tasks began in the past & that are continuing to the present)
→ had + past participle
{*When a sentence refers to two finished actions, the past perfect is used to describe only the action that happens first.}*

The phrase 'By the time' usually tip-off past perfect is required.

e) Will/ Would/ Will have/ Would have
Future: Will + verb – mostly indicate predictions & hopes.
Conditional: Would + verb – to describe hypothetical situations

Will Have – It is used to describe a future action that will be finished before a second action occurs.
Would HAVE – If+ Subject +had +V3, Subject + would have been +object

f) Passive voice: If you are trying to decide between an answer with an active construction & an answer with a passive one, you can assume *active option* will be right.
X does Y (active)
Y is done by X (passive)

- In response to the demand for long-lasting staple foods during the 1970s, _____. As a result, the nutritional value of many packaged foods declined.

A. preservatives were added by manufacturers that were previously added.
B. previously simple dishes had preservatives added to them by manufacturers.

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C. manufacturers added preservatives to previously simple dishes.
D. the addition of preservatives by manufacturers to previously simple dishes.

'To' vs '-ing'

To → infinitive , -ing →gerund

- When a 'to' form is replaced with an '-ing' form, preposition must often be placed before the '-ing' form.

- Deactivated viruses form the basis of many vaccines known for their effectiveness _____ disease. As a result, people can be safely injected with genetic material from a virus without becoming ill themselves.
  A. to prevent B. in preventing C. with preventing
  D. preventing

Note: When both 'to' & '-ing' forms are acceptable, you will not be asked to choose between them.

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APOSTROPHES

Singular	Plural	Singular Possessive	Plural Possessive
Doctor	Doctors	Doctor's	Doctors'
Business	Businesses	Business's	Businesses'

E.g.: Scientists are great. [focus on scientists]
Scientists' works are great. [focus on works of scientists]

The construction apostrophe + (s) is also used to form a contraction between pronoun & verb: is / has

E.g.: He's looking good. → He is looking good.

Plural & Possessive Pronouns

- To form possessive of pronoun, add –s. Do not add apostrophe.
- To form contraction with verb: is/are. Add apostrophe + (s) / (-re)

a) It's vs Its

It's → It is or It has	Possessive of It. Use before a noun

❖ Its' & Its's → Do not exist/ wrong option

❖ Trick to solve: To choose between its & it's
Simply plugin 'it is' → If makes sense, it's & if doesn't make sense, its.

b) They're vs Their vs There

They're → They are or They were	Possessive of They. Use before a noun	A place

❖ Trick to solve: To choose between their & they're
Simply plugin 'they are' → If makes sense, they're & if doesn't make sense, their
For 'there', look for whether the pronoun is referring to a place or not.

c) You're vs Your

You're → You are or You were	Possessive of You. Use before a noun

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❖ Trick to solve: To choose between your & you're

Simply plugin 'it is' → If makes sense, you're & if doesn't make sense, your.

d) Who's vs Whose

Who's → Who is or Who has	Possessive of Who.

❖ Trick to solve: To choose between whose & who's

Simply plugin 'who is' → If makes sense, who's & if doesn't make sense, whose.

Example: Until recently, it was believed that silent synapses were present only during early development. However, new research suggests that _____ role in the adult brain may be much larger than previously thought.

i) its ii) it's iii) their iv) they're

Solution: silent synapses → plural

Eliminate i) & ii). Now, plug in: 'they are' in the blank.

It makes no grammatical sense → Option iii) is correct.

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PRONOUNS

➔ A pronoun must agree with the noun which it refers.

- The cocoa bean is the dried & fully fermented fatty bean of the cocoa tree. _____ the source of cocoa bean & solids, including chocolate, as well as an ingredient in many Mesoamerican dishes such as mole' & tejate.

  A. They are B. It is C. These are D. One is

  What is the source of cocoa bean? → cocoa tree (singular). So, B is the correct option.

