

# Practice Sentence Correction Questions

## Easy to Moderate

1. Secretly determined to break up the drug dealer's ring, the undercover agent with the local pushers joined forces, without their realizing his identity.
  - A. Secretly determined to break up the drug dealer's ring, the undercover agent with the local pushers joined forces
  - B. Secretly determined to break up the drug dealer's ring, the undercover agent joined forces with the local pushers
  - C. The undercover agent secretly joined forces with local pushers in order to destroy their ring
  - D. The undercover agent joined forces with the local pushers and secretly determined to destroy their ring
  - E. Secretly determined to destroy the rings, the local pushers and the undercover agent joined forces
  
2. In studying diabetes, many doctors have concluded that early detection of the disease can permit control through diet.
  - A. In studying diabetes, many doctors have concluded
  - B. Many doctors, by studying diabetes, have concluded
  - C. Many doctors studying diabetes have concluded
  - D. Diabetes studies have led many doctors to conclude
  - E. The conclusion of those doctors who have studied diabetes is
  
3. Although he is liable to make political enemies with the decision, the President will propose severe tax cuts that may both stimulate business and reduce the availability of home loans.
  - A. liable to
  - B. liable from
  - C. able to
  - D. of a mind to
  - E. acknowledging his ability to
  
4. To the behalf of many citizens who believe that some criminal statutes are unfair to the victims of crime, legislators in California drafted a "Victim's Bill of Rights" law, which passed handily in the election.
  - A. To the behalf of many citizens who believe that some criminal statutes are unfair to the victims of crime
  - B. Listening for many citizens' belief that criminal statutes are unfair to the victims of crime

- C. With the belief of their citizens that the victims of crime are unfairly served by some criminal statutes
- D. On the behalf of many citizens who believe that some criminal statutes are unfair to the victims of crime
- E. To believe on the behalf of many citizens about criminal statutes that are unfair to crime victims
5. The recent increase in the prime interest rate has encouraged some economists and worried others, who recall all too vividly the skyrocketing rates and consequent economic stagnation of the late 1970s.
- A. The recent increase in the prime interest rate
- B. Increasing recently, the prime interest rate
- C. The recent rate of increase in prime interest
- D. The prime interest rate, recently increased,
- E. The recently increasing prime interest rate
6. Whatever he aspired to achieve, they were thwarted by his jealous older brothers, who controlled the stock in the family companies.
- A. Whatever he aspired to achieve, they
- B. Whatever he had any aspirations to, they
- C. Whatever aspirations he had
- D. Whatever be his aspirations, they
- E. Many of his aspirations and goals
7. Irregardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produces novels that often read like the diaries of madmen, most readers still prefer a conventional plot and simple style.
- A. Irregardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produces
- B. Irregardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produced
- C. Regardless, the “new modernism” in literature, which produces
- D. Regardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produces
- E. Regardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produce
8. If Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* attracts less of a readership than he did in the eighteenth century, perhaps the reason is that modern readers do not know enough political history to appreciate the satire.
- A. attracts less of a readership than he did in the eighteenth century
- B. attracts less readers than the eighteenth century did
- C. attracts fewer readers than it did in the eighteenth century
- D. attracts fewer readers than he did in the eighteenth century
- E. attracts less reading than it did in the eighteenth century

9. Proposing that inordinate government spending was causative of the high deficit, the president presented a budget that maintained relatively high defense expenditures while it reduced funding for certain social programs which, the administration argued, were receiving sufficient support from the private sector.
- A. Proposing that inordinate government spending was causative of the high deficit, the president presented a budget
  - B. Proposing that government spending causes deficits, the president presented a budget
  - C. With a proposal that inordinate government spending was causative of the high deficit, the president presented a budget
  - D. The president presented a budget proposal that inordinate government spending was causative of the high deficit
  - E. Proposing that inordinate government spending caused the high deficit, the president presented a budget

### **Average**

10. Although the advisory commission on Central America has completed their report that address the political tensions in that area, no easing of tensions has resulted.
- A. their report that address the political tensions in that area
  - B. their report that addresses the political tensions in that area
  - C. its report that address the political tensions for that area
  - D. its report that addresses the political tensions with that area in mind
  - E. its report that addresses the political tensions in that area
11. To enjoy exploring marine life in general, and so that they could learn in particular about the ways in which certain sea animals possess “human” traits, the university’s school of oceanography offered supervised summer field trips for the elementary school children in the area.
- A. To enjoy exploring marine life in general, and so that they could learn in particular about the ways in which certain sea animals possess “human” traits
  - B. To stress the enjoyment of marine life in general, and particularly the ways in which certain sea animals are “human”
  - C. In order to teach young people about the “human” traits of certain sea animals, and to provide them an opportunity to enjoy marine exploration in general
  - D. Because marine life in general shares certain “human” traits
  - E. From general marine life to the specifically “human” possessions of sea animals
12. To bring to an end the 1984 Olympics, the festivities were highlighted by the

arrival of an “alien” spaceship that hovered mysteriously over the Coliseum, to the amazement and delight of thousands of spectators.

- A. To bring to an end the 1984 Olympics, the festivities were highlighted
  - B. The festivities to bring to an end the 1984 Olympics were highlighted
  - C. With the festivities that ended the 1984 Olympics highlighted
  - D. Festive highlights brought an end to the 1984 Olympics
  - E. The festive conclusion of the 1984 Olympics was highlighted
13. Many of us bemoan our lack of foresight by complaining that if we would have bought property twenty years ago, we could have taken advantage of the recent real estate boom.
- A. by complaining that if we would have bought property twenty years ago, we could have taken advantage of the recent real estate boom
  - B. , looking backward to a potential property purchase twenty years ago and wishing we had done so for present purposes
  - C. : with real estate available so cheaply twenty years ago, the advantages of the recent boom would be ours for the asking
  - D. , complaining that if we had bought property twenty years ago, we could have taken advantage of the recent real estate boom
  - E. , the complaint being our lack of purchasing property twenty years ago and the consequent absence of profit in the recent real estate boom
14. Acting selfishly and impulsively, the chairperson adapted the committee’s recommendations to meet his own needs, without considering the negative affects of his changes.
- A. the chairperson adapted the committee’s recommendations to meet his own needs, without considering the negative affects of his changes
  - B. without considering the negative effects of his changes, the chairperson adapted the committee’s recommendations to meet his own needs
  - C. the chairperson adapted the committee’s recommendations to meet his own needs, without considering the negative effects of his changes
  - D. necessarily, the chairperson adapted committee recommendations, despite negative effects
  - E. negative effects notwithstanding, the chairperson adapted the recommendations of the committee
15. The more the union stubbornly refused to budge from its original demand for a 20% across-the-board salary increase, the more the district administration reiterated its original proposal of a mere 1% raise.
- A. the more the district administration reiterated its original proposal of a mere 1% raise

- B. the district administration's original proposal for a mere 1% raise was reiterated all the more
- C. proposing its original and mere 1% raise was the district administration's response, more and more
- D. the district administration reiterated its proposal of a mere 1% raise
- E. the more the district administration's original proposal of a mere 1% raise was reiterated
16. Homer's *Odyssey* is often dramatized as a series of hairbreadth escapes from terrible monsters and vengeful gods, and while those episodes are exciting and important literary achievements, they stand apart from the poem's extensive attention to domestic life, to domestic values, and to a hero whose most important achievement is the reestablishment of his home and family.
- A. and while those episodes are exciting and important literary achievements
- B. and although in fact these episodes are exciting, important achievements in literature
- C. and while an exciting and important literary achievement
- D. and those episodes are exciting and important literary achievements
- E. and with those episodes as exciting and important literary achievements
17. Public enthusiasm that had been growing for airline travel, still in its infancy, when Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s, diminished for a while; however, today fear of flying is rare.
- A. Public enthusiasm that had been growing for airline travel, still in its infancy, when Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s, diminished for a while
- B. Public enthusiasm that had been growing for airline travel, still in its infancy when Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s, diminished for a while
- C. Growing public enthusiasm for airline travel, still in its infancy, diminished after a while after Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s
- D. When Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s, growing public enthusiasm for airline travel, still in its infancy, diminished for a while
- E. After Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared in the 1930s, the enthusiasm that had been growing for airline travel in its infancy diminished for a while
18. Golding's most famous novel concerns little boys, once a well-behaved and civilized group, whose resort to murder and savagery during their brief time on a tropical island without adult supervision.
- A. once a well-behaved and civilized group, whose
- B. once well-behaved and civilized, who
- C. once a well-behaved and civilized herd, who

- D. once civilized and well-behaved, whose
- E. behaved and civilized, who
19. When reading some of the most rich and beautiful speeches in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, when one stresses the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter, the lines take on an almost simpleminded, childish quality.
- A. when one stresses the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter, the lines take on an almost simpleminded, childish quality
- B. stressing the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter gives the lines an almost simpleminded, childish quality
- C. if one stresses the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter, it gives the lines an almost simpleminded, childish quality
- D. the simpleminded, childish quality of some lines results from the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter
- E. the singsong cadence of iambic pentameter, sounds almost simpleminded and childish
20. During the French Revolution, especially the Reign of Terror, citizens whom the government suspected of treasonous tendencies were eventually put to death by Monsieur Sanson, the infamous executioner who supervised the killing of hundreds at the guillotine.
- A. citizens whom the government suspected of treasonous tendencies were eventually put to death
- B. citizens of which the government had suspicions were eventually put to death
- C. suspicious citizens were eventually killed
- D. citizens who the government suspected of treason were eventually put to death
- E. the citizenry under suspicion were eventually put to death
21. During the last century, whaling voyages departed regularly from the New England states, and because each voyage normally extends for years, the hold was packed with supplies before a whaling ship set sail.
- A. and because each voyage normally extends for years
- B. and because each trip was long
- C. and because each voyage normally extended for years
- D. and while these were long trips
- E. and because the voyage had lasted for years
22. As he looked out on an expanse that seemed empty of gods or goddesses, Odysseus must certainly have felt abandoned by the rulers on Olympus.
- A. As he looked out on an expanse that seemed empty of gods or goddesses

- B. As he looked out on an empty expanse of gods and goddesses
- C. With no gods or goddesses as he looked out on the empty expanse
- D. Facing the empty expanse of gods and goddesses
- E. As he looked on an expanse that seemed empty of either a god or a goddess

**Above Average to Difficult**

23. If the majority of your opponents have control, you may become defeated.
- A. If the majority of your opponents have control, you may become defeated.
  - B. If the majority of your opponents take control, you may lose.
  - C. If the majority of your opponents assumes control, you may see defeat.
  - D. If the majority of your opponents has control, you may lose.
  - E. Most of you opponents will have control, and you may lose.
24. Focusing across several generations. Alex Haley wrote *Roots*, a novel explaining both his family history and the history of American bigotry.
- A. Focusing across several generations
  - B. Centering around several generations
  - C. Living through several generations
  - D. With an eye on several generations
  - E. Telling of several generations
25. In the early fourteenth century, almost 200 years before Columbus reached the West Indies, and 250 years before the Reformation, Europe had been Catholic and the Church continued to influence virtually every phase of human life.
- A. Europe had been Catholic and the Church continued to influence virtually every phase of human life
  - B. the Catholic Church continued to influence every phase of human life
  - C. the Europe that had been Catholic was still influenced in virtually every phase of human life by the Church
  - D. Europe was Catholic and the Church influenced virtually every phase of human life
  - E. every phase of human life bore traces of the European influence of the Catholic Church
26. In the 1950s, toy stores sold thousands of play replicas of a gun popularized by the *Wyatt Earp* television series. the “Buntline Special,” a long-barreled six-gun named after the legendary Ned Buntline.
- A. In the 1950s, toy stores sold thousands of play replicas of a gun popularized by the Wyatt Earp television series

- B.** Popularized by the 1950s Wyatt Earp television series, toy stores sold thousands of play replicas of a gun
- C.** In the 1950s, the Wyatt Earp television series popularized thousands of play replicas of a gun sold in toy stores
- D.** A play replica of a gun popularized by the Wyatt Earp television series, which sold thousands in toy stores in the 1950s
- E.** As toy stores sold thousands of the 1950s replicas of a gun popularized by the Wyatt Earp television series
- 27.** During the literary renaissance of the 1920s, a large number of new writers—William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, and F. Scott Fitzgerald—sought to record the inner life of Americans and to scrutinize the American dream, the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work, which had become tarnished.
- A.** the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work, which had become tarnished
- B.** the tarnished dream that anyone can make his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work
- C.** the tarnished dream that anyone can, through hard work, make his own fortune and live happily ever after
- D.** the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after, though tarnished, through hard work
- E.** that making one's own fortune and living happily ever after, through hard work, had become tarnished
- 28.** Much like Macbeth when he interprets the witches' prophecies all too literally, the mysterious harpooner who Ahab takes aboard the *Pequod* has the captain accepting his strange prophecies without questioning their hidden meaning.
- A.** the mysterious harpooner who Ahab takes aboard the *Pequod* has the captain accepting his strange prophecies without questioning their hidden meaning
- B.** the strange prophecies of the mysterious harpooner he has taken aboard the *Pequod* are accepted by Ahab without questioning their hidden meaning
- C.** the mysterious harpooner whom Ahab takes aboard the *Pequod* has the captain accepting his strange prophecies without questioning their hidden meaning
- D.** Ahab accepts the strange prophecy of the mysterious harpooner whom he has taken aboard the *Pequod*, without questioning their hidden meaning
- E.** Ahab accepts the strange prophecies of the mysterious harpooner he has taken aboard the *Pequod*, without questioning their hidden meaning
- 29.** The weather in San Diego, California, is temperate for most of the year, and

although the air is not so clean as it used to be, it has remained virtually smog free through recent years of rapid industrial growth, unlike most urban areas in southern California.

- A. unlike most urban areas in southern California
  - B. unlike the air in most southern California urban areas
  - C. unlike other southern California air
  - D. unlike southern California urban areas
  - E. in contrast to the smog condition elsewhere in urban southern California
30. Brokers who offer foreign cars on the “gray market,” thus bypassing the car dealer by shipping directly from the manufacturer to the waiting customer at the dock, claim that their purpose is not to cheat dealerships out of a profit, but rather to provide the consumer with the finest value for his or her dollar.
- A. to provide the consumer with the finest value for his or her dollar
  - B. the provision of the finest value for the dollar
  - C. providing the finest values for consumer dollars
  - D. that they have an obligation to give consumers value for their dollars
  - E. to deliver value for the dollar
31. Two recent statements on the tenure of university professors offer conflicting points of view: those that say that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom and those that say that lifetime tenure encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility.
- A. those that say that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom and those that say that lifetime tenure encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility
  - B. some declare that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom, and others say that it encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility
  - C. saying that lifetime tenure either ensures academic freedom or encourages irresponsible laziness
  - D. one emphasizes the academic freedom that tenure ensures, and one stresses the professional laziness and irresponsibility it encourages
  - E. advocacies of academic freedom and warnings about professional laziness and irresponsibility
32. With an explosive capacity that can devastate life and property for a radius of hundreds of miles, proponents of peace from several Western bloc countries met to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads.
- A. With an explosive capacity that can devastate life and property for a radius of hundreds of miles, proponents of peace from several Western bloc countries met to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads.

- B.** Proponents of peace from several Western bloc countries with an explosive capacity that can devastate life and property for a radius of hundreds of miles met to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads.
- C.** Meeting to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads with an explosive capacity that can devastate life and property for a radius of hundreds of miles were several Western bloc countries.
- D.** Proponents of peace from several Western bloc countries met to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads that can devastate life and property with an explosive capacity for a radius of hundreds of miles.
- E.** Proponents of peace from several Western bloc countries met to discuss the continuing manufacture and deployment of nuclear warheads with an explosive capacity that can devastate life and property for a radius of hundreds of miles.
- 33.** Arms talks from Geneva between China, the United States, Russia, and other nations may be even more effecting than many world leaders think they would be.
- A.** from Geneva between China, the United States, Russia, and other nations may be even more effecting than many world leaders think they would be
- B.** in Geneva between China, the United States, Russia, and other nations may be even more effective than many world leaders suppose
- C.** in Geneva between China, the United States, Russia, and other nations may be even more affecting than many world leaders think they will be
- D.** in Geneva among China, the United States, Russia, and other nations may be even more effective than many world leaders expect
- E.** between China, the United States, Russia, and other nations in Geneva may be even more effective than many world leaders believe
- 34.** Acknowledging the volunteers' giving of a great deal of their time to canvass the neighborhood and collect donations from the neighbors, the chairman of the local United Way expressed his sincere gratitude.
- A.** Acknowledging the volunteers' giving of a great deal of their time to canvass the neighborhood and collect donations from the neighbors, the chairman of the local United Way expressed his sincere gratitude.
- B.** Acknowledging the time spent by neighborhood volunteers to canvass and to collect neighborhood donations, the chairman of the local United Way expressed his sincere gratitude.
- C.** With sincere gratitude, the chairman of the local United Way expressed his acknowledgment of the neighborhood donations canvassed and collected on the volunteers' time.

- D.** The chairman of the local United Way offered sincere thanks to the volunteers who gave so much time to canvass the neighborhood to collect donations.
- E.** The chairman of the local United Way thanked the neighborhood volunteers, sincerely.
- 35.** A diagonal line connecting two corners of a rectangle is also the hypotenuse of each of two right triangles contained within the rectangle, which is longer than any of the sides.
- A.** which is longer than any of the sides
- B.** and the line is longer than any of the sides
- C.** which is longer than the sides
- D.** that is longer than any of the sides
- E.** that is longer than any of the other sides

## Answers and Explanations for the Practice Sentence Correction Questions

### Easy to Moderate

- B.** Choice **B** corrects the poor structure of the original wording. Choices **C**, **D**, and **E** change the meaning of the original expression slightly. Choice **C** and **D** suggesting that the ring belongs to the *pushers*, not to the *drug dealer*, and **E** implying that the *pushers* were determined to destroy the ring.
- C.** All choices are grammatically correct; however, choice **C** is the most direct expression of the original wording. Choices **D** and **E** change the meaning of the original, and choice **B** is awkward.
- A.** The original is better than any of the alternatives.
- D.** *To the behalf* is not idiomatic. Choice **D** corrects this error and does not make additional, unnecessary changes.
- A.** None of the alternatives is more direct and clear than the original underlined portion. Because the *increase* has encouraged some economists, not the *rate*, choices **B**, **C**, **D**, and **E** all change the meaning of the sentence.
- C.** Choice **C** best expresses the idea without changing the intent of the sentence as **E** does. The original and choices **B** and **D** are awkward.
- D.** *Irregardless* is nonstandard usage. Apart from this error, the original underlined portion is correct and clear. To make sense, choice **C** would require the proposition *of*. Choice **E** contains an agreement error.
- C.** *Fewer readers* is more economical than choice **A**. *Less* in choice **B** is incorrect when the noun (readers) can be numbered (for example: fewer gallons, less gasoline; fewer dollars, less money). Since the pronoun refers to the book, not to the author, *it*, not *he*, is correct. Choice **E** incorrectly uses the plural *attract*. *Gulliver's Travels* is the name of a book and is singular.

9. **E.** *Caused* is better than the wordy and pretentious phrase *was causative of* in choices **A**, **C**, and **D**. Choice **B** omits two adjectives and unnecessarily changes the tense in *causes*.

### Average

10. **E.** Both *commission* and *report* are singular, so the singular pronoun *its* and the singular verb *addresses* must be used. The agreement is correct in choice **D**, but *with that area in mind* is needlessly wordy.
11. **C.** Along with having inconsistent verb tense and wordiness problems, the original sentence illustrates a long dangling modifier. The underlined portion seems to modify *the university's school of oceanography* and thereby seems to say that the *school* is enjoying *exploring marine life*. Only **C** offers an introductory phrase that is both correct and unambiguous. Choices **B** and **D**, although grammatically correct, significantly change the intended meaning of the original sentence.
12. **E.** This is the most direct, clear, and economical choice that retains the essential meaning of the original underlined portion. Compared to choice **E**, both **A** and **B** are wordy. Choice **C** is a sentence fragment, and **D** distorts the meaning.
13. **D.** The use of *would have* and *could have* as the main verbs here does not clearly indicate that buying property twenty years ago is a much earlier action; the verb *had* makes clear the distinction between distant past and recent past. Choice **D** supplies the appropriate verb and eliminates the unnecessary *by*.
14. **C.** The error in the original is a diction error. *Effects* (results) is preferable to *affects*. Choices **D** and **E** are economical but change the meaning of the original significantly.
15. **A.** The original underlined portion is the most clear and correct choice, resulting in a balanced sentence, with the structure of the second half (that is, the underlined portion) parallel to the structure of the first half: *the more . . .* subject . . . active verb. Choices **B**, **C**, and **D** omit *the more*. In choice **E**, the verb is passive.
16. **A.** The original underlined portion is the best choice. Choice **B** is wordy, **C** introduces an agreement error, **D** introduces a comma error, and **E**, by omitting *while*, changes the meaning.
17. **C.** The best choice here arranges the parts of the sentence in the most direct and clear way by keeping the modifiers as close as possible to the words they modify. In addition, choice **C** replaces *when* with a more appropriate and logical term, *after*.
18. **B.** Choice **B** is grammatically correct and economical. In choice **C**, *herd* introduces a meaning not in the original, while choice **E** omits details. Choices **A** and **D** are sentence fragments.
19. **B.** Choice **B** is the most economical and clear version of the original. Choices **A** and **C** are wordy, containing the unnecessary phrases *when one* and *if one*. Choices **D** and **E** omit the notion of stressing and so change the meaning.

20. **A.** The original underlined portion is the best choice. *Whom* is used correctly, as the object of *suspected*. Each of the other choices omits or changes this correct pronoun unnecessarily or changes the meaning of the original.
21. **C.** The original underlined portion contains a verb tense error. The verbs *extends* in choice **A** and *has lasted* in choice **E** are inconsistent with the past tense established through the rest of the sentence. Choice **C** supplies the simple past tense, *extended*, which agrees with the other verbs in the sentence. Choices **B** and **D**, while grammatically correct, substitute the vaguer *long* for the phrase *for years*.
22. **A.** The sentence refers to an expanse that is empty of gods, not an empty expanse of gods, so choices **B** and **D** are incorrect. Choice **E** is needlessly wordy, and **C** distorts the meaning.

### **Above Average to Difficult**

23. **D.** *Majority* is a collective noun, which may take either a singular or plural verb, depending on whether the group as a whole or the individuals are emphasized. But *lose* is a clearer and more economical expression than *become defeated*. Choices **B**, **C**, and **E** change the meaning of the sentence.
24. **E.** *Focusing across* is idiomatically incorrect and also logically unsound (*focusing on* is better). The only choice that is both idiomatically correct and preserves the meaning of the original is **E**.
25. **D.** The verbs are the problem in the original underlined portion. The context supplied by the rest of the sentence suggests that the verbs should be simple past tense, both of them indicating what was true in the fourteenth century. As it stands, the underlined portion is internally contradictory. It states that Europe *had been* Catholic, implying that the region is no longer Catholic, but also states that Catholic influence *continued*. Choice **D** corrects this grammatical/logical problem while retaining the original intended meaning. Choices **B** and **E** are grammatically correct but omit information contained in the original sentence.
26. **A.** Although choice **A** is perhaps not the best choice one can imagine, it is decidedly the best choice of the five offered here. The phrase “*Buntline Special*” should be placed as close to *gun* as possible. In choice **B**, the opening phrase modifies *toy stores*, not *gun*, and the phrase *the 1950s* now modifies the *television series* instead of *sold*. Choice **C** also misplaces the phrase *in the 1950s*. Choices **D** and **E** are sentence fragments.
27. **C.** The original version is confusing because the clause *which had become tarnished* is awkwardly separated from *dream* and the prepositional phrase *through hard work* is awkwardly separated from the verb it modifies, *earn*. In choices **B**, **D**, and **E**, the prepositional phrase is misplaced.
28. **E.** The underlined portion must name Ahab immediately in order to clarify the comparison between Ahab and Macbeth. It is Ahab, not the *harpooner*, as in choices **A** or **C**, and not the *prophecies*, as in choice **B**, who is much like Macbeth. Choice **D** has the right structure but has an agreement error between *prophecy* and *their*.

29. **B.** The original underlined portion presents an illogical comparison, of *areas* to the topic of the first part of the sentence, *air*. Only choice **B** clarifies the air to air comparison without the inappropriate wordiness of choice **E**.
30. **A.** The original underlined portion is the best choice. It maintains parallel structure with *to provide*. Each of the other choices makes unnecessary changes in grammar and syntax that do not improve the original.
31. **D.** In the original underlined portion, *those* is incorrect. To express respectively two singular points of view, the noun or pronoun which refers to each must be singular; *those* is, of course, plural. Only choice **D** provides a clearly singular reference, *one*, for each viewpoint.
32. **E.** The introductory phrase in the original (preceding the comma) properly modifies *warheads*. Only choice **E** makes this necessary change while retaining the intended meaning of the original.
33. **D.** The original version contains several errors that must be corrected: the proposition *in* for *from*, the adjective *effective* for *effecting*, and the preposition *among* for *between*.
34. **D.** The original underlined sentence as well as choices **B** and **C** are unnecessarily wordy. Choice **D** is an efficient, direct, and clear expression that retains the meaning of the original. Choice **E** leaves out essential information from the original.
35. **B.** Though choice **B** requires more words, it is the only version that avoids the ambiguous pronouns *which* in choices **A** and **C** and *that* in choices **D** and **E** which seem at first to refer to *rectangle*.