

CLEP Composition and Literature: American Literature, English Literature, Humanities

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Version Demo

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Topic Break Down

Topic	No. of Questions
Topic 1, American Literature	100
Topic 2, English Composition	113
Total	233

QUESTION NO: 1

The old paradigm of providing rehabilitation and practice on activities of daily living as the sole substance of physical activity for people with disabilities was replaced.

- A. were replaced
- B. are replaced
- C. had been replaced
- D. is replacing
- E. can be replaced

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

“had been replaced” correctly forms a passive-voice verb phrase whose singular auxiliary verb, *had*, agrees with the singular head of the subject, *paradigm*. The lengthy prepositional phrase beginning with “of providing rehabilitation” supplies details about the paradigm but does not change the number of the grammatical subject. In the passive voice, the subject receives the action: the old paradigm is the thing that had undergone replacement. The construction also uses the past perfect passive tense, combining *had* with *been* and the past participle *replaced*. This tense is appropriate when the replacement is understood as completed before another past-time point supplied by the broader context. Clear subject-verb agreement depends on identifying the main noun rather than being distracted by intervening words and phrases. Purdue OWL’s discussion of agreement explains that verbs must agree with their subjects, including when phrases separate them: [Purdue OWL: Subject-Verb Agreement](#). For the formation and use of perfect verb tenses, see [Purdue OWL: Perfect Verb Tenses](#).

QUESTION NO: 2

To whom was William Bradford referring to when he used the term “Saint” to describe some of his fellow voyagers at sea?

- A. The first sailors to join the voyage
- B. Those who died before reaching America
- C. His fellow Puritans
- D. The clergymen aboard ship
- E. The ship’s crew

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

“His fellow Puritans” is correct. In *Of Plymouth Plantation*, William Bradford distinguishes between the religious Separatists traveling on the Mayflower and the other passengers who did not belong to their congregation. Bradford commonly calls the Separatist members “Saints,” a term reflecting their identity as a gathered Christian community committed to worshiping and governing themselves according to their understanding of biblical principles. These colonists are also often called Pilgrims today, although Bradford’s own terminology emphasizes their religious community and its members’ covenant with God. He refers to the non-Separatist passengers as “Strangers”; these included people brought along for practical, commercial, or family reasons rather than as members of the Separatist church. The presence of both groups helps explain the importance of the Mayflower Compact, which established a civil body politic for cooperative self-government before the settlers went ashore. Bradford’s use of “Saints,” therefore, identifies his fellow Puritan/Separatist religious travelers, not a general category of admirable people or ship personnel. The text of Bradford’s history is available through [Project Gutenberg](#), and historical context about the Mayflower passengers is provided by [Plymouth Patuxet Museums](#).

QUESTION NO: 3

Which author's polemical anti-slavery novel was first published as episodes in the weekly *The National Era*?

- A. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps
- B. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- C. Booker T. Washington
- D. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- E. W.E.B. DuBois

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Harriet Beecher Stowe is correct because her landmark anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly* began as a serial in *The National Era*, a Washington, D.C., abolitionist newspaper. The first installment appeared on June 5, 1851, and the work continued in weekly installments before being issued as a book in 1852. Serialization allowed Stowe's story to reach readers gradually through a periodical already associated with antislavery reform, giving its depiction of enslavement an immediate place within contemporary political and moral debate.

The novel's publication history is central to its literary and cultural significance. By presenting the suffering of enslaved people and the destruction of families under slavery in an accessible, emotionally powerful narrative, Stowe produced a work that became an extraordinary popular success and a major force in antislavery public discourse. The Library of Congress identifies *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as having first appeared in *The National Era*, and the National Park Service likewise documents its 1851–1852 serial publication there. See the [Library of Congress record for Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) and the [National Park Service's discussion of Uncle Tom's Cabin](#).

QUESTION NO: 5

Which of the following novels traces the rise and fall of a Southern politician?

