

Strategy Subtest

This Subtest has the same number and type of strategy items found on the ACT. If you don't know an answer, eliminate the choices you know are incorrect, then guess. Circle the number of any guessed answer. Check pages 164–165 for answers and explanations.

INSTRUCTIONS: Certain words or phrases in the following passage are underlined and numbered. There is a corresponding item for each underlined portion. Each item offers three suggestions for changing the underlined portion to conform to standard written English or to make it understandable or consistent with the rest of the passage. If the underlined portion is not improved by one of the three suggested changes, mark NO CHANGE.

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

Choose the best answer for each question based on the passage. Then fill in the appropriate circle on the answer grid.

1 A B C D	5 A B C D	9 A B C D
2 F G H J	6 F G H J	10 F G H J
3 A B C D	7 A B C D	11 A B C D
4 F G H J	8 F G H J	12 F G H J

[1]

Arthur Conan Doyle's great sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, was superrational, and¹ the famous author himself was the world's best-known advocate of spiritualism, the belief that human personality survives death and that the living can communicate with the dead. Nevertheless,³ spiritualism was all the rage around the turn of the twentieth century. Séances, rapping, table turning, automatic writing, and other occult methods of contacting the spirit world attracted thousands. Doyle was the antithesis of a man who would try communicating with the dead; and⁴ after converting to Spiritualism, he set about trying to convert others. 5

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. since
C. that is
D. but
2. The author deleted the following sentence, which was originally placed after the first sentence.
Even today, people look to psychics for help and advice from other worlds and past lives.
Was deleting the sentence a good decision?
F. No, because it connects the spiritualism of the past to today's reader.
G. No, because it elaborates on spiritualism.
H. Yes, because the information is not relevant to the point and interrupts the flow of the passage.
J. Yes, because people then didn't use psychics.

[2]

Eventually Doyle's obsession seriously
⁶
compromised his reputation and strained his
friendships, most notably with the escape artist
Harry Houdini, who had been a fake medium since
⁷
whose training in the "artifices of conjuring" led
him to approach spiritualism with great skepticism.

8 Although the most damaging blow to Doyle's
⁹
good name resulted from his outspoken advocacy
of the existence of fairies, a matter somewhat
fancifully retold in the film *Fairytale—A True
Story*, starring Peter O'Toole as Doyle, which was
released by Paramount Pictures in 1997.

[3]

In 1917, two girls from the Yorkshire village of
¹⁰
Cottingley made fake photographs of themselves
cavorting with fairies. Few took the pictures
seriously, therefore Doyle did. He wrote a book
¹¹
defending their authenticity. 12

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. And yet
C. In spite of this
D. Delete *Nevertheless* and correct the capitalization.
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. so
H. however,
J. therefore,
5. The author wants to give an example of Doyle's conversion here. Which sentence or sentences would BEST meet his needs?
 - A. As the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Doyle relied upon facts and proof to support his ideas and theories. However, once he felt he had accumulated the "proof" of spiritualism, Doyle began to share this proof with others.
 - B. Although Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, a man who relied on facts and clues, Doyle himself did not feel he needed proof of communication with the dead. Therefore, throughout his life, Doyle sought to convince others that his belief was right.
 - C. When Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, he described him as a man who believed in spiritualism. Once that belief became outdated, however, Doyle edited those passages out of his books.
 - D. Doyle used to believe in spiritualism. Then he did not, but he convinced others to believe in it.
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. In spite of this,
H. Therefore,
J. However,
7. A. NO CHANGE
B. and
C. but
D. nevertheless

8. The author considers adding the following sentence before sentence 2:
- Houdini's skepticism of Doyle, since he was a friend of Doyle's and a man of renown himself, led to disbelief from other people as well.
- Should he?
- F. Yes, because it shows that Houdini was a friend of Doyle's.
 - G. Yes, because it links the disbelief of one person, Houdini, to that of others.
 - H. No, because the sentence does not logically flow from the sentence before it.
 - J. No, because Houdini did believe in Doyle's fairy stories.
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. Since
C. Perhaps
D. In spite of this
10. F. NO CHANGE
G. Throughout the year of 1917
H. In the nineteenth century
J. Until 1917
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. as a result
C. hence
D. but
12. The author wishes to add a conclusion to the passage. Which sentence fits BEST?
- F. Today, no one really believes in fairies.
 - G. Since the girls did not confess their hoax until 1983, Doyle died in 1930, still a believer.
 - H. In the movie, Peter O'Toole does a great acting job as Doyle.
 - J. Houdini never believed in fairies.

(Answers on pages 164–165)

5. Consider the answers in turn.
- A. Incorrect. This sentence about team size does not belong in the middle of a historic account of famous coaches.
 - B. Correct. The sentence does not fit in the context of the paragraph.
 - C. Incorrect for the same reason that choice A is incorrect.
 - D. Incorrect. Other historical information involving different team sizes may have been appropriate for this paragraph.

The correct answer is **B**.

STRATEGY SUBTEST (pages 142–144)

1. D

The fact that Doyle was an advocate of spiritualism seems to be the opposite of something his superrational detective, Holmes, would believe. Therefore, the correct linking word is *but* because it implies that the two (Holmes and Doyle) are not the same. The word *since* is incorrect because it states that Doyle's spiritualism was caused by Holmes's superrationalism, which is not proved in the paragraphs following. The words *that is* would indicate that the author is elaborating on a previous point, which is not the case.

2. H

While the topic of the deleted sentence makes sense with the rest of the paragraph, the time frame does not. The other sentences refer to Doyle's time, while the deleted sentence refers to our time. Therefore, it makes sense to delete the sentence. J cannot be the correct answer, however, because the following sentences show that people at that time did believe in psychics and spiritualism.

3. D

The word *nevertheless* would mean that although Doyle believed in séances, others did not. Since the next sentence shows that others also believed in séances, A cannot be the right answer. The words *and yet* and *in spite of this* imply the same meaning as *nevertheless*, so they are incorrect also.

4. H

Using the word *however* completes the thought that although Doyle wasn't the type to believe in spiritualism, once he did believe, he tried to convert others. The word *and* simply connects the two thoughts, as if they belonged together, which they don't. It does not make sense that if he weren't the type he would

convert others; therefore, an explanatory word like *however* is needed. The words *so* and *therefore* both imply that he converted others because he was not the type to believe.

5. A

This sentence elaborates on the one before it, showing that he accumulated the "proof" of spiritualism. Sentence B merely summarizes the paragraph without giving an example. There is nothing in the passage to support the idea that Holmes ever believed in spiritualism, and the last choice, D, is the opposite of what the passage states.

6. F

Choices G and J imply that the strain on his relationship caused by his obsession was not related to that obsession and his attempt to convert others. Since this is not the case, they can be ruled out. Choice H implies that his conversion attempts caused his obsession to compromise his friendships. This may be partly true, but other factors, like time, seem to have played a part.

7. B

The word *since* does not make sense. The words *but* and *nevertheless* are also incorrect. They imply that knowing mediums to be fake (as Houdini did) would lead him to believe in spiritualism rather than be skeptical.

8. G

The sentence flows logically from the sentence before it, which already states that Houdini was a friend of Doyle's who did not believe in fairies. Sentence 1 in the paragraph deals with Houdini's skepticism, and sentence 2 has to do with others' disbelief. Therefore, the only logical answer is that it helps show how his obsession compromised many friendships.

9. C

Using either *Although* or *Since* as the opening word makes this sentence a fragment. There is no second half to that thought (such as "although the most damaging blow was this, another factor was . . ."). The phrase *In spite of this* implies that his strained friendship with Houdini was not a damaging blow, which it was.

10. F

The two girls made their photographs at one point in time in the year 1917, which is in the twentieth century. They did not make them all throughout the year, nor did they make any up until that year.

11. D

The words *therefore*, *hence*, and *as a result* imply that Doyle believed the pictures because others did not and no causal link for this is explained. The word *but* merely states that although others didn't believe the pictures, Doyle did.

12. G

The paragraph offers no proof that people today don't believe in fairies or that Houdini never believed in fairies. It is also not concerned with reviewing the movie starring Peter O'Toole. Since the passage gives a brief chronological look at Doyle's belief in spiritualism and fairies, choice G gives the best conclusion to the essay.

ACT-TYPE QUESTIONS Organization

(pages 150–152)

1. C

Sentences 2 and 3 should be switched. Sentence 3 logically follows sentence 1, which states that the comics needed another superhero. Sentence 3 says that Batman was created. Then sentence 2 describes an invitation to come over to see the new creation. The remaining sentences are in the correct order.

2. H

Sentence 5 should be deleted. Sentence 2 is important because it describes a discussion about Batman's creation. Sentence 3 is important because it mentions who created Batman. Sentences 5 and 6 each provide details, but which detail is more important? The mention of the wings in sentence 6 makes it more important because these are a Batman trademark. Sentence 5 is the best candidate for deletion.

3. C

Sentence 3 must follow sentence 1 because it explains Batman's reaction to Robin's death. Sentence 4 must follow sentence 3 because it explains that Batman's reaction is the result of losing Robin. That leaves sentence 2 for the last sentence in the paragraph, which is the logical placement because it describes the next Robin to work with Batman.

4. G

The author is telling a story about the fictional character Batman. The longest break of 70 years in the story is between paragraphs 1 and 2. The beginning of paragraph 2 is the most logical place, of the choices given, to put a sentence that points out that time has passed.

5. A

No change. The sentences in this paragraph follow a clear chronological order. Moving the sentences as suggested in the other choices disrupts this order.

6. J

Sentence 1 must come first. Sentence 3 must follow sentence 1. Sentence 3 refers directly to the proposed conclusion to the story line mentioned in sentence 1. Sentence 2 must follow sentence 3 because sentence 2 explains how the story line was to be changed. Sentences 4 and 5 are in the correct order because paragraph 5 mentions that it follows *Final Crisis*, which is mentioned in sentence 5.

7. A

No change. Sentence 1 must come first because it follows naturally after the last sentence of paragraph 4. The last sentence in paragraph 4 and the first sentence in paragraph 5 both mention the *Final Crisis*. Any choice that does not include sentence 1 as the first sentence must be incorrect.

8. F

This sentence proposed for insertion refers directly to the absence mentioned in sentence 2 and describes what happened during this absence. The added sentence comes naturally after sentence 2.

9. C

Sentence 4 refers to information not included in the paragraph. What is more, the passage is just as effective with sentence 5 following sentence 3.

10. F

The current ordering of the passages shows a continuing chronological development from one paragraph to the next. Moving one of the paragraphs would interfere with that chronological development.

ORGANIZATION SUBTEST (pages 153–155)

1. B

The third sentence, "Stars pop out . . .," makes the most sense if it follows the opening sentence. It is a continuation of the description that begins in that sentence. Then the second sentence adds to the idea of the deeper truth mentioned in sentence 3.

2. J

The additional sentence describes an event that occurs before the current sentence 1. By placing it first, the sentence "As the curtain of darkness . . ." elaborates on the idea that the sun is setting and night begins.