❖ THINGS:

Singular		Plural
It	→	They, Them
Its	→	Their

❖ PEOPLE:

➔ When the gender of a singular noun is unspecified, e.g.: a researcher, an engineer, the phrase (he or she) or (him or her) or (his or her) is considered correct mostly on SAT.

➔ If gender is specified, it can be easy to identify the correct option.

- Working memory, the ability to consciously hold & manipulate new information in the mind, is an effortful process. In particular, neurons in a person's prefrontal cortex must work together in synchrony to fuse _____ thoughts.

  A. our B. one's C. his or her D. your

  Since, 'person' gender isn't specified, option C is correct.

Note: Both 'each' & 'every' are singular & take singular pronouns (it/he/she)

→ Each/ Every one of the researchers will present his or her works.

❖ ONE/YOU/WE:

- To consciously hold & manipulate new information mentally, we must make a concerned effort. In particular,

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neurons in the prefrontal cortex must work together in synchrony to focus _____ thoughts.

A. one's B. our C. your D. their

First, read the whole passage. Since, surrounding sentence reveals it contains pronoun 'we', it should match other pronoun. So, option B is right.

❖ EMPHATIC PRONOUNS: "self"-words

➔ used to emphasize people or things

- What is criticized is the author's refusal to discuss her work publicly, not the quality of writing _____.

A. themselves B. itself C. myself D. herself

Focus on the phrase "the quality of writing", so the suitable option referring to that phrase will be: itself.

❖ MISSING OR AMBIGUOUS ANTECEDENT (Noun>Pronoun):

➔ When a pronoun refers to a noun that is missing or unclear, it is necessary to name the specific noun.

- Ram & Sharwand are among the most celebrated artists of the world. _____ known for using unconventional building materials such as corrugated metal to create tilted geometrical structure.

A. He is B. It is C. Sharwand is D. He would be

Option A & D isn't clear to whom it is referring to.
Option B cannot be the answer, so option C is right.

❖ NOUN AGREEMENT:

Incorrect: Orville Wright, along with his brother Wilbur, are considered inventors of the airplane.

Correct: Orville Wright, along with his brother Wilbur, is considered an inventor of the airplane.

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Shift the phrase “along with his brother Wilbur” to the last, and see how it matches to the conventions of the Standard English:
Orville Wright is considered an inventor of the airplane, along with his brother Wilbur.

RELATIVE PRONOUN:

Who → used before a verb Whom → used after a preposition
Where → refers to places only When → refers to times & dates only
(Preposition + which) can be used in place of ‘where/when’
Whereby → means ‘by which’ or ‘according to which’ – to introduce a description of methods/process.

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MODIFICATIONS

➔ Modification errors occur only in the sentences in which they appear, not on surrounding information
i.e. focus on given sentence only where error is present.

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DANGLING MODIFIERS: Sentences that include dangling modifiers are characterized by an introductory phrase that describes (modifies) the subject but doesn't name it. At the end of this phrase, comma is present.

Incorrect: Stretching from one end of the city to other, the efficiency of Lisbon's traditional tram system often surprises both tourists & city residents.

The words 'Lisbon's traditional tram system' do not appear immediately after the comma, so the modifier is dangling.
In order to fix, we must place 'Lisbon's traditional tram system' {the subject} after the comma.

Correct: Stretching from one end of the city to other, Lisbon's traditional tram system often surprises both tourists & city residents with its efficiency.

Important: When fixing dangling modifiers, focus on identifying WHO or WHAT the introductory phrase refers to (i.e. subject). The correct answer must place the subject right after comma.

- Kiara spent the majority of her career in Europe. In the 1920s, Kiara took Paris by strom. Famed for her jaw-dropping performances, _____. By 1927, she was one of the most photographed women in the world.
  A. one of her costumes consisted of 16 bananas strung onto a skirt.
  B. 16 bananas strung onto a skirt once formed one of her costumes.
  C. she once wore a costume consisting of 16 bananas strung onto a skirt.

Answer to check: Question who or what to introductory phrase.
Who was famed for her jaw-dropping performances?

➔ Kiara, neither skirt nor bananas. So, option C is correct.