- A. All the King's Men
- B. Innocents Abroad
- C. Invisible Man
- D. As I Lay Dying
- E. Henderson the Rain King

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

All the King's Men is correct because Robert Penn Warren's 1946 novel centers on Willie Stark, a charismatic and increasingly corrupt political leader in the American South. The narrative follows Stark's emergence from modest beginnings, his acquisition of power through populist campaigning, and the moral and political consequences of his rule. The story is presented largely through the perspective of Jack Burden, whose investigation of Stark's past and involvement in his administration connect the public drama of political ambition with questions of responsibility, loyalty, history, and personal integrity. Stark is widely understood to have been substantially inspired by Huey P. Long, the influential Louisiana governor and U.S. senator whose political career combined mass appeal, ambitious reform, authoritarian methods, and a violent end. Warren does not write a literal biography of Long; instead, he uses a fictionalized Southern setting and characters to create a broader tragic examination of power. This focus on the politician's ascent and eventual destruction precisely matches the question's description. The novel received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1947 and remains Warren's best-known work. See [Encyclopaedia Britannica's overview of All the King's Men](#) and the [Pulitzer Prize record for Robert Penn Warren](#).

QUESTION NO: 6

Assistant Principal Suarez said that due to a recent case of food poisoning, the cafeteria will be closed for the rest of the week.

Change “that due to” to “that a recent”.

- A. poisoning, which will cause
- B. poisoning has caused
- C. poisoning to have caused
- D. poisoning, causing
- E. poisoning have caused

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The correct completion is “poisoning has caused,” producing the sentence: “Assistant Principal Suarez said that a recent case of food poisoning has caused the cafeteria to be closed for the rest of the week.” This revision is grammatically complete and clearly expresses the intended cause-and-effect relationship. The subject of the clause is the singular noun phrase “a recent case of food poisoning,” so the singular present-perfect verb phrase “has caused” agrees with it. Present perfect is also appropriate because the food-poisoning case occurred recently and has a present result: the cafeteria remains closed for the rest of the week.

The clause beginning with “that” functions as the content of what Assistant Principal Suarez said. Within that clause, “a recent case of food poisoning” serves as the subject, “has caused” is the predicate, and “the cafeteria to be closed for the rest of the week” completes the meaning. This construction is a standard causative pattern: one event has caused a specified result. For guidance on subject-verb agreement, including agreement with singular noun phrases, see the [Purdue Online Writing Lab's subject-verb agreement guidance](#). For an overview of the present-perfect tense and its connection between past events and present relevance, see the [Cambridge Dictionary Grammar](#).

QUESTION NO: 7

The Prairie States

A NEWER garden of creation, no primal solitude,

Dense, joyous, modern, populous millions, cities and farms,

With iron interlaced, composite, tied, many in one,

By all the world contributed – freedom's and law's and thrift's society, The crown and teeming paradise, so far, of time's accumulations, To justify the past.

“iron interlaced” in line 3 refers to

- A. the steel industry
- B. slaves
- C. railroads
- D. telephone system
- E. the Internet

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

“railroads” is correct because Whitman’s image of “iron interlaced” evokes the railway tracks that crossed and connected the Prairie States. The word “iron” points literally to the metal rails, while “interlaced” conveys a broad network of lines joining cities, farms, and communities. This image supports the passage’s emphasis on a modern, populous region that is “composite, tied, many in one.” In the nineteenth century, railroads were central to the development of the Midwest and Great Plains: they linked agricultural areas to towns, cities, markets, and the wider nation, helping create the economic and social interconnectedness Whitman celebrates. The phrase is therefore not merely a reference to a material or industry; it is a compact poetic image of transportation infrastructure binding a rapidly developing society together. Whitman frequently treated rail travel and technological connection as symbols of democratic union and national expansion. The Library of Congress provides contextual material on Whitman and his work at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/walt-whitman-papers/about-this-collection/>. Historical context on the railroad’s role in U.S. expansion is available from the National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/transcontinental-railroad.htm>.

QUESTION NO: 8

Select the correct error. No sentence contains more than one error. If No Error exists, then select option no error.

We (1) were not allowed (2) to skate on the pond until it (3) had froze to a depth of 10 in. and the red signal (4) had been hoisted.

- A. were
- B. to skate
- C. had froze
- D. had been hoisted
- E. no error

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The correct error is “**had froze**.” The verb phrase is in the past perfect tense, which is formed with *had* plus the past participle of the main verb. The verb *freeze* is irregular: its principal forms are *freeze* (base form), *froze* (simple past), and *frozen* (past participle). Therefore, the sentence should read, “until it *had frozen* to a depth of 10 in.” This tense appropriately indicates that the pond’s freezing to the required depth was completed before skating was permitted and before the signal had been hoisted. Standard English grammar requires the past participle, rather than the simple-past form, after auxiliary verbs such as *have*, *has*, and *had*. Merriam-Webster lists *froze* as the past tense and *frozen* as the past participle of *freeze*: [Merriam-Webster: freeze](#). For an overview of perfect verb forms and their use of *had* with a past participle, see [Purdue OWL: Perfect Tense](#).

