

Sectional Exam 2022

In Items 1-10, choose the standard spelling for each word.

1.
 - a. Advantitious
 - b. Advintitious
 - c. Adventitious
 - d. Adventatious

2.
 - a. Vacuoas
 - b. Vaceuous
 - c. Vacueus
 - d. Vacuous

3.
 - a. Privy
 - b. Privie
 - c. Prevy
 - d. Prive

4.
 - a. Recondite
 - b. Recondyte
 - c. Racondite
 - d. Recandite

5.
 - a. Astracise
 - b. Astracize
 - c. Ostracize
 - d. Ostracise

6.
 - a. Surley
 - b. Surly
 - c. Serly
 - d. Surley

7.
 - a. Kerfufle
 - b. Kerluffle
 - c. Kerfuffle
 - d. Kerfluffel

8.
 - a. Descendant
 - b. Desendant
 - c. Descandant
 - d. Descandent

- 9.
- a. Metasize
 - b. Metestastize
 - c. Metasasize
 - d. Metastastize

- 10.
- a. Acoustic
 - b. Akoustic
 - c. Acustic
 - d. Acoostic

In items 11-30, find the answer that best develops the meaning of the word in boldface.

11. The professor's numerous **accolades** easily recommended him for the department head position.
- a. Many of the professor's colleagues submitted letters of recommendation.
 - b. The professor had received enough recognition to be the obvious candidate.
 - c. He had more professional experience than any other candidate.
 - d. The professor had taken a great number of research trips, which made him the strongest candidate.
12. My aunt constantly **vacillates** between contradicting conspiracy theories.
- a. My aunt frequently debunks conspiracy theories.
 - b. My aunt tends to become obsessed with a single conspiracy.
 - c. She makes up her mind quickly and is unwilling to change her opinion.
 - d. She is indecisive and gullible when it comes to a variety of conspiracies.
13. You must have received an **egregious** speeding ticket if you are expected to appear in court.
- a. If you're expected to appear in court, you must have broken another law in addition to speeding.
 - b. You will be able to argue your case in court, so the ticket might be dropped.
 - c. The speeding ticket is time sensitive and you must appear in court immediately.
 - d. You were driving so much faster than the speed limit that a ticket alone was not enough punishment.
14. Thrilled by the success of their performance, the dancers were as **effervescent** as the champagne they toasted with.
- a. Like the champagne, the dancers were bubbly and lively.
 - b. The dancers had become intoxicated.
 - c. Everyone considered the dancers to be good company.
 - d. The dancers had a reputation for making poor decisions under the influence of champagne.
15. The chef is offended when you use **copious** salt and pepper.
- a. It's rude to bring your own salt and pepper to a restaurant.
 - b. Seasoning the meal after it's done might imply the chef is a poor cook.
 - c. The chef does not want you to ruin the flavor with expired salt and pepper.
 - d. You should always ask the chef before seasoning your meal.

16. There's a certain **duplicity** at the car dealership – my bill is always much more than I was led to believe it would be.
- A dishonest car dealership will double my bill and hope I don't notice.
 - Car dealerships often do subpar work, causing my car to break down.
 - A lack of transparency in the multiple services provided at the car dealership means that I'm not always aware how much I will be charged.
 - The car dealership deliberately takes twice as long to complete services so that they can charge for more labor.
17. Don't **capitulate** just yet; there are still three turns left in the game.
- You need to retain your energy so you don't fall asleep before the game is over.
 - Don't celebrate a victory prematurely when you might still lose.
 - There's no reason to have a temper tantrum when the game isn't over.
 - Don't give up; it's still possible for you to win the game.
18. This Aloe Vera should **ameliorate** your painful sunburn.
- Aloe Vera has a soothing effect on the skin.
 - Aloe Vera will cure your sunburn.
 - Aloe Vera can exfoliate dead skin, allowing new skin to grow.
 - Aloe Vera will provide protection against the sun so that your sunburn does not get any worse.
19. Just because the benefits of therapy are often **intangible** doesn't mean they aren't worthwhile.
- Although therapy is far too expensive, it can still provide benefits.
 - The benefits may cause more emotional complications than some people are willing to endure.
 - Although the benefits are hard to quantify, they can still make a positive impact on your life.
 - Therapy is worthwhile even though it may never provide any benefits.
20. My mother's arthritis often **precludes** her from taking long walks.
- It is sometimes too painful for her to go for a long walk.
 - Exercise can reduce the effects of arthritis.
 - Long walks can make my mother's arthritis worse.
 - The doctor recommends that my mother refrain from taking long walks.
21. The medical intern was given many opportunities to improve his bedside manner, but his bluntness proved to be **incorrigible**.
- It was impossible to train the intern to have a better bedside manner.
 - The intern was fired for refusing to learn.
 - The intern's disposition was genetic.
 - His bluntness proved to be an unexpected positive.
22. A system of "checks and balances" in American government theoretically prevents a **despot** from taking control.
- If records are kept meticulously and carefully, the American government can prevent a financial collapse.

