

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS FOR WRITING & LANGUAGE DRILL 3

### Passage I

1. C Since all the answers communicate essentially the same thing, choose the shortest that fits with the tone. In this case, that is (C), *fiction*, as all the others are unnecessarily informal.
2. B This sentence is in the second person, about *your* responsibility as an author, so the pronoun in the underlined portion must match. The only choice that does so is (B). Choice (C) gives the contraction *you are*, and (D) changes to the third person.
3. D The author's name is essential to the completeness of the sentence. In order to see this clearly, take out the words *Karl Ove Knausgård*. You're left with *Contemporary Norwegian writer has built a literary phenomenon out of exactly these questions*. The sentence requires the words, so they should not be set off with commas. Choice (D) is the only one without commas, and is therefore correct.
4. A The first paragraph discusses the blurring of fact and fiction and how "fictional" real events and personages can be. Choices (B), (C), and (D) are all true, but they do not address this topic at all. Only (A) does, making it the correct answer.
5. A If *something* is *considered appropriate*, then *appropriate* describes *something*. If *something* is *considered appropriately*, then *appropriately* describes *considered*. In these cases, the word *appropriate* describes how revealing *the books* are. Choice (A) is therefore correct.
6. C The underlined word describes the noun *statements*, so it must be an adjective, eliminating (A) and (D). Then, the word *definitional* is not frequently used and means "relating to a definition," where the word *definitive* means "done decisively and with authority," which is the more appropriate meaning here.
7. D When combining sentences, make things as concise as possible. There's no reason to combine sentences if you're not shortening them! Choice (D) is the best answer here because it does not repeat the words *similarities* and *differences* unnecessarily.
8. D The phrase *with its title* should act in parallel with the phrase *with its contents*. The best place for the underlined portion is therefore after the word *so*, (D), as to complete the comparison *to anger and offend many people with its contents should also do so with its title*.

9. A The latter part of the sentence goes on to discuss Hitler, so the earlier part of the sentence can not only talk about Proust. In other words, the phrase under consideration should be kept because it clarifies what is being discussed at the end of this particular sentence, as (A) suggests.
10. B *People* requires *who* or *whom*, which eliminates (A) immediately. The word *on* is necessary here with the verb *based*, which also eliminates (D). Then, (B) must be correct because *whom* is the object of the preposition *on*. In less grammar-jargon-ish terms, you'd say *on them* rather than *on they*, so use *whom* when you'd use *them*.
11. B The first paragraph is all about the blurring between fact and fiction. Choices (A), (C), and (D) present some interesting questions, but the only one that deals with the subject matter of the first paragraph is (B).

## Passage II

12. D The first idea of the sentence (*Production design (PD) has been an essential component of film ever since Hollywood came into existence*) and the second (*cite the names of most PDs or Art Directors, and you'll get a blank stare*) are both complete. Therefore, a comma is required before the coordinating conjunction *but*, as in (D). Choice (B) has too many commas, and (C) creates a comma splice.
13. C The word in the underlined portion, *Still*, when used in this way, is an opposite-direction transition. Therefore, other opposite-direction transitions would be acceptable, as in (A), (B), and (D). The only one that would NOT be acceptable is *Moreover*, (C), because that is a same-direction transition.
14. C This verb should be parallel with the verb in the previous sentence, *are tipping*. The only combination that works among the answer choices comes in (C). The others might be correct in other contexts, but in this case, those verbs are not parallel with the surrounding verbs in this paragraph.
15. D The underlined portion appears at the end of a list of *costume designer, make-up stylists, special-effects director, and locations manager*. The final comma should go before the word *and*, as in (D).
16. D When the option to DELETE appears, give it special consideration. There must be a VERY good reason not to pick it. In this case, there is no such reason because the information presented in the underlined portion is implied earlier in the sentence. The best answer is therefore (D).
17. A When the answer choices seem to say the same thing, find the shortest. In this case, the shortest is (A), which contains all the information that the others do in the fewest amount of words. The relative pronoun *that* is not necessary because of the word *both* that appears earlier in the sentence.

18. **B** All the answer choices give true statements based on the graph, but this passage is about Production Designers, so only (B) can work in this passage.
19. **C** When the option to DELETE appears, give it special consideration. There must be a VERY good reason not to pick it. In this case, there is such a reason: the sentence is not adequately specific without the underlined portion. Without the underlined portion, it sounds like the PD is directing the film itself, when in fact he directs those working on the *visual aspects* of the film, thus making (C) the best of the available answers.
20. **B** This pronoun refers back to *A production designer* in the previous sentence. The pronoun should therefore be singular, eliminating (A). Choice (D) can also be eliminated because it is too impersonal for such a specific subject. Only (B) can work in the context.
21. **A** The sentence as written contains the words *that vision*, so the first part of the sentence should give an indication of what *that vision* is, as only (A) does. In addition, (A) suggests that many people overestimate the role of the director and downplay that of the PD.
22. **B** If the phrase were removed, the sentence would essentially state that no films are ever made because doing so is *impossible*. Therefore, keep the sentence as is, and for the reason stated in (B).