QUESTION NO: 9

I am a rather elderly man. The nature of my avocations for the last thirty years has brought me into more than ordinary contact with what would seem an interesting and somewhat singular set of men of whom as yet nothing that I know of has ever been written: – mean the law copyists or scriveners. The sentence above was written by

- A. Herman Melville
- B. Margaret Fuller
- C. Rebecca Harding Davis
- D. Walt Whitman
- E. George Washington Harris

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Herman Melville is correct because this passage is the opening of his short story *Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*, first published in 1853. The narrator identifies himself as an elderly attorney whose long professional experience has given him unusual familiarity with legal copyists, or scriveners. That professional setting establishes the Wall Street law office in which he later employs Bartleby, the enigmatic copyist whose repeated preference “not to” becomes the story’s defining phrase and central conflict. Melville’s use of a first-person lawyer-narrator is particularly important: the speaker presents himself as practical, cautious, and initially charitable, so the account filters Bartleby’s increasingly baffling behavior through the assumptions of a prosperous nineteenth-century employer. The wording in the question can be verified in the complete text hosted by [Project Gutenberg](#). Melville’s authorship and his place in American literary history are also documented by the [Encyclopaedia Britannica biography of Herman Melville](#). The reference to “scriveners” is therefore not merely a general occupational clue; it directly names the role that gives Melville’s celebrated story its title.

QUESTION NO: 10

- (1) If your favorite rock star asked you to jump off a bridge, would you do it?
- (2) Of course not; no way!
- (3) You would tell the rock star to take his money.
- (4) Then go back to his mansion, and stuff it.
- (5) You make your own decisions; the idea of risking your life on the whim of a famous singer is just plain nonsense.
- (6) Even if you truly adore music, it is not a factor that dictates your every move.
- (7) Some young people would do anything for a particular music performer.
- (8) They would flock to jump off the bridge if their favorite music icon asked them to do so.
- (9) Because popular music, more than any other aspect of youth culture, holds an extremely powerful clutch on its very impressionable audience.
- (10) Occasionally that clutch can have a positive effect.
- (11) For example, some artists put forth positive messages.
- (12) More often, however, the messages in popular songs are destructive.
- (13) Children require guidance, and they are easily fooled by music that provides either false hope or hopelessness.
- (14) Adults need to learn about popular music to know which performers preach a positive (or at least harmless) message and those that can be truly destructive to a young person’s life.
- (15) This is a tough job.
- (16) But it is an important job.

Which of the following is the best way to revise sentence 2?

- A. (No change)
- B. Change the semicolon to an exclamation point and capitalize “no”
- C. Change the semicolon to a comma
- D. Change the semicolon to a period and omit “no way!”
- E. Change the exclamation point to a period

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

“Change the semicolon to a period and omit ‘no way!’” is the best revision because it produces the direct, complete sentence “Of course not.” This response answers the rhetorical question in the preceding sentence clearly and maintains a more

appropriate tone for an analytical essay. The phrase “no way!” is conversational slang and adds emphasis without adding meaning; omitting it makes the prose more concise and controlled. The revision also gives the opening response a clean ending before the passage moves into its next idea about rejecting the rock star’s influence. Effective revision commonly involves eliminating unnecessary or overly informal wording while preserving the writer’s intended point. The resulting sentence is grammatically complete, easy to read, and suitably emphatic without relying on colloquial language. Guidance on editing for concision and removing needless words is available from the [Purdue Online Writing Lab’s conciseness resource](#). The College Board’s [CLEP College Composition exam page](#) likewise identifies revision and effective use of language as central writing skills.

QUESTION NO: 11

Select the correct error. No sentence contains more than one error. If No Error exists, then select option no error.

(1) It is very dangerous to (2) differ from a superior in the company (3) unless there (4) is mutual respect.

- A. it
- B. differ from
- C. unless
- D. is
- E. no error

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

The correct response is *no error*. The sentence is grammatically complete and uses each construction correctly. “It is very dangerous” uses introductory or anticipatory *it* in a standard impersonal statement, followed by the infinitive phrase “to differ from a superior in the company.” The verb phrase “differ from” is idiomatic when describing disagreement or a distinction between people or opinions; it appropriately takes “a superior” as its object. Merriam-Webster records *differ from* as an established use of *differ*: [Merriam-Webster: differ](#).

