TerraNova Preparation and Practice Workbook & Ten Days to the TerraNova

GRADE 8 / LEVEL 18
This booklet was written by The Princeton Review, the nation’s leader in test preparation. The Princeton Review helps millions of students every year prepare for standardized assessments of all kinds. Through its association with McGraw-Hill, The Princeton Review offers the best way to help students excel on the TerraNova.

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Introduction to the TerraNova 4
Process of Elimination 5

Preparation and Practice

Spelling 6
Language Mechanics 8
Vocabulary 10
Reading and Language Arts 1 12
Reading and Language Arts 2 14
Reading and Language Arts 3 16
Reading and Language Arts 4 18
Reading and Language Arts 20

Ten Days to the TerraNova

Practice Test 23
What Do I Need to Know About the TerraNova? 46
Process of Elimination 48
The Passages 50
Reading Questions 53
Writing Questions 60
An Overview of the TerraNova

The TerraNova is a nationally administered standardized test. It is given to thousands of students across the country every year. This means the TerraNova is going to be different than the tests your teacher gives you. Your teacher’s tests are designed to review the material you have just learned in class. Your teacher most likely asks you detailed questions about books you have just read or lessons you have just learned. The TerraNova, on the other hand, is a more general test. It has to be since it is given to so many different people at once. Its goal is to test basic skills like reading comprehension, grammar, structure, spelling, vocabulary, and language mechanics.

This workbook will help you prepare for the Reading/Language Arts section of the TerraNova test. We will review the different types of questions you might see on the TerraNova, and we will introduce techniques that will help you answer many of these questions.

The workbook is divided into two sections: Preparation and Practice and Ten Days to the TerraNova. The Preparation and Practice section contains practice TerraNova-style questions. These questions will help you get comfortable with the types of questions you will see on the TerraNova. The Ten Days to TerraNova section contains a complete TerraNova practice test as well as techniques that will show you how to succeed on the test. Working hard on both of these sections will help you do your best when it comes time for you to take the actual exam.
Process of Elimination

The process of elimination is one of the most effective techniques to use on any multiple-choice test. For instance, take a look at the sample question below:

**SAMPLE**

**S1** In the story, which of the following did Maria say was her favorite sport?

A. History  
B. Baseball  
C. Homework  
D. Traveling

Even though you don’t have a copy of the story that the question refers to, you can answer this question. How? By using process of elimination.

The question asks, “Which of the following did Maria say was her favorite sport?” Is choice A, *History*, a sport? No, of course it is not. So it cannot possibly be the correct answer. Could choice B, *Baseball*, be Maria’s favorite sport? That could work. You should hold on to it for now. What about choice C, *Homework*? Could that be Maria’s favorite sport? Again, homework isn’t a sport and, in fact, neither is choice D, *traveling*. So the only possibility then is choice B, *Baseball*. It must be the correct answer.

Even though you haven’t read the story, you were able to answer the question. That’s the power of the process of elimination. Process of elimination might not work this well with every question. Sometimes you may only be able to eliminate one or two answer choices. However, it is still one of the best ways to avoid making careless mistakes and to improve your chances of guessing correctly.

Using Your Scratch Paper

The process of elimination is a powerful technique on any multiple-choice test, but it only works well if you keep track of the answers you know are wrong. Since you won’t be able to write in your test book, you should use whatever scratch paper you are given. Keeping your scratch paper neat and organized is a key to success on the TerraNova. Let’s take a look at the question we just worked through and see how you could have written it out on your scratch paper.

**Label question numbers.**

**Cross out choices you know are wrong.**

**Circle the correct answer.**

You should use your scratch paper whenever you use the process of elimination. Remember to write down your answer choices (ABCD or FGHJ), to label your question numbers, and to cross out any answers you know are wrong.
**Spelling**

**Directions**
For numbers 1 through 7, choose the word that is spelled correctly and best completes the sentence.

**SAMPLE**
Please _____ me for being late.

- A fourgive
- B forgive
- C forgiv
- D foregive

**1** The squid that we had for dinner was tough and ________.

- A rubbary
- B rubberie
- C rubbery
- D rubery

**2** The young girl’s understanding showed she was ________.

- F precoshious
- G precocious
- H precotious
- J precoshus

**3** The similarity of their features was ________.

- A unmistakable
- B unmistakeable
- C unmistakeble
- D unmistakebul

**4** The ________ climbed out of the water and found a sunny rock.

- F weasle
- G weasel
- H weasil
- J weesel

**5** She played the ________ beautifully.

- A xylephone
- B xylaphone
- C xyzofone
- D xylophone

**6** Your ________ of this problem is complete.

- F analysis
- G analisis
- H analisys
- J analysys

**7** Take a ________ look at this before you hand it to someone else.

- A thorow
- B thorouge
- C thoroce
- D thorough
Directions
For numbers 1 through 7, read the phrases. Find the phrase containing an underlined word that is not spelled correctly. If all the underlined words are spelled correctly, mark “All Correct.”

SAMPLE
A annoying distraction
B harmful encounter
C tremendous asset
D convincing argument
E All Correct

1 A her obnoxious insistance
B distracted by the commotion
C their magnanimous contribution
D sizing up the competition
E All Correct

2 F his dynamic personality
G an extraordinary cyclist
H an irrepressible urge
J keep her anonymity
K All Correct

3 A unable to budge
B riding the camel
C responding convincingly
D convivial participants
E All Correct

4 F legible handwriting
G said in memoriam
H ascending the stairs
J mysterious disappearance
K All Correct

5 A reasonable justification
B unclean infirmary
C convincing persistance
D short explanation
E All Correct

6 F boring monologue
G spontaneous explosion
H minor omission
J nocturnal creature
K All Correct

7 A serial numbers
B electrical conductivity
C predominant part
D unconscionable act
E All Correct
Language Mechanics

Directions
For numbers 1 through 6, look at the underlined part of the sentence. Choose the answer that shows the best capitalization and punctuation for that part.

SAMPLE
“The ship is going to sink,” shrieked the steward.
A sink”. shrieked
B sink,” shrieked
C sink!” shrieked
D Best as is

4 Harriet when will the train pull into the station?
F Harriet—when
G Harriet. When
H Harriet, when
J Best as is

5 “Tabitha was the only person who swam in the race who had not competed before, said Coach Horgan.
A before said
B before,” said
C before.” said
D Best as is

6 Are you expecting company, Jackie?
F company? Jackie?
G company, Jackie?
H company Jackie
J Best as is

1 Bart wondered. Are there any bears in these woods?”
A wondered. “Are
B wondered “are
C wondered, “Are
D Best as is

2 Idaho Falls near the mountains, is a beautiful resort town.
F Falls. Near
G Falls, near
H Falls: Near
J Best as is

3 The docent asked, “Have any of you ever visited this museum before?”
A asked? ‘Have
B asked, Have
C asked. Have
D Best as is
Directions
For numbers 1 through 5, read the passage and look at the numbered, underlined parts. Read the question that corresponds with the number in the passage, and choose the answer that shows the best punctuation and capitalization for that part.

This Friday evening at 7:00 P.M., a local gas station experienced a gas spill. The spill occurred at Patty’s Fill-Up Station located at the corner of Fremont and Harper Streets. The truck that usually delivers gasoline to the station had not been able to make its weekly delivery when the station’s tanks consequently ran low on gasoline, they had called Pete’s Gas Delivery Company for an emergency delivery. The driver for Pete’s Gas Delivery Company told local reporters, “that he had been unable to measure the exact amount of gas that spilled at the station. The driver had apparently gone into the convenience store at the station for some snacks a drink, and to use the rest room. When he came back out, he discovered gasoline pouring out of the delivery tube and onto the pavement? An environmental remediation company called Yarta’s Clean-Up Crew has been hired to examine the site and to make a plan for removing the spilled gasoline.

1. A delivery, when  
   B delivery. When  
   C delivery: when  
   D Correct as is

2. F reporters “that  
   G reporters, “that  
   H reporters that  
   J Correct as is

3. A snacks, a drink, and to use the rest room  
   B snacks a drink, and to use the rest room  
   C snacks a drink and to use, the rest room  
   D Correct as is

4. F pavement, an  
   G pavement an  
   H pavement. An  
   J Correct as is

5. A Yarta’s clean-up crew  
   B Yarta’s Clean-Up crew  
   C yarta’s clean-up crew  
   D Correct as is

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Directions
For numbers 1 through 8, choose the word that means the opposite of the underlined word.

SAMPLE
terrified person
A scared
B calm
C shredded
D unique

1 exceptionally tranquil
A hectic
B bewildered
C captured
D weak

2 often ecstatic
F committed
G replaced
H depressed
J shocked

3 much consideration
A thoughtlessness
B sleepiness
C tribute
D ignorance

4 completely deliberate
F nutritious
G frantic
H understood
J whimsical

5 mostly malleable
A unknown
B repeated
C rigid
D frivolous

6 always augment
F create
G diminish
H swollen
J unpleasant

7 too rickety
A fixed
B obscure
C imposed
D ambled

8 very acrid
F sweet
G supple
H starved
J sane
**Directions**

For numbers 1 through 8, read the complete paragraph. For each numbered blank, refer to the corresponding question number. Choose the word that best completes the meaning of the paragraph.

Riverside Park, on the (1) of Manhattan’s Upper West Side and the Hudson River, is a(n) (2) of greenery. Nearby residents enjoy picnicking, jogging, walking their dogs, and other (3) activities. The park even has softball diamonds where local (4) and their employees enjoy a much-needed (5) from the daily bustle. There is also a boat basin where sailboats and houseboats pull in from the (6) water of the Atlantic Ocean. Local gardeners maintain and (7) well-manicured flower gardens. Looking out over the Hudson to the west, you can see the shore of New Jersey. At the end of the day, if you look beyond the shore, you can see the (8) sun setting in shades of red, orange, and fuchsia.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>novel</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>limpid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>border</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>intrepid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>sliver</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>permeate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>sphere</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>nocturnal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>jocund</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>inkling</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>harbinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>nebulous</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>malevolent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>merchants</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>knowledgeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>respite</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>responsive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>lollygag</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>frenetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>tartan</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>rancid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>funicular</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>turbulent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>civilize</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>rectify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>diatribe</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>cultivate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>gastronomical</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>dreary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>fiery</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>candid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tiger Woods was born on December 20, 1975. He went to high school in California and went to college in California. He was living in Florida now. Tiger was born with the name Eldrick. He uses his nickname, which is the name of a family friend. Tiger was the youngest golfer ever to win the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. Tiger was the youngest golfer to win the Masters Championship. The Masters being a very important golf tournament. In 1994, Tiger was chosen to be Man of the Year by Golf World magazine. He was chosen for this honor because of his outstanding performance in 1994.

