

# ACT Assessment 9954D

## Answers and Explanations

### Passage I- "The First Heart Surgeon"

1. The correct answer is **B**. The sentence cannot stand as *in meeting an emergency enabled him* because the reader is left wondering that his courage and skill enabled him to do what? An object for the verb *enabled* is needed, which in this case is *to save a life*; therefore, no period nor comma is needed after *him* because the object would be separated from its verb. This is unnecessary.
2. The correct answer is **G**. The term *being* is unnecessary because the appositive phrase *a revolutionary time for medicine* should not contain a verb.
3. The correct answer is **B**. Because the word *disease* ends an adverbial clause, the reader needs the subject/verb of the sentence immediately following to avoid misplaced modifiers.
4. The correct answer is **H**. The reader needs to know what Joseph Lister was advocating. By choosing **H**, the reader now has an object for the verb *advocating*, in this case, *the use of antiseptics*.
5. The correct answer is **C**. The possessive form *Lister's* is correct but the word *principal* is incorrect. A *principal* is the person in charge of a school- your "pal", as many say (**principal**). **Principles** are ideas.
6. The correct answer is **J**. The preposition *at* places the reader in mind of a place. Because the mortality rate dropped significantly, the adverb *dramatically* is a better choice. *Dramatically* correctly modifies the verb *dropped*.
7. The correct answer is **C**. The reader needs to know why the doctors were afraid to perform chest surgery. They were afraid to perform chest surgery *because of the risk of infection*. The doctors were not performing surgery in spite of something.
8. The correct answer is **G**. William faced two things which are listed in the sentence; therefore, a colon is needed. There is no question as to whether or not he should choose death over life. By omitting the questioning key word *should*, the choice is presented more clearly.
9. The correct answer is **D**. Since the tense of the sentence has been dictated as past by the verb *opened*, the shift to a present form *finds* is incorrect. It must remain in the past tense, hence the correct form *found*.
10. The correct answer is **F**. Because the verb *stitched* is past tense, then the past tense form *began* must also be used.
11. The correct answer is **D**. The reader has already been told that the year is 1893. There is no need to repeat this; otherwise, it makes it sound as though the patient was released during another year instead of a mere fifty-one days after his surgery.

12. The correct answer is **H**. If the sentence retained the preposition *to*, the reader would be looking for a necessary object. To what? By simply using *given*, the reader has the direct object in *limitations* to complete the thought: *given the limitations*.
13. The correct answer is **B**. There is a shift of thought to the present time; therefore, the sentence needs a present tense verb.
14. The correct answer is **F**. The sentence explains the two things Williams made possible: he repaired and led.
15. The correct answer is **D**. The paragraph should progress to future thoughts, not regress to previous ones. It is too obvious a thought that the patient was in the operating room with the doctor. Instead, choice **D** explains that Cornish not only witnessed later progress but that he lived many more years, thus proving how successful his surgery was indeed.

### ***Passage II- "A Valuable Legacy"***

16. The correct answer is **G**. To claim that the legacy is *rich* adds a deeper meaning to the sentence. Concise wording is important.
17. The correct answer is **C**. Between the previous sentence which states that the Sumerians hold a rich legacy and the latter stating several of their accomplishments, sentence 17 needs to be a transitory one in order to connect these two thoughts. By using the adverb *there* to refer to the Tiger and Euphrates Rivers at the end of the first sentence, a transition has been accomplished.
18. The correct answer is **J**. No comma is needed after *first* because otherwise, the reader would be left wondering *first to do what?* By omitting the comma and following *first* with an infinitive, we can understand that they were *first to divide the day*.
19. The correct answer is **B**. The verb *increased* is key. In order for the sentence to be in the correct tense, the verb *increased*, past tense, must be used in conjunction with the verb *had*, past perfect.
20. The correct answer is **H**. The antecedent for *they* is unclear in this sentence. It incorrectly appears that the antecedent should be scribes. By renaming the pronoun as *stylized pictures*, confusion is eliminated.
21. The correct answer is **A**. Two related independent clauses have been correctly joined by a semicolon.
22. The correct answer is **F**. The adverb *even* clearly implies a strong feeling about the extent to which information could be stored.
23. The correct answer is **A**. The verb *came* in the future tense is used to explain when this language using wedge-shaped marks was officially recognized. During the year 2500 B.C., the term cuneiform would not have been used, particularly since the language was in the process of invention.
24. The correct answer is **G**. This sentence calls for a phrase which correctly details *the entire spectrum of a culture*. By using answer **G**, a wide variety of cultural characteristics is included.