- b. If power is divided between multiple groups, it's less likely for a tyrant to gain complete control of the government.
 - c. The system of "checks and balances" ensures that someone who is mentally unfit will never take office.
 - d. A system in which power is divided prevents a foreign invader from taking over the country.
23. Although many critics argue that Jackson Pollock's paint-splattered canvases don't demonstrate much technical skill, they are never-the-less **aesthetically** pleasing.
- a. Critics claim that Pollock isn't a great artist and yet they have purchased a number of his paintings.
 - b. Pollock's paintings don't take as long to produce as other, more artistically valuable paintings.
 - c. Despite claims that splattering paint isn't an indication of artistic talent, Pollock's paintings are widely enjoyed and remain popular.
 - d. Pollock's paintings win more awards than the painting of more technically skilled artists.
24. When Nikhil and Ana first rescued the **anemic** dog, they had no idea just three months later it would be bounding energetically across their lawn.
- a. The dog kept falling asleep when it was first rescued, so its energy was surprising.
 - b. Nikhil and Ana never planned to keep the sick dog.
 - c. The dog had been so aggressive it was hard to believe it became a loyal pet.
 - d. The dog was so sickly that its recovery was surprising.
25. Some of the funeral-goers thought the woman's bright, festive outfit was **indecorous**, but I knew it was merely a cultural miscommunication.
- a. Although the woman's outfit was ugly, she might not have been able to afford the newest fashion.
 - b. While it's traditional in some cultures to wear muted colors to funerals, this is not true for other cultures.
 - c. The woman had not realized she was at a funeral because her cultural customs were so different.
 - d. The woman's culture doesn't honor the dead, which the funeral-goers found offensive.
26. Even though you are hiking around a lake, you will still need to pack **potable** water.
- a. The Parks Department prohibits hikers from drinking lake water.
 - b. You should pack extra water in case the trail strays far from the lake.
 - c. The Parks Department must inspect your water for contaminants.
 - d. The lake water is probably not safe for you to drink.
27. After news of the TV writer's inappropriate behavior surfaced, some of her awards were **rescinded**.
- a. The writer stopped winning as many awards.

- b. Fearing an association with the writer, some organizations took back the awards they had already given her.
 - c. The writer's career gained additional media attention given the scandal.
 - d. The writer was asked to return awards, but she refused.
28. If the literary community refuses to stray from rigid formalism, we will miss out on the artistic value of **patois**.
- a. The literary community should appreciate the value of regional dialects that don't conform with traditional formal standards.
 - b. Just because someone has not received a formal education does not mean they have nothing to contribute to the literary community.
 - c. Some of the most important literature is the hardest to understand.
 - d. Literature surrounding French food, while not a part of traditional literary study, is still a valuable contribution to the field.
29. It's important to remember that while we may not all be **luminaries** in our field of study, our small contributions add up to important discoveries.
- a. Although our research may not make headlines, all together we are making significant advances.
 - b. Our contributions are too small to receive awards.
 - c. Although we don't receive as much recognition as some, at least we still have time for fulfilling personal lives.
 - d. Only one researcher per field will ever become a globally-recognized expert.
30. The salesman spoke as if science supported his "As Seen on TV" product, but Jerome knew his pitch was merely a theatrical **rigmarole**.
- a. The salesman pretended to be interested in his product, but he was actually selling something else.
 - b. Although the salesman used scientific terminology, he was still speaking nonsense.
 - c. The salesman cared more about entertaining his audience than selling the product.
 - d. The salesman's theater background was the only reason anyone bought the product.

