

American College Testing (ACT)
ACT Practice Paper
ACT English Practice Paper 2

DIRECTIONS: In the passage that follows, 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 the 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.

The Andean Panpipe

Whether its bright and jaunty or haunting and melancholic, the music of the Andes highlands has a mellow sound unique in the musical world. The instrument responsible for this sound is the antara, or Andean panpipe, known for the hollow-sounding, breathy notes it creates. The antara has its origins in the Incan civilization, once the more richer and more powerful empire in South America.

The antara consists of a connected row of hollow, vertical pipes of varying lengths, which are then lined up. The pipes, which can vary numerously from three to fifteen, are fashioned from clay that is rolled around a mold. Each pipe is individually rolled to create the proper pitch before being bound to the other pipes.

The antara dates back to the ninth century. Evidence about how musicians played the instrument have come from painted images on Incan ceramic pottery. Musicians are depicted playing a six-pipe antara by holding the lower ends of the two longer pipes with the right hand while placing the left hand near the remaining tops of the four pipes. The antara was also sometimes held in one hand while the other hand beat a cylindrical drum.

[1] Due to the limited number of notes that can be played on an antara, early musicians' most likely worked in groups, coordinating the timing and pitch of their instruments to extend the range of sounds produced.

[2] Other pottery images show two antara players facing each other while dancing. [3] Each player holds a set of pipes so that both sets are connected to the other set by a string, as if to suggest that those two antaras should be played together. [4] Even to this day, descendants of the Incas, the Quechua people of Peru and Bolivia, prefer to play matched antaras bound together.

Unfortunately, the music of the Incas can probably never be exactly re-creating. Yet one can hear in the music of their descendants, beautiful variations on a musical sound that has survived for many centuries.

1. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. they're
- C. it's
- D. its'

2. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. one of the richest and most
- C. the richest and most
- D. the richer and more

3. Given that all of the choices are true, which one provides the most significant new information?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. thus forming this musical instrument.
- C. arranged from shortest to longest.
- D. which are fastened together.

4. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. in quantity of numbers
- C. number-wise
- D. in number

5. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. being binded
- C. been bounded
- D. been bound

6. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. are coming
- C. comes
- D. come

7. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:

- A. where it is now.
- B. before the word left.
- C. before the word of.
- D. before the word four.

8. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. beaten
- C. beated
- D. beats

9. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. antara, early musicians
- C. antara early musicians'
- D. antara early musician's

10. If the writer were to delete the phrase “coordinating the timing and pitch of their instruments” from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:

- A. a description of how musicians overcame the limitations of the antara.
- B. an indication that music was an important element in Incan life.
- C. the idea that the antara was a key feature of Incan music.
- D. nothing of significance, because the phrase is redundant.

11. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. in such a way that both sets are
- C. with both sets being
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

12. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 4 should be placed:

- A. where it is now.
- B. before Sentence 1.
- C. after Sentence 1.
- D. after Sentence 2.

13. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. re-created exactly.
- C. exact re-created.
- D. re-created exact.

14. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. hear, in the music of their descendants
- C. hear in the music of their descendants;
- D. hear in the music of their descendants

15. If the writer were to change the pronoun one to we in the preceding sentence, this closing sentence would:

- A. indicate that the writer is a descendant of the Incas.
- B. suggest that the essay's audience are all musicians
- C. take on a somewhat more personal tone.
- D. become more clearly a call to action.

Vatican City's Wonders

Surrounded by the ancient city of Rome, Vatican City is an independent nation on the west bank of the Tiber River. This tiny country—about one-sixth of a square mile in all—is also home to a disproportionately large number of sites with great historical, artistic, and which have religious significance.

The Vatican Museums house a great many valuable paintings, sculptures, pieces of jewelry, and tapestries, as well as the world's most extensive collections of ancient manuscripts. Scholars often probe the museums'

archives of early written works for insights into lives led long ago.

Accordingly, St. Peter's Basilica, the largest cathedral in the Northern Hemisphere, is remarkable. Built upon second-century foundations, St. Peter's features a dome designed by the artist and architect Michelangelo.¹⁰ Intricate mosaics—enormous “paintings” fashioned from millions of tiny cut stones of various colors—lining each of the basilica's several smaller domes. The marble floor, with its intricate designs, covers the cathedral's catacombs, where popes are buried. Sculptures by Michelangelo and Bernini, including Michelangelo's poignant *Pietà*, contributes to the basilica's beauty.

However, to many, the most spectacular part of Vatican City is the Sistine Chapel. This vast chapel displays what many consider some of the most important works of Renaissance art: Michelangelo's awe-inspiring frescoes. These frescoes—paintings made on freshly spread, still-moist plaster—capture the attention of viewers with a complex array of religious images. One of his most famous frescoes, *The Last Judgment*, is painted on the west wall. A series of interrelated frescoes covers the vaulted ceiling.

Despite its small size, Vatican City offers its many visitors a chance to see a wide range of historical and artistic wonders. It is easy to understand why the city has become one of the most frequently visited places in the world.

1. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best supports the sentence's claim about Vatican City's status as an independent nation?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. with an interesting past.
- C. with its own government, banking system, postal service, and army.
- D. that has to import most of its supplies, even such necessities as food and water.

2. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. approximately about one-sixth of a square mile, all told—
- C. a grand total sum of about one-sixth of a square mile—
- D. a total of about one-sixth of a square mile when added together—

3. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. having
- C. as well as
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

4. If the writer were to delete the words tiny and disproportionately from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:

- A. elements of the setting of the essay.
- B. a contrast emphasizing the unusual number of sites.
- C. details that stress how important the sites are.
- D. a comparison between Vatican City and Rome.

5. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best emphasizes the extent and worth of the museums' holdings?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. thousands of invaluable
- C. numerous important
- D. a group of precious

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

- A. in addition to
- B. besides
- C. also there is
- D. and also

7. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. grab an eyeful of
- C. check out
- D. pry

8. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Indeed,
- C. For instance,
- D. OMIT the underlined portion

9. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE

- B. foundations,
- C. foundations:
- D. foundations;

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

In addition to being an architect and artist, Michelangelo wrote poetry, including more than 300 sonnets.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it provides further details about Michelangelo, who designed the dome at St. Peter's.
- B. Yes, because it reinforces the paragraph's implication that Michelangelo was extremely talented.
- C. No, because it distracts attention from the paragraph's focus, which is on the architecture and visual art of St. Peter's.
- D. No, because it adds more information about Michelangelo, who made only small contributions to Vatican City's art and architecture.

11. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. that line
- C. line
- D. lines

12. If the writer were to delete the quotation marks around the word *paintings* in the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose a feature that suggests:

- A. that mosaics are not paintings in the usual sense of the word.
- B. how large and complicated the mosaics in St. Peter's actually are.
- C. how carefully mosaics are put together.
- D. that the mosaics in St. Peter's are not typical of mosaics in general.

13. Choose the best option.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. does contribute
- C. has contributed
- D. contribute

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

- A. Yet,

- B. Therefore,
- C. Still,
- D. Nonetheless,

15. Choose the best answer.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. consider some,
- C. consider, some,
- D. consider, some