The final clause is also correctly formed. “Unless” introduces a condition that qualifies the danger described in the main clause: disagreement may be less dangerous when mutual respect exists. In “there is mutual respect,” the verb is singular because “mutual respect” is a singular, uncountable noun phrase. The Cambridge Dictionary describes *unless* as meaning “except if,” which fits this conditional relationship: [Cambridge Dictionary Grammar: unless](#). Therefore, no word or phrase identified in the sentence requires correction.

QUESTION NO: 12

Aunt Polly, Becky Thatcher, and Injun Joe are characters in the writing of

- A. Wallace Stevens
- B. Robert Penn Warren
- C. Langston Hughes
- D. Mark Twain
- E. Thomas Wolfe

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Mark Twain is correct because Aunt Polly, Becky Thatcher, and Injun Joe are central characters in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Twain’s classic novel first published in 1876. Aunt Polly is Tom Sawyer’s guardian, Becky Thatcher is Tom’s

schoolmate and romantic interest, and Injun Joe is the novel's principal antagonist. Their shared presence in this work directly identifies Twain as the author. Twain, the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, is a major American writer noted for fiction that draws on childhood, community life, and the culture of the Mississippi River region. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is among his best-known books and established many of the characters later associated with his depiction of the fictional town of St. Petersburg, Missouri. The novel is available through the Library of Congress's digital collections and Project Gutenberg: [Library of Congress](#) and [Project Gutenberg](#).

QUESTION NO: 13

Which of the following was NOT common in early Puritan literature?

- A. Poetry
- B. Sermons
- C. Theological tracts
- D. Short stories
- E. Histories

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

Short stories is correct because early Puritan writing in colonial New England was primarily devotional, instructional, historical, and communal rather than fictional entertainment. Puritans viewed literature as a means of examining conscience, recording God's providence, teaching religious doctrine, and preserving the history of their settlements. Their major prose forms therefore included sermons, conversion narratives, journals, religious treatises, and accounts of colonial events. Poetry also had an accepted place when it expressed spiritual reflection or biblical themes, as in the work of Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor.

The modern short story depends on concise fictional plotting and is usually intended chiefly as imaginative narrative or entertainment. That genre was not a regular feature of the early Puritan literary culture, whose authors generally emphasized moral seriousness, scriptural authority, and practical religious purpose. Although Puritan writers sometimes used anecdotes or personal narratives to make a theological point, these were not short stories in the later literary sense. The historical development of American literature identifies Puritan colonial writing chiefly with religious prose, diaries, histories, and spiritually focused verse. See [Encyclopaedia Britannica's overview of colonial American literature](#) and the [Poetry Foundation profile of Anne Bradstreet](#).

QUESTION NO: 15

Why can't Black Elk Speaks be viewed as an authoritative text of Sioux culture?

- A. Black Elk's revelations were tainted by the errors of translators, transcribers, and the author.
- B. Black Elk was not a Sioux.
- C. The surviving text is incomplete and portions impossible to read.
- D. Black Elk's own knowledge of Sioux culture was limited.
- E. Black Elk's own views changed dramatically once he lived apart from his own culture and adapted to living in an urban setting.
- F. Neihardt, a man with literary rather than anthropological training. He relied on translators and transcripts to complete the story of Black Elk. This weakness introduced many inaccuracies and omissions.

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

“Black Elk’s revelations were tainted by the errors of translators, transcribers, and the author” is correct because *Black Elk Speaks* is a mediated literary account rather than an unfiltered, contemporaneous record of Lakota religious and cultural life. The narrative originated in conversations between Black Elk and John G. Neihardt, conducted through an interpreter, and then passed through transcription, editing, translation, and literary shaping before publication. Each stage could affect wording, emphasis, context, and the representation of culturally specific concepts. Neihardt’s stated aim was also to create a compelling book for a broad readership, so the published work reflects his editorial and artistic decisions as well as Black Elk’s testimony.

This does not make the book devoid of value. It remains an important account of Black Elk’s experiences and has had major literary, historical, and religious influence. However, it should be read critically and alongside Lakota sources, historical context, and scholarship addressing the circumstances of its production. The National Endowment for the Humanities discusses the work’s importance and interpretive complexities in its [overview of Black Elk Speaks](#). The book’s publication and bibliographic record can also be reviewed through the [Library of Congress catalog entry](#).

