

PSAT English Practice Worksheet

Fifty questions across standard English conventions, expression of ideas, vocabulary in context, and reading comprehension — the Digital PSAT/NMSQT Reading and Writing domains.

QUESTIONS	50	MULTIPLE CHOICE	42	WRITTEN	8
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Instructions

Read the question first. Test each choice in the full sentence before selecting.

- 1** Choose the correct verb: 'The list of requirements ____ long.'
A) are
B) is
C) were
D) have been
- 2** Choose the correct verb: 'Neither the teachers nor the principal ____ available today.'
A) is
B) are
C) were
D) have been
- 3** Choose the correct punctuation: 'After the storm passed ____ the town began to rebuild.'
A) After the storm passed the town
B) After the storm passed, the town
C) After the storm, passed the town
D) After the storm passed; the town
- 4** Choose the correct sentence: which uses a semicolon correctly?
A) I finished the race; because I trained hard.
B) I finished the race, I trained hard.
C) I finished the race; I trained hard.
D) I finished the race: because I trained hard.
- 5** Choose the correct form: 'The dog wagged ____ tail.'
A) it's
B) its
C) its'
D) their
- 6** Choose the correct form: 'The students turned in ____ assignments.'
A) they're
B) there
C) their
D) them
- 7** Which is a complete sentence, not a fragment?
A) Running through the park every morning.
B) Because she was tired.
C) She ran through the park every morning.
D) Although the weather was cold.
- 8** Which sentence is a run-on that needs correction?
A) She studied hard, she passed the exam.
B) She studied hard, and she passed the exam.
C) She studied hard; she passed the exam.
D) Because she studied hard, she passed the exam.
- 9** Choose the best transition: 'The bridge was closed for repairs. ____, drivers had to take a longer route.'
A) However
B) As a result
C) For example
D) In contrast
- 10** Choose the best transition: 'Many students prefer online classes. ____, some still favor traditional classrooms.'
A) Similarly
B) As a result
C) However
D) For instance

- 11** Choose the most concise version that preserves meaning: 'Due to the fact that it was raining, we canceled the trip.'
- A) Due to the fact that it was raining, we canceled the trip.
 - B) Because it was raining, we canceled the trip.
 - C) Owing to the fact of rain occurring, we canceled the trip.
 - D) In light of the fact that it was raining, the trip by us was canceled.
- 12** Which sentence best combines these two ideas logically: 'The lecture was long. Students remained engaged.'
- A) The lecture was long, so students remained engaged.
 - B) Although the lecture was long, students remained engaged.
 - C) The lecture was long, or students remained engaged.
 - D) The lecture was long; for students remained engaged.
- 13** In the sentence 'The critic's scathing review left the author feeling ____,' which word best fits the negative context?
- A) elated
 - B) indifferent
 - C) dejected
 - D) curious
- 14** In the sentence 'Despite the ____ evidence, the jury remained unconvinced,' which word best fits?
- A) scant
 - B) overwhelming
 - C) irrelevant
 - D) absent
- 15** Choose the word that best fits a FORMAL passage about a scientific discovery: 'The findings ____ previous assumptions about the species.'
- A) totally wrecked
 - B) kind of messed with
 - C) fundamentally challenged
 - D) sort of changed
- 16** Which word, in context, means 'to make less severe': 'The new policy aimed to ____ the impact of the layoffs.'
- A) intensify
 - B) mitigate
 - C) ignore
 - D) publicize
- 17** Which word best fits: 'The committee's decision was ____, leaving no room for further debate.'
- A) tentative
 - B) conclusive
 - C) questionable
 - D) ambiguous
- 18** A passage argues that urban gardens improve community well-being by increasing both green space and social interaction. What is the central idea?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 19** A claim states: 'Regular exercise improves memory in older adults.' Which type of evidence would BEST support this claim?
- A) An anecdote from one person
 - B) A controlled study comparing memory scores between exercising and non-exercising older adults
 - C) A dictionary definition of memory
 - D) A description of what exercise is
- 20** A student wants notes combined to EXPLAIN a cause-and-effect relationship. Which transition fits that goal?
- A) In addition
 - B) Therefore
 - C) Similarly
 - D) For example
- 21** A student wants to combine notes to COMPARE two similar findings. Which transition fits that goal?
- A) As a result
 - B) Similarly
 - C) Consequently
 - D) Nevertheless