1. Which is the best way to rewrite Sentence 8?
   A. The Masters is a very important golf tournament.
   B. The Masters becoming a very important golf tournament.
   C. The Masters was being a very important golf tournament.
   D. The Masters were a very important golf tournament.

2. Which is the best combination of these two sentences from this report?

   Tiger was the youngest golfer ever to win the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship.

   Tiger was the youngest golfer to win the Masters Championship.

   F. Tiger was also the youngest golfer to win the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship and he was the youngest to win the Masters Championship.
   G. Tiger was the youngest golfer ever to win the U.S. Junior Amateur and the Masters Championships.
   H. Tiger was the youngest golfer and he also won the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship and the Masters Championships.
   J. However, Tiger was the youngest golfer to win both the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship and the Masters Championship.
3 Which is the correct way to rewrite Sentence 3?

A  He were living in Florida now.
B  He be living in Florida now.
C  He lived in Florida now.
D  He lives in Florida now.

4 Choose the best way to rewrite Sentence 2.

F  He went to high school in California and then he went to college in California.
G  He went to both high school and college in California.
H  Going to high school and college, he went to California.
J  He went to high school in California, and he went to college in California.

5 The following information best supports which sentence in the paragraph?

It was the name given to a Vietnamese soldier who became his father’s friend.

A  Sentence 1
B  Sentence 3
C  Sentence 5
D  Sentence 7
In the 1860s, there was a group of English painters who all shared the same ideas about beauty. Their names were Dante Gabriel Rosetti, William Morris, and Edward Burne-Jones. But, when his health started to fail, the leadership became Burne-Jones’s responsibility.

1. Their paintings usually depicted scenes from well-known stories.
2. These painters had all gone to Europe’s finest art schools.
3. For the most part, Rosetti was the leader of this group.
4. Leadership became an important part of being a member of this group.

Although Burne-Jones was thought of as the best painter in England in the 1870s, he did not see himself as the group’s leader. And while he was highly respected, some of the other British painters who were considered part of the group had different artistic interests. But, Burne-Jones refused to change his approach to painting. He continued painting pictures that showed what he thought were the most beautiful parts of life.

5. They did not want to paint things in the same style as Burne-Jones did.
6. Burne-Jones decided that he would change his style to match theirs.
7. Some of his paintings included pictures of beautiful landscapes.
8. Burne-Jones gained worldwide fame as the finest British painter from this period.
The Role of Art in History

Art in the form of painting, music, sculpture, and drawing is a long-lasting way for humankind to express its feelings and ideas. In France, cave drawings and paintings that are more than 17,000 years old show scenes from everyday life. Music that was composed hundreds of years ago by composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Pachelbel is frequently played today. Art forms such as sculpture and ceramics from the past contribute permanent records of style and design to the present. Rodin’s heavy bronze sculptures illustrate experiences common to many people throughout the ages. Da Vinci’s sketches and drawings, created in the 1500s, revolutionized the way that artists portrayed the human form. Rembrandt’s paintings, although more than 300 years old, still appeal to many people and are cherished as some of the most beautiful and valuable art on Earth.

This web and the questions that follow are based on the information in the passage above.

1 Which answer should go in oval 2?
   - A Textile
   - B Dance
   - C Poetry
   - D Music

2 What is the purpose of this web?
   - F To organize information about art
   - G To show which artists are the most famous
   - H To illustrate how art expresses human feelings
   - J To point out the four main areas of art

3 Which one of these belongs in circle 1?
   - A France
   - B Chopin
   - C Rembrandt
   - D Mozart
Carl Doplomia’s word is as good as gold. He’s the local reference librarian at the Public Library. If you have a question about a book or a fact, or need help finding information, Carl is the person you can contact. Thousands of people in his town turn to him each year for assistance.

“I enjoy being able to point people in the right direction toward finding information that they need,” Carl says. “Some of the people who need my help are only looking for a small detail, others are searching for a rare and out-of-print book that contains vital knowledge.” In most cases, Carl is able to help in the search and to get results.

Doplomia’s great knowledge of research methods has grown steadily since he was young. He first started working in a local library when he was a teen. Several afternoons a week, he got off the bus near the library and spent the next four hours organizing and reshelving the books that had been returned. He remembers spending quiet afternoons, glancing through almost every book before placing it in its proper place on the shelf.

Before long, patrons of the library expected to see Carl there in the afternoons, putting the books that they had borrowed back on the shelves. “Soon, people began asking me questions about books,” Carl recalls. “Sometimes the questions were only about where to look in the library for a particular kind of book. Other times, people asked me to recommend a book on a topic. I made my best guess based on what I briefly had seen when I looked through the books.”

With a smile, Carl says, “I remember feeling good to be able to help people out. It definitely made me realize how important books are to many people. I saw how people used them as tools.”

When Carl went to college, he interviewed for a job at the college library. “My experience at the local library at home really helped. I knew how libraries were organized.” He got the job and knew that he would continue to work in libraries whenever possible. Working on an undergraduate degree in history gave Carl the chance to gain in-depth knowledge of one subject. To this day, Carl considers his background in history a valuable resource to the people who turn to him for help.

Following college, Carl decided to pursue a master’s degree in library science. He learned more about the way libraries function. He also learned about the many different kinds of information sources available to libraries and their customers.

Today, Carl works at a public library in a small city. He is in charge of organizing reference material that people use to find books and facts. He is always looking for newer and better ways to bring information to the public. “Public libraries are one of the greatest parts of living in the United States,” says Carl. “They have been designed to bring the greatest knowledge to all people for free. I can’t think of a better way to make a living than to open doors for people by making sure that information and books are available and easy to find.”
1. Carl says that he realized that people use books as a tool. What does he mean?

   A. People think that using a book is easier than using a screwdriver.
   B. People use the information in books to help them accomplish things.
   C. Books are lighter to carry than most tool kits are.
   D. Instead of spending time using tools to fix things, time should be spent reading books.

2. This passage is mostly about

   F. what is involved in working at the library.
   G. how to check a book out of the local library.
   H. why public libraries are so important in this country.
   J. the information that you can find at the local library.

3. Carl says books open doors for people. Which of these would most likely do the same?

   A. [computer]
   B. [sink]
   C. [gear]
   D. [monkey]

4. According to the passage, which of these helped Carl decide to become a librarian?

   F. allegiance
   G. persistence
   H. experience
   J. reliance
Countee Cullen was born in New York City in 1903. At the age of twenty-two, he was already famous as the most (1) poet during the Harlem Renaissance. A renaissance is a time when there are an unusually large number of writers, poets, painters, sculptors, and other artists who are creating exceptional work. The Harlem Renaissance, which occurred during the 1920s, was a time when there were many (2) African American writers in Harlem, New York City, whose works were being (3). Cullen’s poems expressed feelings and thoughts shaped by the African American experience. They won him great (4) and recognition. His book of poems, titled Color and published in 1925, brought the Harlem Renaissance to its (5). In all, Cullen published four books of poems and one novel, One Way to Heaven. He wished to be (6) as a skilled poet whose words had truth for all (7) and not only for other African Americans.
1. A disinterested  
   B unattached  
   C significant  
   D correlated

2. F proposed  
   G congruent  
   H accomplished  
   J barbaric

3. A fractured  
   B withered  
   C tinkered  
   D published

4. F rivets  
   G praise  
   H dialogue  
   J compartments

5. A pinnacle  
   B tumult  
   C aggregate  
   D companion

6. F constructed  
   G remembered  
   H distributed  
   J perplexed

7. A humanity  
   B pantry  
   C jeopardy  
   D infamy
Directions

Terry is thinking about going away to drama camp. Here is the form that he will need to fill out for the camp. Read the form. Then do numbers 1 through 5.

Camp Crosby

- Please complete this entire form with a black pen. If all information is not provided, we will not be able to consider you for placement in this summer’s programs.
- The deadline by which this form must be received is April 15 for this summer’s camp sessions.
- All payment must be returned or delivered with this application.
- We recommend that you make a copy of this completed form for your records.
- After we have reviewed your application, we will telephone you to confirm camp plans.
- It is necessary for you to complete the entire form even if you have made arrangements through our website.

Name: ____________ Nickname: ____________
Phone Number: ____________
Complete Address: ____________
Name of Parent or Guardian: ____________
Your Date of Birth: ____________ M/F
Hobbies and Interests: ____________
Plays You’ve Been In: ____________

Camp Fees

The cost per week can be found under “Session Expense” in the “Camp Crosby Outlook” pamphlet. Below are some additional items that you can order. Please place an “X” on the line next to those items that you wish to order:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Expense</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drama supplies—full package</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama supplies—partial package</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama supplies—starter kit</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp T-shirts with your name</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

you must include your total $ ____________

I am interested in attending (please place a check in the box in front of the session you would like to attend):

Please choose a second choice by writing “2” in the box in case your first choice is not available.

Session Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>June 30 – July 6</td>
<td>Mt. Canopila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>July 6 – July 13</td>
<td>Mt. Canopila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>July 6 – July 13</td>
<td>Carmel Lake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment accepted by check until April 1. After April 1, payment must be made in person with credit card or cash. All sessions must be completely paid for by April 15.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE—FOR OFFICE PURPOSES ONLY—

Date Received: ____________________

Complete: ____________ Y ____________ N

Prior Camper: ____________ Y ____________ N

Session Assigned __________________

Fee Included ______________________

Confirmation ______________________

Notes: _____________________________
1. The session expense is
   A. the cost of the largest drama kit
   B. the date that the form is due by
   C. the cost of the camp for a week
   D. the location where the session takes place

2. What will happen after the person fills out the form and sends it in?
   F. The camp will choose a session.
   G. The camper will receive a T-shirt.
   H. The camp will call to confirm.
   J. The camp will send a pamphlet.

3. Which of the following is not true about paying for the camp?
   A. Payment can be received by mail until April 1.
   B. All fees for the camp must be paid in full prior to April 15.
   C. Payment can be made with cash before April 15.
   D. All payment must be made in person.

4. The deadline for all applications is
   F. April 15
   G. June 30
   H. July 6
   J. July 13

5. An employee of the camp who is processing this form would
   A. accept a form where “Date of Birth” is left blank
   B. accept the form anytime after April 15
   C. make notes below the dotted line
   D. figure out the total cost of the fees due to the camp
Ten Days to the TerraNova
Stories of Survival

Have you ever heard of someone who has lost their way miles from home and yet is able to find their way back to civilization? Although the ability to survive hardships is not unique to humans, the ingenious ways we develop for the sake of survival set us apart from other species. The threat of perishing forces us to be the best that we can be. It leads us to new understandings about ourselves and others. Step into some fascinating survival stories that are sure to inspire you.
I was halfway home when I saw the first signs of danger. As far as the eye could see, all around, wherever I looked, snow was lifting and spiraling from the steppe. This swirling mass of wind-driven snow, . . . as it rises from the steppe, is dangerous enough; with its whirlpools making one totally blind, it is more dangerous than falling snow. As I stood there for a second, I felt as if the whole huge steppe were revolving under my feet. Then, as it does in Siberia in a great winter storm, the world went black. The wind blew up with a force that knocked me sideways, and now the snow was coming both from the earth and from the sky. The world was a maniacal, *gyrating* black funnel of noise and I was in the bottom of it. Alone. Completely alone.

I started to fight my way through this storm. I knew that if I panicked, if I went in circles, if I stopped altogether, I would die. It was as brutally simple as that. Countless people had died this way. One minute’s rest could be fatal.

I kept telling myself to push forward, push forward. But with the wind knocking me every which way, it was all I could do to keep on my feet. I was no longer certain that I was going forward. I had lost my sense of direction.

Suddenly, the wind carried a new sound, very faint: the sound of my name, “Esther . . . Esther . . .”

. . . I went toward this sound which kept repeating itself. Any step that took me away from it, I counted a wrong step and corrected myself.

“Esther . . . Esther . . .”

In the swirling blackness, I saw a figure. I fell into my mother’s arms.

There was no doubt about it. She had saved my life.

Standing in the middle of the road, a few yards from our hut, endangering her own life, knowing that I was out there someplace, she had turned herself into a human beam, homing me in as surely as if I were a plane being homed in on an electric beam.

*gyrating = turning around a center*

1. Pick the word that means the same thing as *gyrating*.
   - A Exciting
   - B Immense
   - C Spinning
   - D Terrifying

2. When Esther says that her mother “had turned herself into a human beam, homing me in as surely as if I were a plane being homed in on an electric beam,” we understand that
   - F Esther’s mother was using a flashlight.
   - G Esther’s mother signaled to her with a blinking light.
   - H Esther’s mother once worked at an airport.
   - J Esther’s mother was guiding her.
3 Which picture shows what happens at the end of the passage?

A  B  C  D

4 At the end of the passage, Esther probably feels

F  grateful to her mother and glad to be alive
G  frightened because her mother had endangered her own life
H  glad the flashlight batteries were still working
J  powerful because she was able to find her way home in a terrible storm

5 What belongs in the empty box?

Esther sees signs of danger  Esther hears a voice.  Esther sees a figure.  Esther sees her mother.

A  Esther falls into her mother’s arms.
B  The storm strikes.
C  Esther moves toward the sound that she hears.
D  Esther’s mother stands outside in the storm.

6 Read the sentence below. Which answer adds more information to it?

If you are caught out in cold weather, you need to find shelter and warmth.

F  Never go hiking or camping alone. Be sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.
G  A person’s body generates as much heat as a 100-watt light bulb. A light bulb can also add cheer to a grim situation.
H  If you will be out more than a short time, take food with you. Nuts and dried fruits are a good source of protein and fiber and are easy to carry.
J  Try to find a small space, so that your body heats up the air around you quickly. Roll up into a ball to retain body heat.
Directions
Rachel has written this story about a boy’s adventure while he was on vacation. Read the paragraph. Then do numbers 7 through 9.

Alone on the Sea

Last summer, Roberto and his father went on vacation together and visited a tiny tropical island. Roberto decided to borrow an outrigger-canoe and paddle to the other side of the tiny island. He headed toward the beach at the southern tip of the island. Feeling happily and freely, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him. When he looked toward the tip of the island, it did not seem to have gotten any closer. In fact, it seemed to be farther away. At first, he did not understand why the beach was not getting any closer, despite his paddling. Then he realized that he was being swept out to sea by an ocean current! Longshore currents carry sand and form beaches. He was now too far from shore to swim to safety, and his arms were weak from paddling against the ocean current.

7 The best way to write Sentence 1 is

A Last summer, Roberto and his father go on vacation together and visited a tiny tropical island.
B Last summer, Roberto and his father go on vacation together and visit a tiny tropical island.
C Last summer, Roberto and his father went on vacation together and visited a tiny tropical island.
D Best as is

8 The best way to write Sentence 4 is

F Feeling more happy and freely, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
G Feeling happy and free, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
H Feeling most happy and free, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
J Best as is

9 All these sentences belong in the passage except

A Sentence 9
B Sentence 10
C Sentence 5
D Sentence 4
Directions
Here is more of Roberto's story. Read the paragraph and then do numbers 10 through 14.

That night there was a storm, and Roberto had to bail water to keep the boat from sinking. The next day also brought rough seas. A huge wave washed Roberto from his boat and turned it upside down. He was unable to right it and had to cling to the bottom of the boat. He was exhausted, but he had to stay awake to hold on to the upturned hull. Suddenly he saw a large, black fin heading through the water toward him. Then a wave swept him off the boat! He remembered reading that when sharks see splashing, they look for prey to attack. Although his heart was pounding, Roberto swam carefully back to his boat, trying not to disturb the water. He hauled himself up onto the hull and was relieved to see that the terrifying fin was gone. Fortunately for Roberto, a boat passed by shortly after, and he was rescued.

10 Because of what happened in the passage, Roberto will probably

F realize that he will always overcome any difficulties
G learn more about boating and go with a buddy
H never go boating again because it can be dangerous
J understand that a life jacket is really not very important

11 The best way to write Sentence 19 is

A With a most pounding heart, Roberto swam most careful back to the boat.
B With a more pounding heart, Roberto swam more carefully back to the boat.
C With a mostly pounding heart, Roberto swam more careful back to the boat.
D Best as is

12 The person who rescued Roberto was probably

F a lawyer
G a firefighter
H a construction worker
J a sailor
13 Roberto was unable to “right” the boat. The word *right* is used to tell us that

A Roberto wanted to ride in the boat
B the boat was not the right one for Roberto
C the boat was upside down
D a boat ride is not the right thing for Roberto

14 Read the sentence below. Which answer adds more information to it?

*If you see an accident or a fire, there are several important facts that you should know.*

F Often the most important things you can do is alert emergency services right away. Be aware that moving someone who might have a back injury could make the injury worse.

G It is important to get a sunstroke victim into the shade as soon as possible. Never try to cool a sunstroke victim with cold water or ice, as this could cause shock.

H Take a first-aid course to learn CPR and the Heimlich manoeuvre. Attempt first aid only if you are absolutely certain that you know what you are doing.

J Cover yourself up properly before you go out into the sun and avoid overexertion. Signs of sunstroke include a general feeling of sickness, fever, and headache.
American Scientists

Our progress in science today reflects the accomplishments of the past. The information that scientists have gathered throughout recorded time has become the basis of knowledge upon which science moves forward.

Scientific progress relies on answering questions which grow out of existing knowledge. To find answers to these questions, scientists use a method that is agreed upon around the world. Scientists look for empirical evidence—observations that indicate or prove that something is true. These observations occur through carefully controlled experiments. In order for scientists to prove that something is true, they must be able to consistently repeat the results of their experiments. The primary goal is not to have the experiment proceed as planned, but to truthfully and accurately investigate a question.
Benjamin Banneker

To Benjamin Banneker, education, and the self-sufficiency it brought, were very important. He was born in 1731 to a free black tobacco farmer. While his father worked hard on the farm, his English grandmother, Molly Welsh, taught Benjamin how to read and write. Molly had been saved from the death penalty in England by proving she could read and write and wanted to pass on this valuable tool. Benjamin was highly intelligent and loved learning, eventually relying upon himself to further his education beyond what his grandmother could teach him.

As he grew up, Benjamin worked hard on his father’s tobacco farm, and continued to develop his extraordinary mind. He bought a violin and a flute and taught himself to play both instruments. When he was twenty-one, he decided to build a clock. A clock was a very rare thing in colonial America. Benjamin had never seen the inside of a clock and did not know how one worked. He managed to borrow a pocket watch and made drawings of the gears in its interior. He reproduced the workings, making large cogs of wood and adding a bell. The finished clock kept accurate time and chimed on the hour for the rest of Benjamin’s life.

He continued to live the quiet life of a tobacco farmer until he was about forty years old, never traveling more than a few miles from his home. Then the arrival of a new neighbor and a simple act of sharing changed the course of Benjamin’s life.

The new neighbor was George Ellicott, the son of an Englishman who had built a mill near Benjamin Banneker’s farm. By the time George was eighteen years old, he was an accomplished surveyor. He was responsible for the construction of a road from his father’s mill to the nearest town. Benjamin carefully observed the process of road building and became acquainted with the young surveyor.

The two men shared an interest in science and became friends. George lent the older man surveying tools, drafting instruments, and a telescope, as well as books on astronomy and an astronomical almanac that contained tables listing the position of various celestial bodies for each day of the year. Benjamin read and mastered his friend’s astronomy books and taught himself to use the telescope. He also became adept at the use of the surveying and drafting equipment loaned to him by his young neighbor.

When George Washington appointed a commission to supervise the surveying of land for the nation’s capital, the commission asked George Ellicott to be one of the surveyors, but he was unable to accept the job. He suggested that his friend Benjamin would be an excellent choice, and Banneker was chosen to be part of the team that outlined the boundaries of Washington, D.C.

Eventually, the friendship between George Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker helped influence the movement for black freedom in early America. Abolitionists believed that all Americans deserved freedom and the right to develop their talents. They supported their ideas by pointing to the remarkable achievements of Benjamin Banneker, the United States’ first African American scientist.
15 According to the passage, Benjamin built a clock using
A drawings that he made himself
B parts from a sewing machine
C a friend’s plans for making a pocket watch
D information in a book

16 This passage is mostly about
F how to build a clock
G items loaned to Benjamin by his friend George
H how tobacco was grown in colonial America
J a farmer who taught himself many things

17 Which sentence is written correctly?
A He learned the mostest through reading.
B He teach himself to be a surveyor.
C George respected his friend and trusted him.
D Him thought that a telescope was the neatest thing ever.

18 The passage is a biography because
F it was written for a history class
G Benjamin Banneker lived a long time ago
H it is a report and a student wrote it
J it is about someone’s life

19 Which sentence is written completely and correctly?
A We like the telescope most of all it is what astronomers use.
B Drafting tools, books, a telescope, and surveyor’s instruments.
C Some had polished brass trim.
D Many special wooden clock gears.

20 The student who wrote the passage about Benjamin Banneker probably got her information from
F an interview with an astronomer
G a catalog from a company that sells clock parts
H a book about scientists in colonial America
J a time line of important dates in history and their significance
Directions
Read this passage about another great scientist. Then do numbers 21 through 23.

Born in 1849, Luther Burbank was a very observant boy who was fascinated by plants. One day he was walking through a meadow. The meadow was filled with common daisies. Luther noticed one daisy that was different from the rest. It was larger and whiter than the other daisies. It was so beautiful that Luther thought people might like to grow it in their flower gardens. He dug up the plant, carried it home, and carefully planted it in his mother’s garden. He saved the seed produced by that one perfect daisy plant, and the next year he was able to grow many of these unique flowers. This plant, the Shasta daisy, is still grown and loved today.

21 Choose the best way to combine Sentences 2 and 3.

A Filled with common daisies, one day he was walking through a meadow.
B The meadow one day he was walking through was filled with common daisies.
C One day he was walking through a meadow filled with common daisies.
D One day a meadow was filled with common daisies and he was walking through.

22 Where does this sentence belong?

It also had a much rounder and brighter center.

F after Sentence 4
G after Sentence 5
H after Sentence 9
J after Sentence 7

23 Choose the best way to write Sentence 1.

A Born, in 1849, Luther Burbank was a very observant boy what was fascinated by plants.
B Being born in 1849, Luther Burbank was a very observant boy which was fascinated by plants.
C Having been born in 1849, Luther Burbank was a very observant boy who was fascinated by plants.
D Best as it is
Directions
Here is more about Luther Burbank. Read the paragraph. Then do numbers 24 and 25.

Luther Burbank’s most spectacular successes resulted from his efforts to_________plant genetics. He cross-pollinated plants of different varieties and harvested the seeds. The plants grown from these seeds showed changes in color, shape, and size. He carefully selected only those plants whose differences he felt were worth preserving. Luther Burbank eventually developed hundreds of new varieties of fruits, flowers, vegetables, and grains.

24 The best word to fill in the blank is

F modify
G eliminate
H reform
J reduce

25 The best choice to follow Sentence 13 is

A Many variations that occur in nature are mutations that are not useful to mankind.
B In this way, he speeded up the process of natural selection, which occurs slowly in nature.
C However, his ideas about new plants that might be worth preserving proved to be of no interest to others.
D However, he did not have any opportunities to test the plants he produced by means of cross-pollination.
Americans in the Arts

Disciplines such as visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture), music, literature, and dance are a few of the categories that fall within the general arena of the arts. Great artists such as Ailey, Dickinson, Cassat, Rockwell, Porter, and Ellington have all explored and broadened the boundaries of what we consider art. Although our nation is relatively young, American artists have taken their places within the world’s history of artistic achievement. American artists have shown that the arts in America contribute to a global culture of human expression.
Directions
When she was only seventeen, Darci Kistler became the youngest principal ballerina in the history of the New York City Ballet. Here is part of a speech she gave after receiving an award at the American Academy of Achievement. Read the passage, and then do numbers 26 through 30.

“You have all heard the phrase ‘I’d rather be dancing.’ Well, that’s never been more true than now! I’d like to thank you for honoring me, but even more so, for including me among such (1) members.

“The other recipients of this award have all spoken about the importance of believing in yourself and recognizing what you wish to accomplish. I recognized at eight years of age what I wished to become. I accepted and respected my talent, and through belief in myself and (2), I brought my life to fruition.

“I was also very lucky to have good teachers and one very wonderful (3). They taught me so much. Perhaps the most important lesson they taught me is to find my own worth. It’s important to learn from someone but it’s important to make it on your own. I pass that lesson on to all of you. Don’t try to be anyone else but you. In order to reach your goal, don’t be afraid to fail. Good luck to you.”

26. The best word to fill blank 1 is

F affected
G distinguished
H extinguished
J infamous

27. The best word to fill blank 2 is

A remembrance
B hopelessness
C perseverance
D importance

28. The best way to figure out what the word fruition means is probably to

F find a word that rhymes and think about what that word means
G realize there is no way to figure out what this kind of word means
H examine the topic sentence of the paragraph for a clue about this word
J reread the paragraph carefully for clues about the meaning
29 The best word to fill blank 3 is

A  defector
B  monitor
C  inspector
D  mentor

30 Which is the best way to make these two sentences into one?

Some dancers enjoy wearing fancy costumes.
Others prefer to wear leotards.

F  Some dancers who enjoy wearing leotards like others to wear fancy costumes.
G  Some dancers enjoy wearing fancy costumes, while others prefer wearing leotards.
H  Some dancers who enjoy wearing fancy costumes with others who prefer to wear leotards.
J  Some dancers enjoy wearing fancy costumes, unless others prefer to wear leotards.

Directions

Sandra is also a dancer. She left her home in California to study dance in New York. In addition to her dance classes, Sandra also takes regular high school classes. Use the map to do numbers 31 and 32.

31 Sandra is at dance school and then will walk to high school. If her feet are sore, what path does she probably take?

A  path 1
B  path 2
C  path 3
D  path 4

32 Using a map can help you

F  find your path in life
G  become a good dancer
H  learn about what a word means
J  locate places in a city
Directions

Maria is interested in American music. She imagines going back in time to the 1920s for a visit with George Gershwin and writes this interview for her music class. Read this part of the interview. Then do numbers 33 through 35.

MARIA: What was your childhood like?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: I was born in 1898 in New York City. The neighborhood I lived in was pretty crowded, so kids had to play in the streets. I liked to play stickball and street hockey, and I was one of the best roller skaters around.

MARIA: How did you become interested in music? Did you think about music a lot when you were a kid?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: In the summer I used to stand outside the Coney Island Café so I could listen to ragtime piano playing. However, because I wasn’t sure how everyone would take it, I kept quiet about my interest in music. There was a boy at school who was a violin prodigy. When I was ten, he gave a concert for the other students. Attendance was voluntary, and I decided I would rather play ball on the playground. But the music floated out through the open window of the assembly hall. I had never heard anything so beautiful. I decided to get to know this boy better. Actually, we got to be pretty good friends. Sometimes there were free classical music concerts, and we would go together.

MARIA: Did you have music lessons?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: Not at that time. But a friend had a piano and let me experiment on it. My parents knew nothing about this. When I was twelve, they bought a piano because they wanted my older brother to learn to play. He was not happy about this. When the piano arrived, I immediately sat down and played it. My parents were astonished. My brother was delighted that I was the one who would be taking lessons. I had always been a restless kid, but the piano really toned me down and helped me focus.

33 George began to attend classical music concerts because

A his friend’s family had a piano, and they let him experiment with music on it.
B he was tired of playing stick hockey and roller skating in the streets of New York.
C while playing ball at school, he heard classical music and thought it was beautiful.
D he did not enjoy taking piano lessons.

Go On
Gershwin says “the piano really toned me down and helped me focus.” This probably means

F  he learned to play more quietly
G  he was no longer restless
H  the piano was out of tune
J  he could see the music more clearly

Why did George probably keep quiet about his interest in music?

A  His parents were not interested in music.
B  He knew that his brother wanted to take piano lessons.
C  He preferred to play ball on the playground at his school.
D  He was not sure how people would react to his interest.

Directions
Now read some more of Maria’s interview with George Gershwin. Then do numbers 36 through 38.

MARIA: What were your music teachers like?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: My first teachers were people in the neighborhood. At one of the concerts I went to, I had a chance to talk to the pianist. He suggested that I take lessons from his teacher, Charles Hambitzer. This man was a composer as well as a piano teacher. Some of his compositions had even been played in Carnegie Hall. I played for him and he said he would take me on as a student. His lessons cost a lot of money, though, more than my parents could pay. Mr. Hambitzer offered to take me on for free. I loved my lessons with him. I was very grateful for his interest in me, and I rounded up some new pupils for him. He was an important influence in my life.

MARIA: At that point in your life, what kind of music interested you most?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: Well, my musical tastes were pretty diverse. Some of my favorite composers were Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy. I also loved the music of Irving Berlin. I enjoyed both playing and composing. I liked both classical and popular music, but I was especially fond of ragtime. In my early teens, I spent a lot of time in vaudeville theaters and Harlem night spots, where I would watch the better pianists and their special ways with a tune. I wanted to be able to incorporate the kinds of things they could do into my own playing.

MARIA: It sounds like music had really become the center of your life.

GEORGE GERSHWIN: Yes, that’s right. I was fifteen years old at this time and couldn’t get enough of music. When I was fifteen, I got a job with a music publisher and I played music all day. It was great to hear so many new tunes and to spend so much time playing the piano. But some of the music was pretty boring. I thought I could write better songs and began composing in my spare time.
Which sentence best describes how George Gershwin felt about music?

F  He only liked ragtime piano playing and opera.
G  He liked many different kinds of music.
H  Some of his favorite composers were Charles Hambitzer and Irving Berlin.
J  He liked the music he heard performed at school assemblies best.

In the interview, Gershwin says, “Well, my musical tastes were pretty diverse.” The word diverse probably means

A  common
B  unfit
C  varied
D  soothing

Which sentences provide the best support for this topic sentence?

When George Gershwin sat down at the piano, he made the piano do more than just play notes.

F  George began to get jobs as an accompanist, playing for singers at concerts. He also continued to compose his own music.
G  George enjoyed writing his own music. His first big success was a tune named “Swanee,” which he wrote when he was twenty years old.
H  George could make a piano laugh, and he could also make it sad. He seemed to love the keys, and he could make them do anything.
J  George spent several years playing new music on sight and in any key requested. As a result, his ability to read music was amazing.

Which one is the best way to combine these sentences?

George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” begins with a clarinet making a sound that no one had ever heard before. It is a long, hooting, laughing sound.

A  Long, laughing, and hooting, George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” begins with a clarinet making a sound that no one had ever heard before.
B  George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” begins with a clarinet making a sound that no one had ever heard before and it is a long, hooting, laughing sound.
C  Making a sound that no one had ever heard before, George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” begins with a clarinet and it is long, hooting and laughing.
D  George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” begins with a clarinet making a long, hooting, laughing sound that no one had ever heard before.
The Wind

Have you ever seen a windmill or watched the trees bend in the wind? For thousands of years, humankind has relied upon the natural force of the wind. We have mostly relied on the wind as a source of power. Windmills, however, are only one invention that captures the energy of the wind. Wind also powered the first ships and boats. Today, many people still enjoy the challenge of taking a sailboat out on a windy day. Power is not the only thing that wind has to offer. Wind carries noise and smells that can warn us of danger, or that can help us find food. It is also the wind that cuts across the front yard and lifts the seeds of a dandelion into an airborne journey.
Directions
Read this poem about the wind. Then do numbers 40 through 45.

Who has seen the wind?
Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.
—Christina Rossetti

40 When the poet says “the trees bow down their heads,” she is telling us that

F the trees have been pruned
G the wind bends the trees
H she has not looked closely at trees
J branches have been blown off the trees

41 In this poem, the poet probably feels

A concerned
B annoyed
C hopeful
D thoughtful

42 The poet asks, “Who has seen the wind?” because she knows

F we need to learn more about the wind
G weather forecasters depend on this kind of information
H we can only see what the wind does
J some winds can cause a great deal of damage
The poet says “the leaves hang trembling” because she sees that the leaves are

A steady  
B unhealthy  
C fluttering  
D falling

Which sentence is complete and written correctly?

F Believed that the winds were the children of the earth and the sky.  
G Imprisoning the winds in a cavern, where they roared without stopping.  
H After that, the winds lived with their king.  
J He kept the winds in bags, set them free as he chose.

In the poem, the poet does not talk about

A  
B  
C  
D
Directions
Here is an adaptation of the Beaufort Wind Scale. Use it to do numbers 46 and 47.

46 Which of these is not listed under Wind Description?
- F Tornado
- G Light air
- H Moderate gale
- J Fresh breeze

47 Beaufort Scale Number 6 corresponds to wind speeds of 25–31 mph. According to the chart, what occurs at these speeds?
- A Smoke rises straight up.
- B Large branches move.
- C Twigs break off trees.
- D Whole trees sway.

Directions
Read this excerpt from *The Wind* by Jeanne Bendick. Then do number 48.

All through an air mass, the temperature and moisture are about the same. When an air mass forms, it takes its temperature and moisture from the surface beneath it. If it forms over the Gulf of Mexico, it is hot and wet. If it forms over northern Canada, it is cold and dry.

48 Choose the best opening sentence for this paragraph.
- F Different kinds of air masses are always pushing each other over the surface of the earth.
- G The boundary where air masses meet is called a front.
- H An air mass is a great body of air, hundreds or even thousands of miles across.
- J When a cold air mass is pushing warm air up and out of the way, it is called a cold front.
Directions
Cedric wrote a report about the wind. Read the following paragraph from his report, and then do numbers 49 and 50.

Wind, which are created by differences in air pressure, have their origin in the sun’s energy. The sun has the greatest effect on the earth’s temperature at the equator. The sun’s energy heats the ground and the ground heats the air. At the poles, the air is cooler. Cool air, denser and heavier than warm air, settles downward. As warm air rises, it is replaced by sinking cool air flowing in from surrounding areas.

49 The best way to write Sentence 1 is
A Wind, which are created by differences in air pressure, have their origin in the sun’s energy.
B Wind, which is created by differences in air pressure, has its origin in the sun’s energy.
C Wind, which is created by differences in air pressure, have their origin in the sun’s energy.
D Best as it is.

50 The best sentence to fill the blank in the passage is
F The sun’s heat is most intense at the equator.
G The most important gases in the air are nitrogen and oxygen.
H Heated air expands, becomes lighter, and rises.
J Earth’s gravity keeps air from floating away into space.

51 Which of these is the best resource to use to learn more about wind?
A A thesaurus
B A book about weather
C A world globe
D A brochure about what to do when a hurricane strikes
Directions
Read the passage and do numbers 52 and 53.

Winds have patterns of movement over the earth. One type of wind, the local wind, affects an area like a mountain range or a coastal area. The prevailing winds are winds that blow over larger regions of the earth’s surface, such as polar or equatorial regions. Examples of prevailing winds are the easterlies and the trade winds. Jet streams are high speed winds in the upper atmosphere, four to eight miles above the ground. An airplane flying in the same direction as the jet stream gets a tremendous speed boost.

52 Which sentence in the passage is supported by this sentence?

Pilots flying in this type of wind have found themselves going faster than the top speed of the airplane.

F Sentence 1
G Sentence 4
H Sentence 6
J Sentence 5

53 What type of wind would valley breezes be?

A a prevailing wind
B a jet stream
C a local wind
D a global wind
What Do I Need to Know About the TerraNova?

Parts of the TerraNova

The main section of the TerraNova Language Arts test is usually divided into two parts. Each of the two parts of the TerraNova has a different theme. You will not need any special knowledge about the theme in order to do well on the test.

Within each part of the TerraNova, you will find a combination of reading and writing questions. The reading questions ask you to read an essay, story, poem, or chart. Then you will have to answer a group of questions about what you have just read. The writing questions ask you to use your knowledge of English grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure. You might be asked to find the best way to write a sentence or to read a story that has a part missing and then choose the sentence that best fills in the blank. Other writing questions might ask you to figure out which one in a group of sentences is correctly written.

Timing

The amount of time you will have to take the test depends on the number of questions. There are different variations of the test that are available to schools. Your teacher will tell you exactly how much time you will have to complete your test. You should have enough time to finish, so work carefully and answer every question. Be sure not to rush your work; careless mistakes will not help your performance.

When you read a question that is hard for you, do not spend lots of time trying to figure out the best answer. Do your best, and move on to the next question. You’ll find when you take the TerraNova that the hard questions are often placed between easier questions. Moving on to another question will help you keep your frustration level low. In this book, you will learn some new procedures that can help you answer almost all of the questions on the TerraNova.

Because the TerraNova is a timed test, you will not always be able to take as long as you would like to read each passage. However, do your best to read each one carefully. Do not try to memorize every detail. You may look back at the passages within the section of the test as often as you need to.

In this respect, the TerraNova is like an open-book test. Almost all of the information you need to answer questions can be found in the test booklet. You only have to know when and where to find it.
How to Use Your Scratch Paper

If you are given scratch paper to use when you take the TerraNova, use the scratch paper to make notes on and to keep track of answer choices. When you are faced with a tough question, scratch paper can be especially helpful. Since you will not be allowed to write in the TerraNova test booklet, writing your answer choices on the scratch paper can help you eliminate poor answer choices. **When you reach a question that is difficult to answer, write the question number and answer choice letters neatly on your scratch paper.** Here is an example of how to write your answer choice letters. Notice the mark that shows when an answer choice has been ruled out or eliminated.

Use your scratch paper to keep track of answer choices that you have ruled out when you are working on a difficult question.
Process of Elimination

For a multiple-choice test like the TerraNova (in which the answer choices will be provided for you), one of the most important skills to learn is the process of elimination. The process of elimination is a method you can use to rule out poor answer choices until the best answer is left. When you take the TerraNova, your job is to find the best answer out of the four answer choices provided for each question. The best answer choice might not always be the one that you would include if you had designed the test, but there will always be one choice that is better than the others.

Sometimes when you read a question, you might know the answer right away. But, it is always a good idea to look back to the story to double-check your answer. Also, make sure that you have understood the question correctly. Sometimes when we are in a hurry, we misread words or sentences. For example, when a question asks, “Which of the following is NOT correct?” it is easy to miss the “NOT” when reading. If this happens, you will end up picking an answer choice that is not correct. Reading the question carefully the first time and then reading it again will help you to avoid making careless mistakes. Whenever you find more than one answer choice that appears to be correct, read the question again. There will be only one best answer.

There will be other times during the test when you will not see the best answer right away. In this case, you can often discover the “best” answer by ruling out answer choices that you know are not correct. When you are able to rule out three choices, the one answer choice that remains must be the correct answer. Even if you cannot cross off three wrong choices and can only rule out one or two, you will have improved your chances of picking the best answer choice. After you have ruled out answer choices, make your best guess from among the choices that are left.

When you reach a difficult question, ruling out wrong answer choices can help you discover the best answer.
Try using the process of elimination on number 17 from the practice test. See if you can eliminate some of the answer choices.

Which sentence is written correctly?

A  He learned the mostest through reading.
B  He teach himself to be a surveyor.
C  George respected his friend and trusted him.
D  Him thought that a telescope was the neatest thing ever.

Since *mostest* is not a word, we can eliminate choice A. In choice B, the verb *teach* does not agree with the subject *He*. Finally, we can eliminate choice D, because *Him* is not a subject pronoun. Therefore, the correct answer must be C.

Here is number 19 from the practice test:

The sentence that is written completely and correctly is

A  We like the telescope most of all it is what astronomers use.
B  Drafting tools, books, a telescope, and surveyor’s instruments.
C  Some had polished brass trim.
D  Many special wooden clock gears.

Choice A is a run-on sentence and can be eliminated. Choice B has no verb, and is therefore a sentence fragment. Answer C looks good, but let’s check D to be sure. D has no verb. Therefore, the best answer is C.

After you eliminate some incorrect choices, you should guess from the answer choices you have left!

You might not be able to find the correct answer for every problem, but narrowing your search to a couple of choices will help your chances of choosing the best answer.
The Passages

Introductory Themes

Each of the two main sections of the TerraNova’s Reading and Language Arts section follows a general theme. The theme might be introduced with a few sentences or paragraphs about the topic. You do not have to understand this introductory information to do well on the test. In fact, none of the information in these theme introductions will help you answer the questions on the test. **Skipping this information and going right to the first reading passage will save you time.**

The Directions Blurb Before the Passages

When you come to a reading passage, there will often be a few introductory sentences that give you background information about the passage. This is different from the theme introduction. **Read these sentences carefully.** Sometimes they include important facts that can help you answer questions about the main idea of the passage.

Reading the Passage Actively

When you read each passage for the first time, there are two things that you must do:

- Understand the main idea of the passage.
- Pay attention to where certain facts are in the passage.

The best way to do these two things is to read the passage **actively**. This means that as you read, you should make notes to yourself about the kind of information contained in each paragraph. Doing this will help you understand the point of the paragraph and will allow you to find information more easily.

After each paragraph, ask yourself, “What was this paragraph mostly about?” Write your response on your scratch paper. Your summary of the paragraph should be as short as possible. It should not be more than one sentence. Then, after you have read the entire passage, ask yourself, “What was this story mostly about?” The answer to this question will help you answer test questions that ask about the main idea, summary, or theme of a passage.
Read this passage from the practice test you took and label each paragraph with the main ideas contained in it.

**Benjamin Banneker**

To Benjamin Banneker, education, and the self-sufficiency it brought, were very important. He was born in 1731 to a free black tobacco farmer. While his father worked hard on the farm, his English grandmother, Molly Welsh, taught Benjamin how to read and write. Molly had been saved from the death penalty in England by proving she could read and write and wanted to pass on this valuable tool. Benjamin was highly intelligent and loved learning, eventually relying upon himself to further his education beyond what his grandmother could teach him.

As he grew up, Benjamin worked hard on his father’s tobacco farm, and continued to develop his extraordinary mind. He bought a violin and a flute and taught himself to play both instruments. When he was twenty-one, he decided to build a clock. A clock was a very rare thing in colonial America. Benjamin had never seen the inside of a clock and did not know how one worked. He managed to borrow a pocket watch and made drawings of the gears in its interior. He reproduced the workings, making large cogs of wood and adding a bell. The finished clock kept accurate time and chimed on the hour for the rest of Benjamin’s life.

He continued to live the quiet life of a tobacco farmer until he was about forty years old, never traveling more than a few miles from his home. Then the arrival of a new neighbor and a simple act of sharing changed the course of Benjamin’s life.

The new neighbor was George Ellicott, the son of an Englishman who had built a mill near Benjamin Banneker’s farm. By the time George was eighteen years old, he was an accomplished surveyor. He was responsible for the construction of a road from his father’s mill to the nearest town. Benjamin carefully observed the process of road building and became acquainted with the young surveyor.

The two men shared an interest in science and became friends. George lent the older man surveying tools, drafting instruments, and a telescope, as well as books on astronomy and an astronomical almanac that contained tables listing the position of various celestial bodies for each day of the year. Benjamin read and mastered his friend’s astronomy books and taught himself to use the telescope. He also became adept at the use of the surveying and drafting equipment loaned to him by his young neighbor.
When George Washington appointed a commission to supervise the surveying of land for the nation’s capital, the commission asked George Ellicott to be one of the surveyors, but he was unable to accept the job. He suggested that his friend Benjamin would be an excellent choice, and Banneker was chosen to be part of the team that outlined the boundaries of Washington, D.C.

Eventually, the friendship between George Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker helped influence the movement for black freedom in early America. Abolitionists believed that all Americans deserved freedom and the right to develop their talents. They supported their ideas by pointing to the remarkable achievements of Benjamin Banneker, the United States’ first African American scientist.

Now write a one-sentence summary of what the entire excerpt was about. Use your paragraph labels to help you focus on the main idea(s) of the story. You should write a one-sentence passage summary after you finish reading each lengthy passage on the TerraNova.

Interviews

You might read an interview when you take the TerraNova. Pay close attention to the interviewer’s questions. The interviewer’s questions will often provide clues that tell you what the next paragraph, or response, will be. These clues can help you locate specific information in the passage more quickly.
The Questions

After each reading passage, there will be several different kinds of questions about what you read. Read each question carefully to make sure you understand exactly what it is asking. Some of the questions on the TerraNova might not be worded in the clearest way.

The most important rule for answering questions is to find evidence for your answer in the passage. The passage almost always includes information that can help you figure out the best answer.

The strategies that you will learn in this book will help you understand the best approach to many of the question types that you will see on the TerraNova.

Main Idea Questions

After each reading passage, you will probably be asked to identify the main idea of the passage. To answer a main idea question, look back at the summary sentence you wrote when you finished reading the passage. Then look for an answer choice that best restates what you wrote. Look at the title of the passage and at any written description or directions about the passage for additional information that can help you.

If none of the answer choices are similar to what you came up with as the main idea, use the process of elimination to help you find the best answer. First rule out answer choices that do not make sense or that do not match the information from the passage. Then cross off choices that mention issues that are not discussed in the passage.

Here is number 16 from the practice test. Refer back to the excerpt titled Benjamin Banneker found on pages 51–52 of this book.

This passage is mostly about

A how to build a clock
B items loaned to Benjamin by his friend George
C how tobacco was grown in colonial America
D a farmer who taught himself many things

If you read and labeled the passage carefully, you can probably figure out that the best choice is D. The first paragraph introduces Benjamin Banneker and how he learned to read. The second paragraph discusses his accomplishments, including building a clock. Building the clock is not the main idea. It is an example of something Banneker taught himself to do and is a detail from the passage.
Specific Information Questions

Some questions on the TerraNova might ask you identify specific facts or details from the passage.

These questions might be worded something like these:

- From what the author says in this passage, what do young children most need to learn in school?
- What is the next step after the painters spray down the outside of the house?

Before you try to answer a specific information question, always find information in the passage that supports your choice. Do not rely on your memory!

To find the answer quickly, skim the passage for key words.

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Key words have to do with the subject the question is asking about.

After you have found the information that you are looking for, reread the sentence that contains the key words. Also read the sentences directly before and after the sentence with the key words. This will help you to determine which answer choice best matches information in the passage.

The best answer choice will always be the one that best matches the information in the passage.
Here is number 15 from the practice test. This question asks you to identify information that is included in the passage.

**According to the passage, Benjamin built a clock using**

A. Drawings that he made himself
B. Parts from a sewing machine
C. A friend’s plans for making a pocket watch
D. Information in a book

When a question asks you for specific information from the passage, you should always skim to find the key words, which in this case, are *clock* and *build*, and then reread the lines that contain the key words.

According to the passage, Banneker borrowed a pocket watch and made drawings of the gears in its interior. He reproduced the workings, made large cogs of wood, and added a bell. The choice that restates this information is A.

**Vocabulary in Context Questions**

Some of the questions on the TerraNova might ask you to figure out the meaning of a word in the passage.

**Such questions might be worded like this:**

- Based on the story, the word *interlocutor* probably means —

These types of questions usually ask you to define a difficult word. It will most likely not be a word that you already know. You must figure out what the word means by using the words around it for clues. There will always be at least one clue in the sentences near the word. The clues will help you determine what the word most likely means.

**To find out the meaning of a Vocabulary in Context word:**

- Find the place in the passage where the word is mentioned.
- Put your finger over the word.
- Read the words before it and after it.
- Ask yourself what kind of word you would put in that place.
- Write that word down on your scratch paper.
- Look at the answer choices for one that comes closest to your word.
Here is number 37 from the practice test. It asks you to define a word in context. Read the excerpt and then answer the question.

MARIÁ: At that point in your life, what kind of music interested you most?

GEORGE GERSHWIN: Well, my musical tastes were pretty diverse. Some of my favorite composers were Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy. But I also loved the music of Irving Berlin. I enjoyed both playing and composing. I liked both classical and popular music, but I was especially fond of ragtime. In my early teens, I spent a lot of time in vaudeville theaters and Harlem night spots, where I would watch the better pianists and their special ways with a tune. I wanted to be able to incorporate the kinds of things they could do into my own playing.

In the interview, Gershwin says, “Well, my musical tastes were pretty diverse.” The word diverse probably means

A. common
B. unfit
C. varied
D. soothing

Look for a clue in the sentence that contains the word diverse. Then reread the area around the word. The passage says I liked both classical and popular music, which implies that Gershwin liked different types of music. What choice best states this idea? Choice C.

Inference and Conclusion Questions

After each passage on the TerraNova, several questions might ask you to make inferences or draw conclusions from facts in the passage. An inference is a conclusion that you make based on information provided in the passage. These conclusions might be about how one event caused another event or about what a person’s action probably means or about what a character probably believes. You will not be able to find the answer in the passage itself. Instead, you will have to use the facts in the passage to make an educated guess.

Here is how this type of question might be worded:

- What will the main character probably do tomorrow?

To figure out what the person will probably do tomorrow, ask yourself: “What did the person do yesterday and today?” Unless there is something that shows you otherwise, it is safe to say that the person will probably do the same thing tomorrow.
• What probably caused the character to do what she did?

To figure out what probably caused the character to behave the way she did, look back to the passage. Find where she decides to do what she does. Look at what happens in the passage to see what kinds of things most likely affected her behavior.

• What word best describes the reaction that the characters had to something else in the passage?

To figure out what word best describes the characters’ reactions, look back to the passage and find the description of how the characters reacted. Did they smile? frown? yell Hooray? Then look for a word that best describes their behavior.

• Which of the following would the main character probably believe?

To figure out what the main character probably believes, look back to the passage. Reread what the person says and does in the passage. Ask yourself, “Does the person behave in a way that shows that he is kind, friendly, angry, sad, afraid, concerned?” Then find the answer choice that best matches both your assessment and the information in the passage.

Here is number 35 from the practice test. This question asks you to make an inference about a character’s behavior. Read the excerpt from the interview. Then answer the question.

**MARIA:** What was your childhood like?

**GEORGE GERSHWIN:** I was born in 1898 in New York City. The neighborhood I lived in was pretty crowded, so kids had to play in the streets. I liked to play stickball and street hockey, and I was one of the best roller skaters around.

**MARIA:** How did you become interested in music? Did you think about music a lot when you were a kid?

**GEORGE GERSHWIN:** In the summer I used to stand outside the Coney Island Café so I could listen to ragtime piano playing. However, because I wasn’t sure how everyone would take it, I kept quiet about my interest in music. There was a boy at school who was a violin prodigy. When I was ten, he gave a concert for the other students. Attendance was voluntary, and I decided to play ball on the playground. But the music floated out through the open window of the assembly hall. I had never heard anything so beautiful. I decided to get to know this boy better. Actually we got to be pretty good friends. Sometimes there were free classical music concerts, and we would go together.
Why did George probably keep quiet about his interest in music?

A. His parents were not interested in music.
B. He knew that his brother wanted to take piano lessons.
C. He preferred to play ball on the playground at his school.
D. He was not sure how people would react to his interest.

Look back to the passage and try to find evidence to support an answer. Eliminate any answers that you know are incorrect. Although the passage mentions Gershwin’s parents and his brother, it does not do so in the context of this question. So you can eliminate choices A and B. The passage does mention playing ball, but this wasn’t why he decided to keep quiet. Playing ball was simply what he decided to do instead of going to the concert. Therefore, eliminate C. The passage says that Gershwin kept quiet because he didn’t know how everyone would take it. Choice D best matches the information from the passage.

Technique Questions

Technique questions will probably be some of the most difficult questions that you will see on the TerraNova. Technique questions ask you to identify the best way to find the answer to another question. When you see a question like this, go back to the question that it asks about. Then ask yourself:

- How did I get the answer to this question?
- What clues in the passage did I use to find the answer?
- What things did I do in order to answer the question correctly?
- Did I base my answer on key words, on my passage labels, or on specific lines or details from the passage?
- What is this new question really asking me to do or to find?

Remember, do not let yourself get too caught up in answering difficult questions. If you are not sure which technique will best help you answer the question correctly, use the process of elimination. Always make your best guess, and then move on.
Graphs and Charts

A few questions on the TerraNova might ask you to look at a chart or graph and then answer questions about it. Remember that charts and graphs are just another way of arranging information. Whenever you see a chart, try to figure out how the chart organizes its information. Look at the labels on the chart. When you look at an outline, you will see that it arranges information from the top to the bottom of the page based on the order in which the information appears in a passage. A time line usually organizes information and events from earliest to latest, according to the date of the event.

Here is number 31 from the practice test. You must use the map to answer the question.

Sandra is at dance school and then will walk to high school. If her feet are sore, what path does she probably take?

A path 1
B path 2
C path 3
D path 4

Use the clue in the question to help you find the best path. If Sandra’s feet are sore, she will probably want to take the shortest route. Check the key to find out where the dance school is. Then find the high school. Only Path 2 does not show Sandra stopping, and is the most direct path to the high school. Answer choice B is the best answer.
Writing Questions

On the TerraNova, questions that ask about writing issues are scattered throughout the reading comprehension questions. Like the reading questions, the writing questions will provide a group of answers from which you must select the best answer. Sometimes, you might have to find the best sentence to fill in a blank. Other times, there will be errors that you must identify. All of these questions test your ability to recognize the proper use of standard written English. They also test your ability to organize information.

Usage Questions

Some questions on the TerraNova might ask you to figure out if a sentence from a short passage is correctly written. Other questions might ask you to identify which one of four sentences is written correctly. Other times, you might be presented with a sentence with an error. For this type of question, you must be able to locate the error and then select the answer choice that corrects it.

Here is how this type of question might be worded:

- Which answer shows the best way to write Sentence 1 correctly?
- Pick the answer that shows the best way to rewrite Sentence 1.
- Which one of these sentences is written correctly?

These questions test your familiarity with standard written English. Approach these questions by:

First  reading all four answer choices.
Second  eliminating answer choices with grammatical errors.
Third  eliminating any answer choice that is not written in a clear way.

Subject/Verb Agreement

Some of the writing questions that you might see on the TerraNova could ask about subjects and verbs.

Remember, the subject is the doer in the sentence. The verb is the action word. It is the thing that the subject is doing.
Read the following sentence:

The frogs at the pond leaps off the rock.

This sentence contains a subject/verb agreement error. To find the error, first ask yourself, “What is the subject in this sentence? It is the frogs. They are at the pond. But would you say The frogs leaps off the rock? No. In order to be correct, the sentence should be written The frogs at the pond leap off the rock.

Now read this sentence:

An enormous ant were seen walking up the tree trunk.

What is the subject in this sentence? An enormous ant is the thing being described. Would you say An enormous ant were seen walking up the tree trunk? No. In order to be correct, the sentence should be written An enormous ant was seen walking up the tree trunk.

Here is what you can do to help find errors of subject/verb agreement. Always find the subject and the verb in your sentence. To find the subject, ask yourself: Who or what is acting? Who or what is being described? Then make sure that the subject and the verb match.

Sometimes it helps to rewrite the sentence on your scratch paper so that you can spot the error. Also try putting another noun in the subject’s place to see if the verb is correct. For example, you can change An enormous ant to The boy. It might be easier for you to see that The boy were seen walking up the tree trunk is grammatically incorrect.

Verb Form and Tense

Some of the questions on the TerraNova will ask you to identify verb tense problems. Look for words and phrases that indicate present or past, such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Now</td>
<td>The next time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the Civil War</td>
<td>Today</td>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesterday</td>
<td>Currently</td>
<td>Next year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>Presently</td>
<td>In the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Read the following sentence that contains a verb tense error. Find the error and suggest the correct way to write the sentence.

Tomorrow, Allie went to the aquarium.

In this sentence, the word tomorrow is a clue that the verb, went, should be in the future tense, will go.

Now read another sentence. This one contains a verb form error.

George has took the final exam.

The possible past tense forms of the verb to take are either took or has taken. You could say George took the final exam, or George has taken the final exam. But has took is not a correct form of the verb to take.

Adjective/Adverb

Another thing to remember when you take the TerraNova is that an adjective is a word that usually describes a noun. An adverb is a word that usually describes a verb.

Here is a sentence that contains an error. Can you find what is wrong in the following sentence?

Lynda ran quick to catch the train.

What is the word quick describing? Here, it is describing a verb. When a word describes or modifies a noun (person, place, or thing), it should be an adjective such as quick. But, when a word describes or modifies a verb (action), it should be an adverb such as quickly. Since quick describes the action in the sentence, the way Lynda ran, it should be in the adverbial form, quickly.

Don’t forget: most adverbs end in -ly.

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns; adverbs modify verbs, and other adverbs.
Here is number 8 about adverbs from the practice test. It asks you to identify an error in adverb usage.

**Alone on the Sea**

1. Last summer, Roberto and his father went on vacation together and visit a tiny tropical island.
2. Roberto decided to borrow an outrigger-canoe and paddle to the other side of the tiny island.
3. He headed toward the beach at the southern tip of the island.
4. Feeling happily and freely, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
5. When he looked toward the tip of the island, it did not seem to have gotten any closer.
6. In fact, it seemed to be farther away.
7. At first, he did not understand why the beach was not getting any closer, despite his paddling.
8. Then he realized that he was being swept out to sea by an ocean current!
9. Longshore currents carry sand and form beaches.
10. He was now too far from shore to swim to safety, and his arms were weak from paddling against the ocean current.

The best way to write Sentence 4 is

F. Feeling more happy and freely, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
G. Feeling happy and free, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
H. Feeling most happy and free, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him.
J. Best as it is.

In sentence 4, *happily* and *freely* are both adverbs. (Most words that end in -ly are adverbs.) Because *happily* and *freely* are used after *feeling*, they suggest that *feeling* is a verb. This is not a correct way to use these adverbs because *he* (the subject) is obviously not performing the action of actually feeling/touching something. Therefore, feeling must be a noun: his emotions. The sentence should use adjectives to describe how he was feeling. In other words, the words should be *happy* and *free*. Therefore, we can eliminate choices F and J. Choice G looks good. But check choice H first. The word *most* can only be used when making a comparison, so we can eliminate choice H. Therefore, the best choice is G.
Comparison Words

Misuse of comparison words is another error type that might be tested on the TerraNova. Most adjectives of one syllable get -er and -est added to the end of the word when they are used to make a comparison. For example:

small, smaller, smallest
kind, kinder, kindest

For most adjectives with more than one syllable, we make a comparison by using the words more and most.

beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful
captivating, more captivating, most captivating

However, we never add a more or most before the adjective and then add an -er or an -est to the end of it.

So then, what is wrong with the following sentences?

She was one of the most smartest students in the science class.

He is handsomer than his father is.

In the first sentence, most smartest is an error. It should simply say smartest.
In the second sentence, handsomer is an error. It should say more handsome.

Pronoun Agreement and Case

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. It can serve as a substitute so that you do not have to keep repeating the noun.

Read the following sentences that contain pronoun errors. Can you find the error in each sentence? How should the sentences be written in order for them to be correct?

1. The dog barked, but they fell asleep before long.

2. Aliann is a girl which enjoys fixing her car.

3. Patrick gave the secret code to Jackie and I.

In both Sentences 1 and 2, there are problems with pronoun agreement. Pronoun agreement means that singular pronouns substitute for singular nouns, and plural pronouns substitute for plural nouns. In the first sentence, the subject is the dog. But the pronoun that replaces the dog in the second part of the sentence is plural: they. It should be a singular pronoun. In order for it to be written correctly, the sentence should read The dog barked, but it fell asleep before long.

In Sentence 2, the pronoun which is used where the pronoun who should be. In order for it to be correctly written, Sentence 2 should read Aliann is a girl who enjoys fixing her car.
In Sentence 3, the error is with the pronoun case. Pronoun case means that the subject of the sentence (the thing doing the acting) needs a subject pronoun, and the object of a sentence (the thing receiving the action) needs an object pronoun.

We say, “I gave it to him,” since I is the subject of the sentence. However, if the situation is reversed, we would say, “He gave it to me.” Now He is the subject of the sentence, and me is the object of the sentence.

So, to find the error in the third sentence, ask yourself: Does the word I describe someone (a subject) who is giving the secret code or someone who is receiving the secret code? In this case, the I is the person who receives the code. So the pronoun used should be the object pronoun, and the sentence should read Patrick gave the secret code to Jackie and me. If the words in the sentence are confusing, try removing the word Jackie and see what is left. Would you say Patrick gave the secret code to I or Patrick gave the secret code to me? You would be correct if you said he gave it to me.

Remember, whenever a pronoun follows a preposition (such as to, of, in, at, around, between, from) the pronoun is always in the objective case.
Sentence Fragments

All sentences must contain a subject and a verb in order to be correctly written. Read the following sentences. See if you can determine what makes each of them incorrect. Can you suggest how to fix each sentence so that it is written correctly?

1. Wanted me to scrub the kitchen floor.

2. The boy, after eating his dinner, watching a movie.

Both of these sentences contain an error that you might see on the TerraNova. They are sentence fragments. Remember, every sentence must express a complete thought and must have a subject and a verb. What is the subject in Sentence 1? Who or what is doing the telling? There is no subject in this sentence. Therefore it is only a sentence fragment and cannot be correct.

Sentence 2 has a subject, the boy, but it has no verb. It is also a fragment. The actions in this fragment describe details about what the boy is doing, but they do not tell you what the boy is doing.

Parallelism

When a sentence is written correctly, similar parts of speech within the sentence are consistent, or parallel, with one another. Sentence construction errors occur when similar parts of speech are not similarly constructed within the same sentence. Read the following sentences and see if you can tell what is wrong with them.

1. Dave picked up the phone and talking to his mother.

2. Susanna wanted to walk to the field, to play the game, and win first place.

Whenever you read a sentence that has a list of actions or objects, check to make sure that every verb tense (past, present, future, etc.) used in the list is the same tense. For instance, in Sentence 1, two verbs describe two separate actions. The first action is Dave picked up the phone, and so the second action must be in the same form. It should read: Dave picked up the phone and talked to his mother.

In Sentence 2, there are three things that Susanna wanted to do: to walk to the field, to play the game, and win first place. Are all three items in the same form? No. The first and second verbs have the word to but the third does not.
Here is number 7 from the practice test. Read the passage again and then answer the question. Use what you have just learned to help you find the best answer.

**Alone on the Sea**

Last summer, Roberto and his father went on vacation together and visit a tiny tropical island. Roberto decided to borrow an outrigger-canoe and paddle to the other side of the tiny island. He headed toward the beach at the southern tip of the island. Feeling happily and freely, he watched brightly colored fish swim through the water around him. When he looked toward the tip of the island, it did not seem to have gotten any closer. In fact, it seemed to be farther away. At first, he did not understand why the beach was not getting any closer, despite his paddling. Then he realized that he was being swept out to sea by an ocean current! Longshore currents carry sand and form beaches. He was now too far from shore to swim to safety, and his arms were weak from paddling against the ocean current.

**The best way to write Sentence 1 is**

A. Last summer, Roberto and his father go on vacation together and visited a tiny tropical island.

B. Last summer, Roberto and his father go on vacation together and visit a tiny tropical island.

C. Last summer, Roberto and his father went on vacation together and visited a tiny tropical island.

D. Best as it is.

The verbs in the original sentence are not parallel since both verbs should be in the past tense (went on vacation and visited). Choices A and B both use the present tense go. Since the action occurred last summer, the verb should be in the past tense. Therefore, the best answer is C.

**Misplaced Modifier**

Modifiers are words that further describe something that is mentioned in a sentence. Read the following sentence. Can you spot the error in it?

While running to school, my bag fell apart.

If a friend of yours were to say this sentence aloud, you would probably assume that your friend’s bag fell apart while she was running to school. However, that is not what the sentence says.

The sentence begins with the descriptive phrase while running to school. However, the sentence never states who or what was running to school. The only subject given in the sentence is my bag. Therefore, the sentence actually means that the bag was running to school, and it fell apart along the way.
The way to fix this kind of error is to make sure that the correct subject is in or next to the modifying phrase. Here are two ways to write the sentence correctly: *While I was running to school, my bag fell apart*, or *While running to school, I felt my bag fall apart*.

**Paragraph Organization**

Some of the questions on the TerraNova might ask you to find a sentence that best introduces, concludes, or supports another sentence or an entire passage.

*Here is how this type of question might be worded:*

- Which one of these topic sentences best matches this paragraph?
- Which sentence provides support for the following topic sentence?
- Which sentence should not be included in this paragraph?
- Where does this sentence fit best in this paragraph?

To answer these types of questions, look at the information you are given in the sample sentence or sample paragraph. Then pick the sentence that best fits with all of the information you are provided.

**Topic Sentence Questions**

Some questions on the TerraNova might ask you to choose a topic sentence. A topic sentence is a sentence that introduces the main theme or main idea of a paragraph. In order to identify the best topic sentence:

- First read the entire paragraph.
- Then ask yourself what the paragraph was mostly about.
- Think of a good summary sentence for the paragraph.
- Then look for the answer choice that best expresses this idea.

As always, if you cannot find an answer choice that matches yours, use the process of elimination to help you find the best answer.
Here is number 48 from the practice test. Use what you have just learned to find the
best topic sentence for this paragraph.

______________ All through an air mass, the temperature and moisture are about the same.
When an air mass forms, it takes its temperature and moisture from the surface beneath it. If
it forms over the Gulf of Mexico, it is hot and wet. If it forms over northern Canada, it is cold
and dry.

Choose the best opening sentence for this paragraph.

F Different kinds of air masses are always pushing each other over the surface of the
earth.

G The boundary where air masses meet is called a front.

H An air mass is a great body of air, hundreds or even thousands of miles across.

J When a cold air mass is pushing warm air up and out of the way, it is called a cold
front.

After reading the entire paragraph, you know that the paragraph starts out by
talking about what an air mass is and how it forms. Then the paragraph discusses
the temperature of air masses. The paragraph never mentions boundaries where
air masses meet or why air masses push against each other. So we can eliminate
choices A and B. Choice C looks good, but let’s read D before we choose it as
the best answer. Since the discussion of temperature comes at the end of the
paragraph, the opening sentence should not be about temperature. Therefore the
best choice is C.

Another kind of topic sentence question on the TerraNova might ask you to find the sentence
that best supports a topic sentence provided to you on the test. To answer this type of question,
read the topic sentence carefully. It can tell you what kind of sentence should follow it. When
looking for the best answer choice, look for a sentence that gives more details or information
about the idea discussed in the topic sentence. Never pick an answer choice that changes the
theme, tone, or direction of the topic sentence. (The direction depends on if the idea in the
sentence will be continued, elaborated, or contradicted in the next sentence.) To get an idea of
what direction the sentence is moving in, ask yourself, “Where is this sentence going? What idea(s)
do I think it will lead me to?”
Here is number 38 from the practice test. It tests your ability to identify a supporting sentence or idea.

Which sentences provide the best support for this topic sentence?

When George Gershwin sat down at the piano, he made the piano do more than just play notes.

F George began to get jobs as an accompanist, playing for singers at concerts. He also continued to compose his own music.

G George enjoyed writing his own music. His first big success was a tune named “Swanee,” which he wrote when he was twenty years old.

H George could make a piano laugh, and he could also make it sad. He seemed to love the keys, and he could make them do anything.

J George spent several years playing new music on sight and in any key requested. As a result, his ability to read music was amazing.

These sentences discuss Gershwin and how he did more with the piano than just play notes. The best answer should mention Gershwin and the piano. The best answer choice is H.

Conjunctions

Some words can provide clues about which direction a sentence is moving. Such words are called conjunctions. In the following table, conjunctions are listed as either “Same Direction” or “Different Direction.” Same Direction conjunctions are words that suggest that the next sentence or clause will continue the idea from the previous sentence or clause. Different Direction conjunctions are words that suggest that the next sentence or clause will introduce a contrasting or different idea from the one in the previous sentence or clause.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONJUNCTIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Same Direction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then</td>
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<td>After</td>
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<td>Next</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also</td>
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<td>For example</td>
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<tr>
<td>In addition</td>
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</table>
Here are a few examples of sentences in which conjunctions show where the sentence is going.

1. We flew to Africa, and then we went on to Sri Lanka.
2. We flew to Africa. However, a tropical storm prevented us from going on to Sri Lanka.

In example 1, the conjunction and suggests that nothing unusual happened when they went to Africa and then to Sri Lanka. But, in the second example, the conjunction however suggests that something unusual or unexpected happened. The plans to go on to Sri Lanka were changed because of the weather. The conjunction however indicates that the information in the second sentence of example 2 will contrast the information given in the first sentence of example 2.

Structure Questions

Some questions on the TerraNova might ask which sentence best follows another sentence, or where in a paragraph a given sentence most logically fits. Pay careful attention to the information contained in the sentence, and look for conjunctions to help you find the best answer.

Here is number 22 from the practice test. Read the paragraph. Then answer the question.

Born in 1849, Luther Burbank was a very observant boy who was fascinated by plants. One day he was walking through a meadow. The meadow was filled with common daisies. Luther noticed one daisy that was different from the rest. It was larger and whiter than the other daisies. It was so beautiful that Luther thought people might like to grow it in their flower gardens. He dug up the plant, carried it home, and carefully planted it in his mother’s garden. He saved the seed produced by that one perfect daisy plant, and the next year he was able to grow many of these unique flowers. This plant, the Shasta daisy, is still grown and loved today.

Where does this sentence belong?

It also had a much rounder and brighter center.

F after Sentence 4
G after Sentence 5
H after Sentence 9
J after Sentence 7

Choices F and G might work. So let’s look at H and J. We can eliminate choices H and J because saying that it “had a much rounder and brighter center” makes no sense following these sentences. Now back to F and G. The tip-off to choosing between F and G is the word also in the sample sentence. Also suggests that the sentence is another example of a particular point. Although it may be tempting to choose choice F, it is wrong because it does not give an initial way that the flower differs. Saying also here is misleading and unnecessary. Therefore, the best choice is G.
Occasionally, you might see a question that asks which sentence does not fit in the paragraph. Start by skimming the whole passage. Look for the sentence that suddenly changes the main idea of the passage or that contains information that does not match the rest of the paragraph. Also look for a sentence that has information that is too specific or too general. A sentence that meets these criteria will be the best answer choice.

To find a sentence that does not belong in the paragraph, rule out answer choices containing irrelevant information.

Here is number 9 from the practice test. Refer to Alone on the Sea on page 67 of this book to answer the question.

All these sentences belong in the passage except

A  Sentence 9
B  Sentence 10
C  Sentence 5
D  Sentence 4

Answer A does not continue the thought that was introduced in Sentence 8. It also does not fit with the information that is contained in Sentence 10. It is probably the best answer choice: the sentence that does not belong in the passage. Check each of the other answer choices before you select it as the best choice. Because each of the other sentences develops or introduces ideas that make sense in the paragraph, answer A is the best answer choice.
Combination Questions

Some questions on the TerraNova might ask you to combine two sentences into one.

Here is how this type of question might be worded:

- What is the best way to rewrite and combine the first and second sentences?

Here are some steps you can take to help you find the best answer to these questions.

**STEP 1** Read each answer choice.

**STEP 2** Cross off any choice that contains a grammatical error.

**STEP 3** Reread any choices that are left, and cross off any choices that do not make sense.

**STEP 4** If you have two choices and both of them seem correct, pick the shorter answer choice.

Watch carefully for conjunctions like and, or, and but. Always check to make sure that the things being joined by these conjunctions are parallel in form.
Here is number 21 from the practice test. It refers to the passage on Luther Burbank that appears on page 32 of this book. Refer back to the passage to answer the question. Make sure that you follow the steps on the previous page to help you find the best answer choice.

Choose the best way to combine Sentences 2 and 3.

A. Filled with common daisies, one day he was walking through a meadow.
B. The meadow one day he was walking through was filled with common daisies.
C. One day he was walking through a meadow filled with common daisies.
D. One day a meadow was filled with common daisies and he was walking through.

Choice A is incorrect because it suggests that Luther was the one filled with common daisies. Choice B is awkward. Choice C is good, but let's look at choice D. Choice D might be tempting, but choice C is better because it is more concise.

Sentence Completions

You will probably see at least one passage on the TerraNova where some of the words are missing. Instead of words, there are numbered blanks. These are sentence completion questions that test your knowledge of vocabulary. They also test your ability to use clues in the sentence to help you find the best word to fill in the blank. You will probably see some words that you have not seen before, but if you work carefully, you will be able to get a good idea of what the word means.

Start by looking first for clues about the missing word that are close to the blank. You should be able to make a good guess at the right answer without even looking at the answer choices. Before you look at the answer choices, think of your own word for the blank. Then compare the word you thought of with the answer choices provided. Pick the answer choice that comes closest in meaning to it. If there is no answer choice that means something similar to your word, use the process of elimination.

Also, refer back to page 55 (Vocabulary in Context Questions) for more information about how best to figure out word meanings.
Finding Clues

There are almost always clues in the sentence that tell you what kind of word should go in the blank. Below are some example sentences that illustrate how clues can help you find a word’s meaning. What clues can you find that help you know what kind of word should go in each blank? What words do you think should go in each blank?

1. Elizabeth was so _____ after visiting her friend that she spent the rest of the day crying.

2. Elizabeth was so _____ by her friend's jokes that she spent the rest of the day giggling to herself.

What if you can’t think of your own word for the blank? Try to figure out whether the word in the blank should be a positive word or a negative word. For example, the blank in Sentence 1 would probably best be filled by a negative word, such as disturbed, sad, or upset. How do we know that? The sentence tells us that Elizabeth was crying. That is a big clue. On the other hand, the blank in Sentence 2 would probably best be filled by a positive word, like entertained or amused. That Elizabeth spent the rest of the day giggling to herself indicates that Elizabeth was pleased.

When you take the TerraNova, you will never see something like the following sentence completion:

Juan felt _____ after seeing the parade.

Why not? Because there is more than one answer to this question. Almost any word could go in the blank and make sense: happy, sad, interested, or bored.

The process of elimination is a very effective technique for sentence completion questions. However, when you do not know the meaning of one of the answer choices, do not cross it off! It might be the best answer choice.

Only rule out those answer choices that you have determined are not correct.