In items 31-35, select the sentence that has no errors in grammar, punctuation, or mechanics.

- 31.
- a. My mother insists I spend every holiday at home with her.
 - b. Although I love my mother, sometimes, I would rather plan a trip or spend time with friends.
 - c. I feel that as an adult I have the right to manage my own time make my own decisions.
 - d. My mother should respect that I may choose to spend some holidays elsewhere and it doesn't mean I love her any lesser.

32.

- a. Susan enjoys being on the swimming team, except for the 5am practices.
- b. Especially during the winter when it's cold and the days are short it is hard for Susan to get in the pool.
- c. Only the promise of a hot breakfast motivates her to dive into the water.
- d. The parent's of the swimmers always provide an excellent spread of sausages, eggs, and toast for after practice.

33.

- a. My arachnophobia began when I was very young; eight years old.
- b. I was at summer camp and my friend and I decided to sneak out of the cabin, after dark.
- c. We were running and I tripped – while I was laying on the ground, a gigantic spider crawls across my hand.
- d. I will never forget the feeling of its hairy legs; I still have nightmares about that moment to this day.

34.

- a. My favorite trick for soothing a sore throat is hot water and lemon juice freshly squeezed.
- b. Not only does it feel good after a long bout of coughing but it is easy and cheapest to make.
- c. If you don't have any lemons, tea and honey is a good alternative.
- d. I always choose to keep lemons (and chicken noodle soup) and honey on hand for when I get sick.

35.

- a. A resume should be succinct and well-organized to clearly convey your work history to a prospective employer.
- b. It might be tempting to choose a flashier font style or artistic borders: but unless you are specifically demonstrating graphic design skills, it would be better to keep your resume relatively plain.
- c. A resume should prioritize three things: your educational background, any awards or recognition, and your work history.
- d. Skills mastered, relevant coursework, references: and perhaps a brief tagline of your professional interests are also valuable additions to a resume if space allow.

In items 36-45, select the sentence group that best revises any grammatical or punctuation errors or improves the style. If you see no error, select “no change necessary.”

36. Rather than staying up all night to study your brain will function during the exam better by getting a full night's rest.
- a. Your brain will function better during the exam on a full night's rest than if you stay up all night to study.
 - b. Rather than staying up all night to study, your brain will function better, if you simply get a full night's rest.
 - c. Don't stay up all night to study. Your brain will function during the exam on a full night's rest better.
 - d. No change necessary

37. Don't believe everything you read on the Internet: it is easier to fabricate information, and even websites that list their sources should be verified.
- It is easy to fabricate information online and even websites with sources should be verified: don't believe everything you read on the Internet.
 - Don't believe everything you read on the Internet, because it is easier to fabricate information; even websites that list their sources should be verified.
 - Don't believe everything you read on the Internet; it is easy to fabricate information online. Even websites that list their sources should be verified.
 - No change necessary
38. My brother became an analyst for the Department of Defense; my sister works in nursing.
- My brother became an analyst for the Department of Defense: my sister works in nursing.
 - My brother became an analyst for the Department of defense; my sister works in Nursing.
 - My brother became an analyst for the department of defense – my sister works in nursing.
 - No change necessary
39. Do you really enjoy re-reading the same books – over and over again?
- Do you really enjoy rereading the same books over-and-over again?
 - Do you really enjoy rereading the same books over and over again?
 - Do you really enjoy re-reading the same books over-and-over again?
 - Do you really enjoy rereading the same books, over and over, again?
40. Rather than struggling with your essay staring blankly at your computer screen, why not take a short walk to clear your thoughts?
- It might be better to take a short walk, to clear your thoughts, rather than staring blankly at your computer screen when you are struggling to finish an essay.
 - Instead of staring blankly at your computer screen while you are struggling to finish an essay, why not take a short walk to clear your thoughts?
 - Try taking a short walk to clear your thoughts rather than staring blankly at your computer screen; struggling to finish an essay.
 - No change necessary
41. The president, head bowed in solemn remembrance, offered a prayer for the victims' families.
- The president with his head bowed in solemn remembrance, offered a prayer for the victims families.
 - The president – head bowed in solemn remembrance – offered a prayer for the victim's families.
 - The president, head bowed in solemn remembrance, offered a prayer for the victims's families.
 - No change necessary
42. When you speak to me please enunciate, don't cover your mouth, use facial expressions – it won't help to yell when I am trying to lip read.
- When speaking to me please enunciate, don't cover your mouth, and use facial expressions. It won't help to yell when I am trying to lip read.
 - Please enunciate, don't cover your mouth, and use facial expressions when speaking to me, it won't help to yell, when I am trying to lip read.