- 22** Choose the correct pronoun: 'Each of the students submitted ____ essay on time.'
- A) their
 - B) his or her
 - C) they're
 - D) them
- 23** Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.
- A) The team, that won the championship, celebrated all night.
 - B) The team that won the championship celebrated all night.
 - C) The team that won the championship, celebrated all night.
 - D) The team, that won the championship celebrated all night.
- 24** Choose the correct word: 'The effect of the new law ____ immediate.'
- A) were
 - B) was
 - C) are
 - D) have been
- 25** Choose the correct word: 'The number of applicants ____ increased significantly.'
- A) have
 - B) has
 - C) were
 - D) are
- 26** Which word list is arranged from most formal to least formal?
- A) kids, children, youngsters
 - B) children, kids, youngsters
 - C) youngsters, children, kids
 - D) children, youngsters, kids
- 27** In the sentence 'The novel's ____ plot kept readers guessing until the final page,' which word fits best?
- A) predictable
 - B) convoluted
 - C) simple
 - D) boring
- 28** Choose the sentence with correct comma usage.
- A) My favorite subjects are, math science and art.
 - B) My favorite subjects are math, science, and art.
 - C) My favorite subjects, are math science and art.
 - D) My favorite subjects are math science, and art.
- 29** Choose the correctly formed possessive: referring to a bag belonging to more than one student (plural 'students').
- A) student's bag
 - B) students's bag
 - C) students' bag
 - D) studentes' bag
- 30** Choose the best word: 'The negotiations reached an ____ after months of disagreement.'
- A) impasse
 - B) agreement
 - C) argument
 - D) extension
- 31** Which sentence uses 'affect' and 'effect' correctly?
- A) The medicine will effect your appetite, causing a noticeable affect.
 - B) The medicine will affect your appetite, causing a noticeable effect.
 - C) The medicine will affect your appetite, causing a noticeable affect.
 - D) The medicine will effect your appetite, causing a noticeable effect.
- 32** Choose the sentence that avoids a dangling modifier.
- A) Walking to school, the rain began to fall.
 - B) Walking to school, I felt the rain begin to fall.
 - C) The rain, walking to school, began to fall.
 - D) Walking to school and the rain began to fall.
- 33** Which sentence maintains consistent verb tense?
- A) She opened the door and sees the surprise party.
 - B) She opens the door and saw the surprise party.
 - C) She opened the door and saw the surprise party.
 - D) She opening the door and saw the surprise party.

- 34** Choose the best transition: 'The company invested heavily in research. ____, its new product outperformed every competitor.'
- A) Nevertheless
B) As a result
C) In contrast
D) Meanwhile
- 35** Which word best completes: 'The professor's lecture was so ____ that several students fell asleep.'
- A) riveting
B) monotonous
C) concise
D) controversial
- 36** Choose the correctly punctuated sentence using a colon.
- A) She had one goal: to win.
B) She had one goal, to win.
C) She had one goal: to, win.
D) She had, one goal: to win.
- 37** Which choice best replaces 'a lot of' in a formal essay: 'The study included a lot of participants.'
- A) a bunch of
B) tons of
C) numerous
D) a whole lot of
- 38** Choose the sentence free of a comma splice.
- A) The meeting ran long, everyone left frustrated.
B) The meeting ran long; everyone left frustrated.
C) The meeting ran long everyone left frustrated.
D) The meeting ran long, and, everyone left frustrated.
- 39** In context, 'The senator's remarks were met with a ____ silence,' which word best conveys tension?
- A) comfortable
B) stony
C) cheerful
D) brief
- 40** A passage states a museum's new exhibit uses interactive displays to make history 'feel immediate rather than distant.' What is the exhibit's main goal, according to the passage?
- _____

- 41** Which choice best supports the claim 'Remote work increased productivity for many employees'?
- A) A survey showing 68% of remote workers reported completing more tasks per week than in the office
B) A statement that remote work is popular
C) An opinion piece about company culture
D) A description of what remote work means
- 42** Explain why reading the question BEFORE a short passage on the Digital PSAT is a more efficient strategy than reading the passage first.
- _____

- 43** Explain why the shortest grammatically correct answer choice is usually correct on PSAT conciseness questions, but not always.
- _____

- 44** Explain the difference between a fragment and a run-on sentence, using the definition of a complete sentence.
- _____

- 45** Explain why testing an answer choice in the FULL sentence, not just at the blank, catches errors that testing in isolation would miss.
- _____

46

Explain why rhetorical synthesis questions require checking the STATED goal before selecting notes, rather than picking the most interesting or detailed note.

