

## ACT 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 each 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 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 blacken 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

## The Record

The moment I had been anticipating finally came on a seemingly routine Monday. I arrived home to find a flat package; left by the delivery man<sup>1</sup> casually leaning against the front screen door. Reading the words *Caution! Do not bend!*

scrawled on the top of the box<sup>2</sup>, I immediately recognized my uncle's sloppy handwriting. I quickly ushered the box

inside, and<sup>3</sup> my heart skipping a beat (or two). I knew what the box contained but still felt as anxious as a child on Christmas morning. Could this *really* be the old vinyl record?

My hands trembled as I opened the box, of which<sup>4</sup> I was thrilled to see that it did indeed contain the record I had been seeking for years. To an outsider, this dusty disc with its faded hand-written label would seem inconsequential. To others,<sup>5</sup> on the other hand, it was worth something far greater. The record was a compilation from the greatest musician I had ever known—my grandfather.

1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. package, left by the delivery man  
C. package; left by the delivery man,  
D. package, left by the delivery man,
2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. were scrawled on  
H. scrawl on  
J. scrawled
3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. inside,  
C. inside and  
D. inside, when
4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. box that  
H. box, and  
J. box
5. Given that all the choices are true, which one would most effectively illustrate the difference between outsiders' perception of the record and its actual significance to the writer's family?  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. In fact, the recording was not heard by many people outside my family.  
C. To my family, however, it was a precious heirloom.  
D. The disc would be in better condition had my uncle stored it in a sleeve.

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Several years before he married my grandmother,

Papa would make his living as a folk singer in a

6

band. Performing in music halls and local festivals. He recorded

7

a single album produced by Great Sounds Records before

8

giving up his professional music career to pursue business. This

record was all that remained of his life's passion—in fact, there

9

had been only one surviving copy since Papa's death 10 years

10

earlier. It took many years of begging and pleading to convince

11

my uncle to pass the record down to me.

I brought out my old record player from the attic and gently placed the disc on the turntable. As soft, twanging notes filled the room, I was transported to my grandfather's cabin, located at the foot the mountains. My cousins and I would

12

gather around the campfire every night to roast marshmallows, cook hotdogs, and listen to my grandfather's old stories.

Of the many familiar favorites, Papa would pick up his guitar

13

and play all of our familiar tunes.

13

When the record started playing one of my favorite songs, I struggled to hold back my tears. It was a bittersweet reminder of

6. F. NO CHANGE

G. would have made

H. would have been making

J. had made

7. A. NO CHANGE

B. band; performing

C. band, which he had performed

D. band, performing

8. F. NO CHANGE

G. album, produced by Great Sounds Records,

H. Great Sounds Records album

J. album

9. A. NO CHANGE

B. even so,

C. since,

D. for example,

10. F. NO CHANGE

G. had been about

H. is

J. was to be

11. A. NO CHANGE

B. begging

C. pleadingly begging

D. begging the plea

12. At this point in the essay, the writer wants to suggest the significance of his grandfather's cabin to the writer's upbringing. Given that all the choices are true, which one would best accomplish that purpose?

F. NO CHANGE

G. where I had spent many childhood summers.

H. which I still remembered well.

J. a family property for many generations.

13. A. NO CHANGE

B. Playing all of our favorite songs, the many familiar tunes and guitar would be picked up by Papa.

C. Papa would also pick up his guitar and strum familiar tunes, playing all of our favorite songs, of which there were many.

D. Picking up his guitar, Papa would also play strumming familiar tunes all of our favorite, of which there were many, songs.

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the man I loved and missed, Papa's gentle voice on the record,  
14

14. F. NO CHANGE  
G. missed for  
H. missed.  
J. missed

however, assured me, that he was still with me, both in spirit  
15  
and in song.

15. A. NO CHANGE  
B. me  
C. me—  
D. me;

## Passage II

### Road Trips Back Home

During my junior year of college, it became a kind of ritual for a group of us to hop in a car and "discover" a new suburb every month. At first, we all agreed, we had come to college in this major city to escape what we thought were our boring lives in our various places of origin, but after a time, we realized that it would be impossible for us to turn our backs on our old lives  
16

16. F. NO CHANGE  
G. lives,  
H. live's  
J. lives'

completely. I grew up in Pennsylvania, many parts of which  
17  
look like the ones we drove to.

17. Given that all the choices are true, which one best supports the point that the narrator and his friends all shared a common background?

The first stop was typically some old diner, which reminded each of us of one from our various hometowns. There

- A. NO CHANGE  
B. Many suburbs have become as populous as the cities they surround.  
C. The first major migration of families from the city to the suburbs occurred in the late 1940s and early 1950s.  
D. Our hometowns were all over the map, but they all shared a palpable likeness.

we'd usually sit, chat with the restaurant's owners drink a cup  
18  
of coffee, and figure out which new and exciting place we'd be driving to next. Even now I can remember one diner in Maryland, whose sign we could see flickering from the highway as we turned off looking forward to it in anticipation. Although  
19  
we had all agreed that it had to be a new town each time, we

18. F. NO CHANGE  
G. owners;  
H. owners'  
J. owners,  
19. A. NO CHANGE  
B. in anticipation.  
C. excited and looking forward to it.  
D. in anticipation and expectation.

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1 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 1

tacitly agreed a few times to break the rules and come back to this place. 20

After we had taken nourishment (usually a grilled cheese sandwich, a patty melt, or something similarly nutritious that could be ordered from the menu) for our “big night out,” 21 we would then drive on. We got to know the lay of the land so well that we could usually just follow our noses to the kinds of places we liked to visit in these towns, typically stopping by the biggest retailer we could find. There we’d buy industrial-sized packs from childhood of instant noodles, 22 huge packs of soda, and other types of foods we all remembered but which we were either too embarrassed to buy in front of other people at the University market, or which were too expensive in the city, where there is a lot more variety. 23

Going to as many places like this as we could, we were always 24 sure to happen upon something strangely familiar to us. The place—whether it was one of a million grocery stores, movie

theaters, or fast-food restaurants—were unimportant; it seemed 25 that everywhere had something special for at least one of us,

20. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Many diners have been forced to shut down to make way for larger, national chain restaurants.

Should the writer make the addition here?

- F. Yes, because it provides important contextual information relevant to the passage.  
G. Yes, because it helps readers to see why the narrator was drawn to this particular diner.  
H. No, because it interrupts the flow of the paragraph, which is primarily a personal reflection.  
J. No, because it alters the focus of the paragraph from a discussion of driving to a discussion of specific places.
21. A. NO CHANGE  
B. whom could be ordered from  
C. whom could order  
D. that were ordering
22. The best placement for the underlined phrase would be:  
F. where it is now  
G. after the word *noodles*.  
H. after the word *soda*.  
J. after the word *remembered*
23. Which choice most effectively supports and elaborates on the description in an earlier part of this sentence?  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. where prices for such basic foods were steep.  
C. where we didn’t like to drive the car.  
D. where most of us had only small refrigerators.
24. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?  
F. As we went  
G. While going  
H. While we went  
J. We went
25. A. NO CHANGE  
B. was  
C. have been  
D. are

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

and even now, many years on, I still think of these trips fondly.

26

Looking back, I'm still not sure why we took these trips.

Nevertheless, I have been living in an urban environment

27

now for almost eight years, and should I ever have to move back to the suburbs, I will certainly go reluctantly. Sometimes, though, even now that I live in a different city, I'll still sneak out to those kinds of places once in a while and just drive

about the town. I guess, in a way, many of those early memories

28

are like that diner sign we could see from the highway; most people would never notice that old sign, but to those of us who

cherish it in our hearts and what it represents, we all harbored

29

a great hope that it would still be burning the same as we

remembered every time we drove by or came back.

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26. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively signals the shift in focus that occurs when moving from this paragraph to the next?

F. NO CHANGE  
G. we all remained friends until we graduated.  
H. I regret not having spent more time in the city when I had the chance.  
J. I haven't been back to any of those places since I graduated.

27. A. NO CHANGE

B. Therefore,  
C. Nonetheless,  
D. DELETE the underlined portion.

28. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

F. among the town.  
G. about.  
H. around.  
J. around the town.

29. A. NO CHANGE

B. have a great fondness for it  
C. have strong feelings of adoration for it  
D. cherish it

30. F. NO CHANGE

G. we were coming back.  
H. were returning.  
J. there was a return by us.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.