25. The correct answer is **D**. An adjective phrase is needed to explain what a *lesson* was; otherwise, our modern minds would be thinking more abstractly about what a teacher does in a class instead of thinking of the solid *clay tablet* called a *lesson*.
26. The correct answer is **J**. The clause in parentheses adds unnecessary and irrelevant information to the sentence. This should be avoided.
27. The correct answer is **A**. This sentence simply states that cuneiform was *used for over 3,000 years*. As the sentence dictates, only a simple, past tense verb is needed here.
28. The correct answer is **H**. No possessive form is needed here, only an adjective modifying the type of *scribes*.
29. The correct answer is **A**. In order to agree in tense with the verb *was* in the opening adverbial clause, the verb *was* in the independent clause is necessary.
30. The correct answer is **F**. The writer needs to reemphasize the necessity of cuneiform as the foundations of modern day alphabet-based systems.

**Passage III- "Roommates"**

31. The correct answer is **C**. Objective case pronouns are needed after action verbs, in this case *matched*.
32. The correct answer is **J**. Since a clear antecedent for *they* is not established, it is correct to clarify this by stating what the person, noted by *I*, is asking regarding how roommates are matched.
33. The correct answer is **A**. The pronoun *it* correctly refers to the antecedent *survey* in the previous sentence.
34. The correct answer is **H**. In order to continue parallel construction, a semicolon should be used.
35. The correct answer is **B**. A transition sentence is needed between the thought of how the girls were alike and the following sentence which states how they differ. Answer B provides this necessary transitory clause.
36. The correct answer is **J**. A complete verb phrase, in this case, *would have liked*, is needed to complete the action of the subject. The infinitive *to play* must follow to show what the subject would have liked-*to play*.
37. The correct answer is **D**. It is important to continue the idea that the writer and the roommate should not have been placed together since they have so little in common. Emphasized words such as *not* must be pointed out to continue stressing this point.
38. The correct answer is **G**. The expression *but to Portia's distress* should be enclosed in commas to show that it was Portia who was distressed and not the writer.
39. The correct answer is **D**. The incorrect pronoun *we* makes it appear as though the writer **and** Portia are sick of something. This is not the case. It is only Portia who is sick of being compared to her sister.

40. The correct answer is **J**. A past tense verb is needed to remain true to the tense of the paragraph.
41. The correct answer is **A**. The phrase *with pairs of shoes lined up neatly in the windowsill*, is a phrase modifying the noun *side*. These words are a unit used to modify and punctuation should not be used to separate them.
42. The correct answer is **G**. It is the only answer in which there are no misplaced modifiers.
43. The correct answer is **C**. To give this answer the light note it needs in order to conclude the paragraph more positively, the writer creates a possible solution to erroneous pairing of roommates. Since the paragraph is primarily about what was wrong with the roommate selection process, a solution offered in the conclusion sheds light on these thoughts.
44. The correct answer is **G**. In order to end this paragraph on a lighter note, the writer speaks of what the two sides of the room looked like in sentence 3 to thoughts about Portia in sentence 4. As these two sentences are unrelated, a new paragraph is a wise decision.