47

Choose the correct word: 'Between you and ____, the plan seems risky.'

- A) I
- B) me
- C) myself
- D) we

48

Choose the sentence with correct parallel structure.

- A) She enjoys hiking, to swim, and biking.
- B) She enjoys hiking, swimming, and biking.
- C) She enjoys to hike, swimming, and to bike.
- D) She enjoys hiking, swims, and to bike.

49

Which word best completes: 'The evidence was ____, leaving investigators with more questions than answers.'

- A) conclusive
- B) inconclusive
- C) irrefutable
- D) definitive

50

Explain why a transition word must reflect the LOGICAL relationship between two ideas rather than just sound smooth when read aloud.

Answer key

Direct answers only, in question order. Work the set first, then check.

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|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1. B) is | 2. A) is | 3. B) After the storm passed, the town | 4. C) I finished the race; I trained hard. | 5. B) its |
| 6. C) their | 7. C) She ran through the park every morning. | 8. A) She studied hard, she passed the exam. | 9. B) As a result | 10. C) However |
| 11. B) Because it was raining, we canceled the trip. | 12. B) Although the lecture was long, students remained engaged. | 13. C) dejected | 14. B) overwhelming | 15. C) fundamentally challenged |
| 16. B) mitigate | 17. B) conclusive | 18. Urban gardens improve community well-being through more green space and social interaction | 19. B) A controlled study comparing memory scores between exercising and non-exercising older adults | 20. B) Therefore |
| 21. B) Similarly | 22. B) his or her | 23. B) The team that won the championship celebrated all night. | 24. B) was | 25. B) has |
| 26. D) children, youngsters, kids | 27. B) convoluted | 28. B) My favorite subjects are math, science, and art. | 29. C) students' bag | 30. B) agreement |
| 31. B) The medicine will affect your appetite, causing a noticeable effect. | 32. B) Walking to school, I felt the rain begin to fall. | 33. C) She opened the door and saw the surprise party. | 34. B) As a result | 35. B) monotonous |
| 36. A) She had one goal: to win. | 37. C) numerous | 38. B) The meeting ran long; everyone left frustrated. | 39. B) stony | 40. To make history feel immediate and engaging rather than distant |

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|--|---|---|--|--|
| 41. A) A survey showing 68% of remote workers reported completing more tasks per week than in the office | 42. Reading the question first tells you exactly what information to look for, so you can read the passage with a specific purpose instead of absorbing every detail and then figuring out what matters | 43. The PSAT rewards clear, direct writing, so wordy or redundant phrasing is usually wrong, but the shortest option is only correct if it preserves the original meaning completely; if it cuts necessary information, a slightly longer choice can be correct instead | 44. A complete sentence needs a subject, a verb, and a complete thought; a fragment is missing one of these elements, while a run-on has two or more complete sentences incorrectly joined without proper punctuation or a conjunction | 45. A word or phrase might look correct on its own but create a grammar error, an illogical meaning, or a tone mismatch when read in the context of the whole sentence, which only becomes visible when the complete sentence is read aloud or reviewed as a whole |
|--|---|---|--|--|
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| 46. Rhetorical synthesis questions test whether a combination of notes accomplishes a specific purpose (such as comparing, contrasting, or explaining a cause); a note can be accurate and interesting but still be the wrong choice if it does not serve that particular stated goal | 47. B) me | 48. B) She enjoys hiking, swimming, and biking. | 49. B) inconclusive | 50. A transition that sounds smooth can still misrepresent the relationship between the two ideas (for example, using 'therefore' between two contrasting ideas), so the correct choice must match whether the ideas agree, contrast, or show cause and effect, not just flow well |
|---|-----------|---|---------------------|--|
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Error log

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Questions I answered incorrectly:

Was it a grammar rule, a vocabulary gap, or a reading-comprehension miss?

The single topic I want to start the next session with:
