



ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Notes from Underground

A lot of people hate to ride the New York City subways, but I love them because I like to get places fast.

A musician balancing a cello case, two Buddhist monks ¹ in saffron robes, and a group of stockbrokers in crisp,

charcoal gray suits get on at Wall Street. A passenger ² placidly sews while the subway train flings and jolts. A

teenager whose ³ holding a shoebox containing a kitten as

tiny as a gingersnap smiles even if ⁴ a line of girls in frilly white communion dresses file by. About three and a half

million people a day ride the subways ⁵ I think maybe

I might possibly have met them all. ⁶

1. At this point, the writer wants to provide one reason why she likes to ride the subways. Which choice is most relevant to the information provided in this first paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. I never know what I'll see there.
- C. they are so much cheaper than taxis.
- D. they are places of enormous quiet and calm.

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. charcoal gray suits,
H. charcoal, gray suits
J. charcoal gray, suits

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. thats
C. as
D. who's

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. as
H. whereas
J. such that

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. subways, and
C. subways, which
D. subways actually

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. perhaps I've
H. I've possibly
J. I've



Sometimes a Salvation Army volunteer boards the subway train with sandwiches and juice to give to the needy. “Put your pride to the side!” the volunteer shouts, and I’ve seen many people put out their hands. The
7

speaker also raises money. Its impossible to predict which
8

people will dig into their pockets or if they were to open
9 their purses, and I’ve stopped trying to guess.

Last week some fellow passengers and I watched an elderly man with a portable chessboard playing
10 chess against himself. Just yesterday I sat across the

aisle with a woman who was composing music
11

in pink-tinted glasses in a notebook. She tapped her foot
12 as she reviewed what she’d written and then stopped

tapping and jotted more notes as the train hurtled along.
13

Today is my mother’s birthday. I decided to surprise her with lilac blooms from my backyard, so this morning, carrying a shopping bag full of the flowers, I boarded a crowded “E” train and rode it to the very last stop in the

7. A. NO CHANGE
B. Therefore, the
C. In conclusion, the
D. In other words, the

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. It’s
H. Its’
J. That’s

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. would have opened
C. open
D. might be opening

10. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
F. who played
G. as he played
H. played
J. who was playing

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. to
C. at
D. from

12. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
F. where it is now.
G. after the word *woman*.
H. after the word *was*.
J. after the word *composing*.

13. Which choice most effectively emphasizes the rapid speed of the train?
A. NO CHANGE
B. continued on its way.
C. moved on down the tracks.
D. proceeded toward the next stop.



Bronx. Strangers smiled and took pains not to crush the flowers, even when the train jerked to a halt. ¹⁴ I got off at an elevated station and, lifting the splendid bouquet, rushed down to my mother, feeling delighted that I'd brought the blooms all the way from Brooklyn on the subway train.

14. If the writer were to delete the preceding sentence, this paragraph would primarily lose a statement that:
- F. provides physical descriptions of people on the subway train.
 - G. supports the opening sentence of the essay.
 - H. provides evidence that people can be friendly on the subway train.
 - J. gives an explanation for the narrator's actions.

Question 15 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

15. Suppose the writer had intended to write a brief essay persuading readers that the subway system is New York City's most economical means of public transportation. Would this essay fulfill the writer's goal?
- A. Yes, because the essay supplies evidence of the large number of people using the subways.
 - B. Yes, because the essay describes people who are able to give to the needy because they have extra money in their pockets.
 - C. No, because the essay focuses on the kinds of people riding the subways, not on how inexpensive the subways are to ride.
 - D. No, because the essay focuses on the writer's love of all public transportation, not just the subways.

PASSAGE II

Navajo Code Talkers

During World War II, a group of Navajo soldiers developed a code that became one of the most successful in U.S. military history. This group,¹⁶ known as the Navajo code talkers, took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, transmitting information,¹⁷ on tactics, troop movements, orders, and other vital communications over telephones and radios.

American military officials have¹⁸ been using cumbersome¹⁹ machines to encode and relay information during battles. In preliminary tests under simulated combat

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. group which was
H. group was
J. group
17. A. NO CHANGE
B. transmitting information on:
C. transmitting information on
D. transmitting: information on
18. F. NO CHANGE
G. had
H. would have
J. will have
19. A. NO CHANGE
B. thorny
C. strenuous
D. gawky