- c. When you speak to me, please enunciate, don't cover your mouth, use facial expressions. It won't help to yell, when I am trying to lip read.
 - d. No change necessary
43. My dog's favorite activities are barking, jumping, to rip apart his toys, and long walks.
- a. My dog's favorite activities are: barking, jumping, to rip apart his toys, and long walks.
 - b. My dog's favorites activities are barking; jumping; ripping apart his toys; and long walks.
 - c. My dog's favorites activities are barking, jumping, ripping apart his toys, and taking long walks.
 - d. No change necessary
44. Lindy Point in West Virginia is the most beautiful overlook where you can view the valley between two mountains in the whole state.
- a. The whole state of West Virginia's most beautiful overlook is Lindy Point, where you can view the valley between two mountains.
 - b. Lindy Point, where you can view the valley between two mountains, is West Virginia's most beautiful overlook.
 - c. West Virginia's most beautiful overlook is Lindy Point – where you can view the valley between two mountains.
 - d. No change necessary
45. While koalas are known for their small and fuzzy stature, don't let these cute marsupials fool you: koalas are much faster and more aggressive than you might expect.
- a. While koalas are known for their small and fuzzy stature, don't let these cute marsupials fool you: koalas are much faster and more aggressive then you might expect.
 - b. Despite koalas are known for their small and fuzzy stature, don't let these cute marsupials fool you: koalas are much faster and more aggressive than you might expect.
 - c. While koalas are known for their small and fuzzy stature, don't let these cute marsupials fool you, koalas are much faster and more aggressive than you might expect.
 - d. No change necessary

In items 46-50, select the phrase that best describes the underlined words.

46. My brother-in-law's sense of humor is incredibly irritating.
- a. Adverb
 - b. Superlative
 - c. Intensifier
 - d. Appositive
47. The department store was built in 1938.
- a. Past progressive
 - b. Passive voice
 - c. Conditional mood
 - d. Subordinate clause
48. Having finished the marathon, Marlene pumped her arms in triumph.

- a. Present progressive
- b. Perfect participle clause
- c. Limiting modifier
- d. Passive voice

49. Go clean the kitchen.

- a. Imperative mood
- b. Conditional mood
- c. Indicative mood
- d. Determiner

50. My sister has a beautiful voice, which is a great gift for Christmas caroling.

- a. Present participle clause
- b. Auxiliary verb phrase
- c. Gerund
- d. Subordinate clause

Toni Morrison (1931-2019) was a highly influential novelist, poet, and literary theorist. Her work brought African American stories and representation to the American literary canon. Morrison's non-fiction book *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* (1990) explores how researchers study American literature. Read the selection and answer questions in the following items.

1 It is possible, for example, to read Henry James scholarship exhaustively and never
2 arrive at a nodding mention, much less a satisfactory treatment, of the black woman
3 who lubricates the turn of the plot and becomes the agency of moral choice and
4 meaning in *What Maisie Knew*...It is hard to think of any aspect of Gertrude Stein's
5 *Three Lives* that has not been covered, except the exploratory and explanatory uses to
6 which she puts the black woman who holds center stage in that work. The urgency and
7 anxiety in Willa Cather's rendering of black characters are liable to missed entirely; no
8 mention is made of the problem that race causes in the technique and the credibility of
9 her last novel, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*. These critics see no excitement or meaning in
10 the tropes of darkness, sexuality, and desire in Ernest Hemingway or in his cast of black
11 men. They see no connection between God's grace and Africanist "othering" in Flannery
12 O'Connor. With few exceptions, Faulkner criticism collapses the major themes of that
13 writer into discursive "mythologies" and treats the later works—whose focus is race and
14 class—as minor, superficial, marked by decline.