QUESTION NO: 16

The team maintains that it was not treated fairly at the last inter-league tournament sponsored by the Library Association.

Change “team” to “team members”.

- A. it were
- B. they being
- C. they are
- D. they were
- E. he and she were

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

“they were” is correct because changing the subject from the singular collective noun “team” to the plural noun phrase “team members” requires corresponding plural forms throughout the sentence. “They” is the appropriate third-person plural pronoun to refer back to “team members,” and “were” is the plural past-tense form of *be*. The original statement describes an asserted past event: the team’s treatment occurred at the last tournament. Retaining the past tense therefore preserves both the meaning and the time relationship in the revised sentence: “The team members maintain that they were not treated fairly at the last interleague tournament sponsored by the Library Association.” The present-tense reporting verb “maintain” does not require the embedded clause to be in the present tense; writers commonly use a present reporting verb with a past-tense clause when the underlying event happened in the past. This revision demonstrates grammatical agreement between an antecedent and its pronoun, as well as agreement between a plural subject and its verb. Purdue OWL’s discussion of pronoun agreement provides useful guidance on matching pronouns to their antecedents: [Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement](#). For additional guidance on subject-verb agreement, see [Purdue OWL: Subject-Verb Agreement](#).

QUESTION NO: 17

When one considers how transportation influences our day to day operations, one can appreciate why so many people take extra precautions to maintain their cars.

Change one can appreciate to explains. Your new sentence will begin with which of the following?

- A. Transportation’s influences
- B. The influence of transportation
- C. Influences due to transportation
- D. Because of the influence of transportation
- E. Transportation influence

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The influence of transportation is correct because it creates a complete, grammatical sentence when followed by the remaining words: “The influence of transportation on our day-to-day operations explains why so many people take extra precautions to maintain their cars.” The revision turns the original idea—how transportation influences daily operations—into the noun phrase “the influence of transportation.” This noun phrase is the sentence’s subject, and its head noun, “influence,” is singular. Therefore, the singular verb “explains” agrees with it.

The revised construction also accurately preserves the relationship expressed in the original sentence. Transportation affects day-to-day operations, and that effect explains why people are especially careful to maintain their cars. Using “on” after “influence” clearly identifies what is affected: transportation has an influence *on* day-to-day operations. The resulting sentence is direct and logically complete, with “explains why” introducing the reason for the stated behavior. For guidance on maintaining clear sentence structure and revising wordy constructions, see the [Purdue OWL’s Paramedic Method](#) and the [Cambridge Dictionary guide to subject-verb agreement](#).

QUESTION NO: 18

(1) Working and going to school at the same time is difficult. (2) It's hard to find time to do school work, and there's no time for goofing off, leisure, relaxing and enjoying yourself. (3) What makes the situation worse is that as a young person, the only jobs available are usually boring or unpleasant.

(4) When I worked at the movie complex, I was getting paid minimum wage. (5) I had to run from theater to theater to clean each as quickly as possible. (6) Picking up of garbage was not only disgusting, it was also exhausting. (7) Spilled drinks made the seats and floors sticky. (8) Popcorn that was dropped and stepped on became a mushy pulp.

(9) The video rental store wasn't much better. (10) I always had a manager looking over my shoulder to make sure that I did everything right. (11) I was constantly being threatened with losing my job, and the customers have been the rudest people I ever met. (12) They would take pleasure in making my life as difficult as possible.

(13) Working the buffet line at Soupserve depressed me also. (14) But it was the rude customers that made the job unpleasant. (15) Sweating from the high temperatures, the customers complained the food was not warm enough, while I served them standing between the warming ovens and the steam table.

(16) Having these jobs has convinced me that I need to complete my education. (17) I'm looking forward to completing my degree in my chosen field, business, and going to work as an accountant, which won't be as boring and unpleasant as the jobs I've held while in school.

Which of the following is the best way to revise the underlined portions of sentences 7 and 8 so that the two sentences are combined into one?

Spilled drinks made the seats and floors sticky. Popcorn hat was dropped and stepped on became a mushy pulp.