### Passage III

23. **D** It is unclear whether the word *them* refers to *Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal*, or some combination of those cities. The only choice that clarifies this ambiguity is (D), which states the exact city being discussed.
24. **C** If you cannot cite a reason to use a comma, don't use one. In this case, no commas are necessary, so the best answer must be (C).
25. **C** While the information given in this sentence is true and interesting, it does not have a place in this passage, which is about the Kwakwaka'wakw. The best answer is therefore (C), because the sentence should not be added.
26. **A** This paragraph is about the "history" of the Kwakwaka'wakw before written history. It outlines some of the basic myths of the tribe. Choices (B), (C), and (D) do not address this mythology at all, but (A) does, with its mention of oral history.
27. **B** The subject of the sentence is *Much*, which requires a singular verb, thus eliminating (A) and (C). Then, because the earlier part of this sentence and the next sentence's discussion of Boas are in the present tense, this verb should be as well. The best answer is therefore (B).

28. D When the option to DELETE appears, give it special consideration. There must be a VERY good reason not to pick it. In this case, there is no such reason because none of the answers add anything that is not already implied in the words *most-heavily studied*. The best option is therefore to DELETE the underlined portion, as (D) suggests.
29. D The meaning of the underlined portion is not clear. Choice (D) is the idiomatic pairing that works best in this sentence, which refers to the *potlatch* (one aspect of Kwakwaka'wakw culture) and *the Kwakwaka'wakw in general*.
30. A This sentence is discussing a historical event, so it should be in the past tense. Only (A) and (D) are in the past tense, and (D) suggests that the bans were discontinued, when information in the passage makes it clear that they continue to this day. The best answer is therefore (A).
31. A The sentence is correct as written. Choice (B) suggests that the remaining Kwakwaka'wakw remain true to their traditions because of their small population, which doesn't make sense. Choice (C) cannot work because it would need to follow *on the one hand*. Choice (D) cannot work because it implies a sequence where none is present. Only (A) works in the context by suggesting that *despite the small population*, that population continues to defend its traditions fiercely.
32. B The line down the center of the graph gives the population growth among aboriginals in Canada as a whole, which was approximately 20.1%. The highest growth in a single province is that of Nova Scotia at 42%. While the second part of (C) is true, this graph shows population increases, so it cannot be said that the aboriginal population in Canada has *declined 20.1%*.
33. B The referent for this pronoun is the word *Canada*, which is singular. The pronoun must therefore be singular as well, eliminating (C). Then, (A) and (D) because these are contractions, not possessive pronouns. Only (B) can work in the context.

## Passage IV

34. B Although the answers are technically grammatically correct, so choose the one that is clearest. Choice (B) is the most concise and puts all the terms in the sentence in the clearest relation to one another. Choices (C) and (D) each add some unnecessary word or piece of information.
35. A All the choices give essentially the same information. Choice (A) would seem to be the least specific, but in fact it contains all the information that the others do. Therefore, since it is the most concise, (A) is the best answer.
36. D As written, this sentence contains a comma splice—that is, two complete sentences separated by a comma. Choice (B) does not fix the problem. Choice (C) removes the obvious contrast between the two ideas. The best answer is therefore (D), which correctly subordinates the first idea in the sentence and shows that it contrasts with the second idea.

37. C The ideas before and after the punctuation are both complete. Therefore, a comma is insufficient punctuation. Choice (B) is worse, and (D) adds an unnecessary comma. Only (C) separates the ideas appropriately with a period.
38. A To this point, this paragraph is most concerned with Rillieux's education. Choices (B), (C), and (D) are all true, but only (A) maintains the focus of the paragraph.
39. D Note the modifier at the beginning of this sentence: *While studying at the École Centrale*. This is clearly talking about Rillieux, so his name must follow the modifier. Only (D) fixes this error. Choice (B) suggests that his *concentration* was *studying at the École Centrale*, and (C) suggests that *his background* was doing so.
40. C The paragraph goes on to describe how Rillieux's new sugar refining machine addressed the wastefulness and inefficiency of traditional sugar refining methods. Choice (C) is therefore best in keeping with the tone of the paragraph. Choices (A) and (B) are not adequately specific, and (D) is hilarious but is, alas, not in keeping with the tone of the paragraph.
41. C Choices (A) and (B) are too informal for the context, and (D), even if you're not sure what it means, is far too technical. *Bituminous* typically refers to a kind of soft coal, so it actually doesn't have anything to do with what's being described here. Only (C) can work, as it actually gives a specific descriptor of what is happening in this process.
42. D The idea before the punctuation (*The new machine addressed both major issues with the old method of sugar refining*) is complete, but the idea after it (*all the while making the process significantly safer for those men, mainly slaves, who worked the machines*) is not. Therefore, the punctuation in (A) and (B) cannot be used. There should be some pause here, however, which eliminates (C). Only (D) remains as the correct answer.
43. B This sentence discusses *the heat* belonging to *the system*. Therefore, it should refer to *the system's heat*, as in (B). Choice (A) does not make sense, and (D) eliminates the possession required in the sentence. Choice (C) refers to multiple *systems*, where the sentence only indicates one.
44. A There should be some mention of *previously unheard-of yields*. Only (A) gives any such mention in suggesting that the machines could yield *up to 18,000 pounds of sugar a day*. Choices (B), (C), and (D) may be grammatically correct, but they do not make sense in this particular context.