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MISPLACED MODIFIERS: Misplaced modifiers can occur anywhere in a sentence. They also involve modifiers separated from the words/ phrases they are intended to modify, and they often result in unintentionally ridiculous statements.

Incorrect: An allergic reaction is usually characterized by symptoms that appears at most two hours after a person has consumed a particular food such as itching or swelling.
Try to understand literally, this sentence indicates that itching & swelling are particular types of food. However, we know that they are the symptoms.
Correct: An allergic reaction usually begins at most two hours after a person has consumed a particular food & is characterized by such as itching or swelling.

- Pigeons have long played an important role as messengers, as a result of their homing ability, speed. _____ a time when the city was surrounded by Prussian troops.
  A. During the Franco-Prussian war in 1871, the French military used pigeons to transport messages to Paris,
  B. In 1871, during the Franco-Prussian war, the French military using pigeons to transport messages to Paris,
  C. Pigeons were used to transport messages to Paris during the Franco-Prussian war in 1871,

Answer to check: Because the word 'a time' appear after the comma *(all option has comma at the end),* information right before commas refer to a time period/date/any indicator to time.
Option A & B has Paris at the end: || to Paris, a time || (wrong)

➔ Option C has 1871 at the end: || in 1871, a time ||. So, option C is right.
This rule is same for parentheses & comma.

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PARALLEL STRUCTURE

➔ Can be tested in two major ways:
a) In lists: mostly 3 or more items
b) On either side of a conjunction: 2 items

PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH LISTS

- In any given lists of 3 or more items, each item should appear in same format: noun, noun & noun; verb, verb & verb; gerund, gerund & gerund
    - Healthy marine environments result from a precise balance of factors & are therefore vulnerable to threats from a variety of sources. For example, changes in wind circulation, runoff from sewage, and _____ can all lead to creation of ocean waters low in oxygen & inhospitable to marine life.
      A. to accumulate fertilizers
      B. accumulating fertilizers
      C. they accumulate fertilizers
      D. accumulation of fertilizers

➔ noun, noun, and noun

Punctuation can also be tested: items in a list can be separated by either commas only or semicolons only, but not mismatched.

PARALLEL STRUCTURE WITH CONJUNCTIONS

- especially used conjunction for this: and/but
    - Unlike some animals, most lizards have a highly developed sense of vision. As a result, they are able to use clear body language and _____ their colors in order to communicate.
      A. altering B. alter C. they alter D. altered

➔ The correct answer could be either 'to alter' or 'alter'. So, option B is correct.

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- Faulty comparisons → always compare people to people and things to things.
- Comparing amounts → fewer & many = countable : followed by plural nouns
  → less & much = uncountable : followed by singular nouns

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SAT – READING

Question stem by category:

1) Vocabulary:
    - Which choice completes the text with the most logical & precise word/phrase?
    - As used in the text, what does the word(X) most nearly mean?
2) Big Picture/Main Idea:
    - Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
    - Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
3) Literal Comprehension:
    - According to/Based on the text, what is true about (X)?
    - Why does (X) occur?
4) Text completion:
    - Which choice most logically completes the text?
5) Function:
    - Which choice best states the primary purpose of the passage?
    - Which choice best states the function of underlined sentence in text as a whole?
6) Support/Undermine:
    - Which quotation from the text most effectively illustrates the claim?
    - Which statement would most directly support/undermine the researcher's conclusion?
7) Graphic:
    - Which choice best describes data from graph/table that supports the researcher's claim?
8) Paired passage

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- First read the question because it will tell you what aspect of the passage to focus on as you read.
  (Don't rush while solving. Read question by understanding, emphasize answers by reading the passage)
- "The CB is always right & what I think (about answers) do not matter" should be the thinking while solving CB Reading portion.
- Read carefully in slow manner but do not get stuck in single question, keep moving if necessary.
- If you can solve faster, keep solving and doing it. If you are puzzled, marked it and move ahead to solve next question.

Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading and Writing	64 (two 32-minute modules)	54
Math	70 (two 35-minute modules)	44
Total	134	98

Reading/Writing (English): Module 1 – 27 questions in 32 minutes
Module 2 – 27 questions in 32 minutes

- For English Module:
  Directly move to question no. 14/15 (from where the grammar portion starts), solve it upto the last qn i.e. no. 27 within 8/9 minutes.
  After solving the qn no.27, you will be on review page. Then, go to question no.1 and start solving the remaining questions within the remaining time. You will surely have about 22 minutes to solve the remaining portion of the R/W module.

Math: Module 1 – 22 questions in 35 minutes
Module 2 – 22 questions in 35 minutes

- For Math Module:
  Increase the word-problem solving skills. Revise the formulas, if needed. Master the Desmos, if possible, because it can be handy. Solve the questions which you know at first because 35 minutes can be utilized fruitfully on the SAT Math Modules. Check YouTube: "Tutorillini Test Prep".

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Always keep specific, Don't go out of the text

QUANTITATIVE DATA QUESTIONS (GRAPHS & TABLES)

➔ Scan the question & read the sentence little ahead of the blank.
➔ Look out for the options
➔ Check the data in the figure with options (if it is true or not)
➔ Decide - can that option be strongly correct or not.

SUPPORT / UNDERMINE QUESTIONS

➔ Scan the question & focus/highlight the part of claim, hypothesis or conclusion.
➔ Read the whole paragraph, note down on scratch paper – what is needed to support or undermine
➔ Check out options & link whether it positively or negatively links to the claim, hypothesis or conclusion.
Claim / Hypothesis / Conclusion → support → highly positive
Claim / Hypothesis / Conclusion → weaken → highly negative

MAIN PURPOSE / STRUCTURE OF THE TEXT

Read the full text for answering this type of questions.

➔ For main purpose: 'why?' the text is provided.
= Don't make answers & if you think that is not the reason why the writer has written, eliminate it.
- Main purpose – "किन लेखिएको हो?"

➔ For structure: 'how?' the text is written.
= Don't make answers & look out for the structure of the text/paragraph how it is written.
- Structure – "कसरी लेखिएको छ?"

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LOGICALLY COMPLETES THE TEXT

➔ Answer the questions logically but not out of the text context.
Simply read the whole text and look out for options.
Best one is simply the logical answer to complete the text.

LITERAL COMPREHENSION

Read the full text for answering this type of questions.

➔ What is true about something?
= Focus on actions, descriptions or what is told on/about that topic.
Answers can be logical but not out of the text context.

➔ Why does this occur?
= Focus on cause of occurrence, it is found on specific line of sentence. (Main cause is there, while other can link to the cause but nor for the topic of what need to occurred).

- For example: Japan is a country where earthquake frequently occurs. This natural disaster occurs due to the shaking of tectonic plates. Due to shaking, the plates inside the earth's crust became up & down and its level get changed……..

  Why does earthquake occurs?
  - due to the shaking of tectonic plates.
  | *Due to shaking, the ……changed……..* | *are distractors.*

MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT

➔ The key word that is repetitive mostly or focused or the text talks about is the word linking to the answer.

(Main purpose is not main idea) → Remember while solving questions.

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Keep specific to the text context because the answer is linked to the main word/subject.

PAIRED PASSAGE)

➔ Scan the question (what is asked).
➔ Read text 1 (summarize/make main bullets).
➔ Read text 2(summarize/make main bullets).
➔ Give relation (positive, negative or something is missing)

- If agreeing the text – both authors should give some common information / both passage should have a common agreement.
- If disagreeing the text – either of authors should give uncommon information / both passage should have a general disagreement.
- If responding – using relations, find the information or make your respond through the given options.

|| Poetry questions – can be confusing to many readers, including me. I would suggest first to read the little information provided in the text context. Summarize that text in your own words. You can note it down on scratch paper or annotate.
Secondly, I would suggest to clearly observe the options, mark the keywords, and summarize the options in your own words.
This way there is a high chance of finding the correct option. ||

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