- A. the seats and floors sticky, and popcorn
- B. the seats and floors sticky and popcorn
- C. the seats and floors sticky; popcorn
- D. the seats and floors sticky; but popcorn
- E. the seats and floors is sticky; however, popcorn

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

the seats and floors sticky, and popcorn is the best revision because it combines the two complete, closely related statements into one clear compound sentence: “Spilled drinks made the seats and floors sticky, and popcorn that was dropped and stepped on became a mushy pulp.” The material before the comma is an independent clause with a subject (“Spilled drinks”) and a verb (“made”). The material after *and* is also an independent clause with its own subject (“popcorn”) and verb (“became”). A comma followed by the coordinating conjunction *and* is the standard punctuation for joining two

independent clauses in this way. The resulting sentence maintains the original meaning, keeps both unpleasant details equally prominent, and creates a smooth connection between them. It also avoids a run-on construction while preserving the paragraph's descriptive, conversational style. Purdue Online Writing Lab explains that independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction are ordinarily separated by a comma: [Purdue OWL: Commas](#). For additional guidance on coordinating conjunctions and compound sentences, see [UNC Writing Center: Commas](#).

QUESTION NO: 19

The Prairie States

A NEWER garden of creation, no primal solitude,

Dense, joyous, modern, populous millions, cities and farms,

With iron interlaced, composite, tied, many in one,

By all the world contributed – freedom's and law's and thrift's society, The crown and teeming paradise, so far, of time's accumulations, To justify the past.

Which of the following best describes the author's opinion of the prairie states?

- A. They are rich and prosperous.
- B. They are full of industry and agriculture.
- C. They are faint copies of a lost paradise.
- D. They are sustained by the institution of slavery.
- E. They represent America's diversity, union, and strength.

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

"They represent America's diversity, union, and strength." best captures the speaker's strongly celebratory view of the prairie states. The passage presents the region not as isolated wilderness but as a vibrant, modern society: it is "dense," "joyous," and filled with both "cities and farms." More importantly, the language emphasizes connection and collective identity. "Iron interlaced" evokes the railroads linking people and places, while "composite, tied, many in one" describes a union created from distinct individuals and communities. The claim that the society is "by all the world contributed" explicitly celebrates the diverse origins of its population. The speaker also associates this diverse, connected society with foundational civic ideals—"freedom's and law's and thrift's"—and calls it a "teeming paradise" and the "crown" of accumulated history. These details show that the prairie states symbolize a powerful national ideal: many peoples joined into a productive, flourishing American whole. The poem is by Walt Whitman, whose work frequently celebrates democratic unity, cultural variety, and the energy of the expanding United States. See the text and publication context at the [Walt Whitman Archive](#) and an overview of Whitman's democratic poetic vision at the [Poetry Foundation](#).

QUESTION NO: 20

(1) Working and going to school at the same time is difficult. (2) It's hard to find time to do school work, and there's no time for goofing off, leisure, relaxing and enjoying yourself. (3) What makes the situation worse is that as a young person, the only jobs available are usually boring or unpleasant.

(4) When I worked at the movie complex, I was getting paid minimum wage. (5) I had to run from theater to theater to clean each as quickly as possible. (6) Picking up of garbage was not only disgusting, it was also exhausting. (7) Spilled drinks made the seats and floors sticky. (8) Popcorn that was dropped and stepped on became a mushy pulp.

(9) The video rental store wasn't much better. (10) I always had a manager looking over my shoulder to make sure that I did everything right. (11) I was constantly being threatened with losing my job, and the customers have been the rudest people I ever met. (12) They would take pleasure in making my life as difficult as possible.

(13) Working the buffet line at Soupserv depressed me also. (14) But it was the rude customers that made the job unpleasant. (15) Sweating from the high temperatures, the customers complained the food was not warm enough, while I served them standing between the warming ovens and the steam table.

(16) Having these jobs has convinced me that I need to complete my education. (17) I'm looking forward to completing my degree in my chosen field, business, and going to work as an accountant, which won't be as boring and unpleasant as the jobs I've held while in school.

Which of the following is the best way to revise the portion of sentence 17?