51. In Line 1, “Henry James scholarship” refers to
- A. Descriptions that librarians have written about Henry James
 - B. Academic articles and books by professors and researchers
 - C. Book reports by middle school students
 - D. A college fund for high-achieving students
52. In Line 1, the adverb “exhaustively” likely means
- A. With boredom
 - B. Angrily
 - C. With excitement
 - D. Completely
53. Lines 2-4 suggest that
- A. Maisie is actually a black woman
 - B. James was actually a black man
 - C. Scholars have ignored the importance of the black woman in the text
 - D. Scholars have overemphasized the importance of the black woman in the text
54. According to Line 3, the black woman is key to the novel’s
- A. Plot and morality
 - B. Imagery and allegory
 - C. Eschatological meaning
 - D. Personification of natural forces
55. Lines 4-5 posit that
- A. Scholars have rejected Stein because she was a woman
 - B. Scholars should stop writing about Stein because her work is much too racist
 - C. Stein was an anti-racist writer
 - D. Scholars should notice how a black character affects the author and the text
56. Based on context, we can infer that Willa Cather (mentioned in Line 7) is
- A. A professional researcher
 - B. An American author
 - C. A black character in American literature
 - D. One of Morrison’s colleagues
57. According to Morrison, Ernest Hemingway (in Line 10) is preoccupied with the intersections of race, blackness, and
- A. Sex and gender
 - B. Politics
 - C. Linguistics
 - D. Ancient history and archaeology
58. According to Line 11, scholars have failed to notice how Flannery O’Connor
- A. Makes all her main characters African Americans
 - B. Incorporates African settings into her literature

- C. Develops an anti-African American version of Christian salvation
- D. Creates the idea of a post-racial American utopia

59. The term “Africanist othering” in Line 11 likely refers to
- A. The way African writers embrace nationalism at the expense of other African nations
 - B. The way Connor is interested in portraying Africans as outsiders
 - C. The way African American writers have developed a new kind of literature
 - D. The way publishing companies do not publish books by black writers
60. According to Lines 12-14, William Faulkner
- A. Was determined to ignore the problem of racism in the post-Civil War South
 - B. Was dropped by his literary agent for his racism
 - C. Was rejected from jobs because of his anti-racism
 - D. Wrote very much about race and discrimination in the South

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was an influential actor, dramatist, and poet of early modern England. His sonnets are highly personal works, circulated to a private audience of his close contacts. Read the poem “As an unperfect actor on the stage” and answer questions in the following items.

1 As an unperfect actor on the stage
2 Who with his fear is put besides his part,
3 Or some fierce thing replete with too much rage,
4 Whose strength's abundance weakens his own heart.
5 So I, for fear of trust, forget to say
6 The perfect ceremony of love's rite,
7 And in mine own love's strength seem to decay,
8 Overcharged with burden of mine own love's might.
9 O, let my books be then the eloquence
10 And dumb presagers of my speaking breast,
11 Who plead for love and look for recompense
12 More than that tongue that more hath more expressed.
13 O, learn to read what silent love hath writ:
14 To hear with eyes belongs to love's fine wit.

61. This sonnet has the rhyme scheme

- A. A A B B C C D D A A B B E E
- B. A B C D A B C D E F G H G H
- C. A B A B C D C D E F E F G G
- D. A B A C D E D F G H G I J J

62. The final two lines of the sonnet form

- A. A trochee
- B. A couplet
- C. A climax
- D. A spondee

63. Line 1 feature what kind of figurative language?

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Allegory
- D. Personification

64. In Line 2, “put besides his part” likely means

- A. Is given the leading role
- B. Is rejected by his lover
- C. Is cast alongside his sworn enemy
- D. Is distracted from his lines

65. In Line 3, the “fierce thing” is likely

- A. The actor from Line 1
- B. The “I” of Line 5
- C. A book from Line 9
- D. The tongue from Line 12

66. In Line 6, the “perfect ceremony of love’s rite” sounds like the profession of wedding vows. Why does the speaker create this effect?

- A. To propose marriage to his beloved
- B. To suggest that professing his love is as serious as wedding rites
- C. To explain why he cannot consummate his relationship
- D. To criticize the institution of marriage

67. The main idea of Lines 1-8 is that

- A. The speaker is too emotionally overwhelmed to speak eloquently to his beloved
- B. The speaker is terrified and enraged at the thought of losing his beloved, so he will write to her
- C. The speaker is merely a poor actor, so he will wait to marry his beloved until he is financially successful
- D. The speaker intends to immortalize his unrequited love in poetry and plays

68. The “dumb presagers” of Line 10 are

- A. Ignorant townspeople

- B. Annoying actors
- C. Unspeaking signs
- D. Maleficent messengers

69. Lines 13-14 employ what kind of grammatical mood?

- A. Subjunctive
- B. Interrogative
- C. Indicative
- D. Imperative

70. In Line 14, the phrase “hear with eyes” describes

- A. Delusion
- B. To feast upon one’s beauty
- C. Sensory overlap
- D. Supernatural visions

Walt Whitman (1819-1892) is considered a great early American poet. Whitman’s poetry is known for its universalism and humanism, elements he expresses in a distinctly American mode. Read the following selections from his poem “I Sing the Body Electric” (1855) and answer questions in the following items.

1 I sing the body electric,
2 The armies of those I love engirth me and I engirth them,
3 They will not let me off till I go with them, respond to them,
4 And discorrupt them, and charge them full with the charge of the soul.

5 Was it doubted that those who corrupt their own bodies conceal themselves?
6 And if those who defile the living are as bad as they who defile the dead?
7 And if the body does not do fully as much as the soul?
8 And if the body were not the soul, what is the soul?
9 I have perceived that to be with those I like is enough,
10 To stop in company with the rest at evening is enough,
11 To be surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing laughing flesh is enough,
12 To pass among them or touch any one,
13 Or rest my arm ever so lightly round his or her neck
14 For a moment, what is this then?

- 15 I do not ask any more delight, I swim in it as in a sea.
- 16 The thin red jellies within you or within me, the bones and the marrow in the bones,
- 17 The exquisite realization of health;
- 18 O I say these are not the parts and poems of the body only, but of the soul,
- 19 O I say now these are the soul!

71. In Line 1, the “body electric” refers to the idea of

- A. The human body as a cyborg
- B. The human body as a product of the Industrial Revolution
- C. The human body as a product of the moon’s phases
- D. The human body as interconnected and energized

72. Which term would NOT be a synonym for “engirth” in Line 2?

- A. Envelope
- B. Embark
- C. Embrace
- D. Incorporate

73. In Line 4, the speaker uses the phrase “discorrupt them”. What does this likely suggest?

- A. He will illuminate their minds with science
- B. He will purify their sins with repentance
- C. He will connect with them emotionally and spiritually
- D. He will teach them about modern hygiene

74. Lines 5-8 feature a sequence of

- A. Rhetorical questions
- B. Cliffhangers
- C. Allusions
- D. Symbols

75. In Lines 7-8, the speaker suggests that

- A. There is no such thing as the soul
- B. The body and soul are the same
- C. The body is unfit to house the soul
- D. The soul is not suited to the body

76. What is the “delight” described in Line 15?

- A. To experience romantic love
- B. To have children
- C. To succeed in one’s goals
- D. To be in the company of friends

77. What is the role of the body in Lines 9-15?

- A. It facilitates joy through laughter and touch
- B. It works hard in the service of worthy goals
- C. It should be shaped and decorated beautifully
- D. It reminds humans that nothing survives forever

78. How might we describe the “thin red jellies” of Line 16?

- A. Crabapples hanging on trees
- B. Holiday desserts shared among friends
- C. Blood spilled on the battlefield
- D. Veins and organs

79. Line 18 likens the human body to

- A. An animal body
- B. A literary composition
- C. A well-oiled machine
- D. A rusty but beloved machine

80. Lines 18 and 19 feature

- A. Kennings
- B. Simile
- C. Elegy
- D. Anaphora