

TEST 1 ENGLISH EXPLANATIONS

1. D The phrase *left by the delivery man* is an unnecessary detail added to the sentence and should be off-set by two commas, making choice (D) the best answer. The semicolon in choices (A) and (C) creates a fragment in the second half of the sentence.
2. F The sentence uses *scrawled* as an adjective to describe the words, not as a verb, so you can eliminate (G). Choice (H) uses the wrong form of *scrawl*, and choice (J) is the wrong idiomatic expression.
3. B The phrase *my heart skipping a beat (or two)* is incomplete and cannot be linked to the complete phrase with *and*, eliminating choices (A) and (C). *When* changes the meaning of the sentence, making (B) the best answer.
4. H The two halves of this sentence are both complete, eliminating choice (J). Since the second half already uses the pronoun *it* to refer to the box, *that* and *which* are unnecessary, making choice (C) the best answer.
5. C Since the question asks you to make a contrast, you can eliminate choices (B) and (D). Choice (C) better describes the people for whom the record holds value than choice (A).
6. J The verb should be in past perfect tense to show that he made his living as a musician before marrying, making choice (J) the only possible answer. Choices (F), (G), and (H) all use *would*, which is the conditional tense of will.
7. D The phrase *performing in music hall and local festivals* is incomplete and must be linked to the previous thought, eliminating choices (A) and (B). By using *which* to link the ideas, choice (C) makes it sound as if the grandfather performs the band, rather than the band performing.
8. J The best answer is (J) because it is the most concise of the choices. It is unnecessary to the meaning of the sentence to mention who produced the album.
9. A The phrase after the dash is adding further details to how rare the record truly is, making choice (A) the best answer. Choice (B) is a contrasting transition, and choices (C) and (D) use transition words that confuse the meaning of the sentence.
10. F The verb should be in past perfect tense because it is describing how long one copy had existed before the writer received the record in the mail, eliminating choices (H) and (J). Choice (G) uses the incorrect expression.
11. B The words *beg* and *plead* are synonyms, so it is redundant to use both. Choice (B) is the most concise answer.
12. G Since the question asks you to discuss the significance to the writer's upbringing, you can eliminate choices (F) and (H). Choice (G) is more personal to the writer than choice (J), making it the best answer.
13. C Choice (C) is the only answer that clearly expresses the writer's intended meaning. Choices (A), (B), and (C) all misplace phrases throughout the sentence, confusing who and what are being described.
14. H The punctuation should separate two complete ideas, eliminating choices (F) and (J). Choice (G) is an unnecessary transition word, because *however* is already used in the following sentence.

15. B The phrase *that he was still with me* is an incomplete thought and should be linked to the previous complete thought, eliminating choice (D). Since the sentence explains what the author feels reassured of, punctuation between *me* and *that* creates an unnecessary pause, making choice (B) the best answer.
16. F This question requires that you determine whether an apostrophe or additional punctuation mark is required. No apostrophe is needed because the word *lives* is not possessing anything, so eliminate choices (H) and (J). No pause is required between the words *lives* and *completely*, so eliminate choice (G), which interrupts the sentence unnecessarily. The sentence is correct as written, so the best choice is (F).
17. D The question asks for a line that indicates some similarity between the narrator and his friends. Choice (A) discusses only the narrator; choices (B) and (C) contain information that is much too general to discuss only the narrator and his friends. Only choice (D) has all the appropriate elements, particularly as presented in the words *palpable likeness*.
18. J This question requires that you determine whether an apostrophe or additional punctuation mark is required. No apostrophe is needed because there is no indication that owners are possessing anything (hint: don't get thrown off by the phrase *restaurant's owners* in which the word appears), so you can eliminate choice (H). Only choice (J) has the appropriate comma placement to situate *chat with the restaurant's owners* within a list (the other items in this list are *sit, drink a cup of coffee, and figure out which new and exciting place we'd be driving to next*). A semicolon is inappropriate here because the semicolon is a punctuation mark used to separate two complete ideas, and the context indicates that it is not used to separate the items in this list.
19. B The sentence as written contains the phrase *looking forward to it in anticipation*, which is redundant, so you can eliminate choice (A). Choices (C) and (D) contain the same error. Only choice (B) preserves the meaning in a concise, non-redundant way. In addition, the word *it* in choices (A) and (C) is ambiguous.
20. H This question asks whether the writer's proposed addition would be appropriately placed at the end of this paragraph. If you're not sure whether to answer Yes or No, look at the reasons. Choice (F) must be eliminated because the proposed addition is too general and is consequently not relevant to other, more personal information in the passage. Choice (G) must be eliminated because it is too general and gives no indication why the narrator should choose a *specific* diner. Choice (J) suggests that the primary focus of the paragraph up to this point has been *driving*, which it has not; rather, the primary focus of the paragraph is the stop at the diner and the things the narrator and his friends did there. Accordingly, only choice (H) appropriately recognizes the personal tone of the paragraph and correctly advises not to include the proposed addition.
21. A The first place you should look in this question is to whether *that* or *whom* is an appropriate first word. *Whom* is the objective form of *who*, which is used to refer only to people. The word here refers back to *something*, not a person, so eliminate choices (B) and (C). Choice (D) changes the meaning of the sentence to suggest that something is doing the ordering, rather than being ordered. The sentence is correct as written, so NO CHANGE is required.

22. J This question asks you to determine which word would be most appropriately modified by the phrase *from childhood*. To place the phrase after any of the words in choices (F), (G), or (H) is to break the flow of the sentence and to make the meaning of the sentence unclear. Only choice (J) establishes the proper link between the underlined and non-underlined portions of the sentence in the phrase *remembered from childhood*.
23. B In an earlier part of the sentence, the narrator refers to the food in the city as *too expensive*. Only choice (B) supports and modifies this idea. Read the question closely: While the other choices may be true, the best answer will be one that supports and modifies a specific part of the passage.
24. J In EXCEPT/LEAST/NOT questions, the underlined portion of the sentence is correct. Compare your answer choices. What do words like *as* and *when* do to the first part of the sentence? They make it an introductory idea and an incomplete thought. When the first part of the sentence is incomplete, the comma after the word *could* sets this first part off from the complete idea after it. By contrast, if the first part of the sentence is made complete as it is in choice (J), this creates a comma splice, wherein two complete ideas are insufficiently separated by a comma.
25. B Identify the subject of the verb. Although the word *restaurants* is closest to the verb, it is not the subject; rather, the subject is the word *place*, a singular subject that requires a singular verb. Since choices (A), (C), and (D) all contain plural verbs, eliminate them. Only choice (B) remains, and the verb *was* does agree in number with the word *place*.
26. F We need an idea that will signal the transition between the paragraph above, which is a recollection of the trips, and the paragraph below, which fast forwards to the present and discusses the narrator's life now. Only choice (F) contains this transition. Choice (G) deals only with the narrator's friends who are not mentioned in the last paragraph. Choice (H) deals only with the past, and choice (J) deals only with the narrator's life after graduation. Only choice (F) has both the past and present components it needs to transition from one paragraph to the next.
27. D This question asks you to determine whether you need a transition between the first and second sentences of this last paragraph. Choices (A) and (C) suggest a disagreement between the two ideas where none exists. Choice (B) suggests a cause-and-effect relationship between the two sentences where none exists. Only choice (D) makes sense in the context, where no transition is needed.
28. F In EXCEPT/LEAST/NOT questions, the underlined portion of the sentence is correct. To answer this question, you need to determine which prepositions work idiomatically with the verb *drive*. Choice (G) contains the same preposition, *about*, used in the underlined portion, and although not a particularly common usage, *drive about* is idiomatically correct. The same goes for the more familiar *drive around*, as it is used in choices (H) and (J). Accordingly, only choice (F) does not work in the context of the sentence because it is incorrect usage to say *drive among the town*.
29. D All the answer choices mean roughly the same thing; each just presents a different way to say it. In situations such as this one, the most concise answer that preserves the meaning is the best. Accordingly, choices (A), (B), and (C) are all too wordy in comparison with choice (D).

30. F This question too asks you to determine which choice presents the most concise alternative that preserves the meaning of the sentence. Eliminate choices (G) and (J) because each presents an awkward, wordy alternative to the original. Choice (H) is as concise as choice (F), but note the context: Your answer will need to be parallel to other verbs in the sentence. In this case, only *came back* is parallel with the tense and tone of *drove by*, making the best choice (F).