- A. completing my degree in business and beginning to work as an accountant
- B. completing my business degree and working as an accountant
- C. finishing school and going into accounting
- D. finishing school and beginning work at an accounting firm
- E. starting to be an accountant

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The best revision is *"completing my business degree and working as an accountant"* because it states the writer's educational goal and career goal directly, economically, and with clear parallel structure. The paired gerunds, "completing" and "working," make the two anticipated actions grammatically consistent and easy to follow. Replacing the longer phrase "my degree in my chosen field, business" with "my business degree" also eliminates unnecessary wording while retaining the precise subject of the degree. The revised wording fits naturally after "I'm looking forward to" and leads smoothly into the relative clause describing the anticipated accounting career. Effective revision commonly emphasizes concision and parallel construction when related ideas appear in a series or pair. The Purdue Online Writing Lab discusses the importance of maintaining parallel grammatical forms in coordinated ideas: [Purdue OWL: Parallel Structure](#). For additional guidance on writing clearly and eliminating wordiness, see [UNC Writing Center: Wordiness](#).

QUESTION NO: 21

Nature, the gentlest mother,
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest, –
Her admonition mild
In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel Or too impetuous bird.
How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon, –
Her household, her assembly; And when the sun goes down
Her voice among the aisles
Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket, The most unworthy flower.
When all the children sleep
She turns as long away

As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,
With infinite affection
And infiniter care, Her golden finger on her lip, Wills silence everywhere.

The “lamps” mentioned in line 20 are probably

- A. fireflies
- B. street lamps
- C. stars
- D. house lights
- E. campfires

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The correct answer is *stars*. In Emily Dickinson’s personification of Nature as a gentle, attentive mother, the poem moves from the activity of a summer afternoon toward the quiet of evening. After “all the children sleep,” Nature “turns as long away / As will suffice to light her lamps.” This action figuratively describes the arrival of darkness and the appearance of lights in the sky. Because Nature is shown bending “from the sky,” her lamps belong to the natural heavens rather than to a human setting. The image also supports the poem’s maternal comparison: as a mother prepares a household for nighttime rest, Nature brings out the celestial lights and then commands a peaceful hush with her “golden finger on her lip.” Thus, the lamps are the stars becoming visible as night falls. The poem is Dickinson’s “Nature, the gentlest mother,” which can be read in the [Poetry Foundation text](#). For contextual information about Dickinson’s poetic use of compressed figurative language and nature imagery, see the [Encyclopaedia Britannica biography of Emily Dickinson](#).

QUESTION NO: 22

In which novel are African-American boys cruelly tormented in the “Battle Royal”?

- A. Invisible Man
- B. Wise Blood
- C. The Dean’s December
- D. The Tenants
- E. The End of the Road

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Invisible Man is correct because “Battle Royal” is the title of the opening episode of Ralph Ellison’s novel. Published in 1952, the novel follows an unnamed Black narrator as he confronts racism and pressures to conform in the United States. Early in the narrative, after delivering a graduation speech, the narrator is invited to a gathering of prominent white men. Instead of receiving the recognition he expects, he and other young Black men are blindfolded and compelled to fight one another for the white audience’s amusement. The scene culminates in a scramble for coins on an electrified rug, intensifying Ellison’s depiction of humiliation, exploitation, and the dehumanizing operation of racism. Although the narrator is ultimately given a scholarship, the episode establishes the novel’s central concern: his struggle to be recognized as a full human being rather than as an image imposed by others. Encyclopaedia Britannica identifies Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* as a landmark novel about African American experience and identity: [Britannica: Invisible Man](#). The Library of Congress also discusses Ellison and the novel’s enduring literary importance: [Library of Congress](#).

QUESTION NO: 23

Even if you are very talented, you must also be extremely determined if one wants to become a professional actor. No error

- A. Even
- B. must also
- C. one wants
- D. to become
- E. No error

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

one wants is the error because it creates an inconsistent shift in pronoun perspective. The sentence begins by addressing the reader directly with the second-person pronoun “you”: “Even if you are very talented, you must also be extremely determined.” The final conditional clause should retain that same perspective: “if you want to become a professional actor.” Using “one” after “you” changes from direct address to an indefinite third-person subject without a reason to do so. In formal editing, a pronoun should clearly and consistently refer to the same person or point of view throughout a sentence unless the shift is intentional and logically necessary. Here, the intended meaning concerns the same person whose talent and determination are being discussed, so “you want” supplies the needed grammatical and stylistic consistency. This principle is commonly described as maintaining consistent point of view and pronoun agreement in writing. See the Purdue Online Writing Lab’s guidance on [pronouns](#) and the University of North Carolina Writing Center’s discussion of [pronoun clarity and consistency](#).