#### Passage IV- "A Day Hike into the Jungle"

45. The correct answer is **D**. A subject is needed in this sentence. *We* in answer **D** provides this function.
46. The correct answer is **H**. No comma is needed since the clause *that rose a hundred feet* modifies trunks.
47. The correct answer is **D**. The sentence is clear, concise, and avoids verbosity.
48. The correct answer is **F**. Two independent clauses, which are each over several words in length, are connected by a comma and a conjunction.
49. The correct answer is **C**. Erroneously, there is no example being given, even though the parenthetical expression claims so. Instead, *however* should be used to connect these two thoughts.
50. The correct answer is **F**. *Therefore* is a nice transitory word to connect the thoughts that the writer's friend was a practical joker to the obvious statement that this joking caused one to be prepared for all things.
51. The correct answer is **D**. The participial phrase must be followed by the subject in order to avoid misplaced modifiers.
52. The correct answer is **F**. A subject and predicate are needed to make this sentence complete.
53. The correct answer is **C**. This is a wordy sentence. The shortened phrase *dotted with spots* is not only descriptive of the petals but to the point.
54. The correct answer is **G**. It is the only answer which refers to familiar items of the average reader. It is also the only choice which addresses the question.

55. The correct answer is **D**. No comma is needed after *possibly* because the reader would be left wondering *possibly* what? By omitting the comma and rephrasing *possibly the prettiest*, confusion is eliminated.
56. The correct answer is **J**. The writer did not *believe that the thing would jump up* but only *expected* it to do so.
57. The correct answer is **C**. If the first sentence of paragraph 5 only states that the writer *expected* the thing to jump at her, then we would never know why the friend laughed. By choosing answer **C**, the writer physically backs away, giving the friend a visual with which to react, thus the laugh.
58. The correct answer is **F**. The reader knows the writer is a little nervous so it seems logical that she would want to *stick close* out of fear.
59. The correct answer is **A**. This essay is not about a variety of plants but experiences only.

**Passage V- "My Favorite Place in the Park"**

60. The correct answer is **F**. The connotation of *stream* indicates a consistent and a strong flow of tourists to Yellowstone each summer. *Stream* correctly refers to the *thousands of tourists* as well.
61. The correct answer is **C**. The sentence is explaining what Yellowstone National Park is *not*. It is not spectacular *nor* a place where fly-fishing is allowed.
62. The correct answer is **H**. In the same sentence, the second person pronoun *you* was used to address the reader. This should be used again instead of renaming the reader as *one*.
63. The correct answer is **D**. Bringing something *around* is informal use of language. Since two things are being brought together: the forest and baseball, answer **D** is the correct choice.
64. The correct answer is **H**. Colons should be used when listing items. In this case the loves are listed in the sentence: forest and baseball.
65. The correct answer is **B**. A comma is needed after hotel because of the clause following *Hotel*.
66. The correct answer is **G**. The pronoun *it's* indicates the pronoun/verb *it is*. This makes no sense in this sentence. Instead, the possessive *its* should be used to state to whom the boundaries belong.
67. The correct answer is **A**. There should be no change since a comma separates two independent clauses, each of considerable length.
68. The correct answer is **H**. Since the writer is referring to his own thoughts, he must be *in* them, instead of *from* them. He is not an outsider looking in but they are instead *with*in his own mind.
69. The correct answer is **A**. There should be no change since two things are occurring. The *mosquito was poking* and the *batter seemed*...

70. The correct answer is **G**. In order to retain compound sentence structure in the previous sentence, a new sentence must begin since it contains a different idea.
71. The correct answer is **A**. No comma is needed between adverbs and adjectives. Instead, two adjectives alongside one another and modifying the same noun should use commas.
72. The correct answer is **G**. By announcing who was at bat, the writer makes the ballgame more personal for the reader. This creates greater interest in the entire reading selection.
73. The correct answer is **C**. A transition is needed from the idea of being physically involved in a ballgame to thoughts of the forest; otherwise, the reader becomes lost between the two worlds, that of the baseball diamond and the forest.
74. The correct answer is **H**. This information is irrelevant to the contents of the paragraph and should not be added.
75. The correct answer is **C**. Again this essay is primarily about baseball. Additional information about hiking is unnecessary and distracts from the focus of the paragraph.