

# Organization Subtest

This Subtest has the same number and type of organization 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 165–166 for answers and explanations.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Each paragraph and each sentence is numbered in the passage that follows. There is a corresponding item for each boxed number, offering three suggestions for changing the paragraph to make it understandable or consistent with the rest of the passage. If the paragraph is not improved by one of the three suggested changes, mark NO CHANGE.

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)	

[1]

[1] As the curtain of darkness falls over the land, an entire universe is revealed. [2] Of course, understanding what we see is the goal of all of us who spend hours gazing up at a dark sky. [3] Stars pop out of the velvet darkness, and planets gleam, hiding a deeper truth than a simple telescope can reveal. 1 2

1. What is the BEST order of sentences in paragraph 1?  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. 1, 3, 2  
C. 3, 1, 2  
D. 2, 3, 1

[2]

[1] It took many years before Christiaan Huygens, the 17th-century Dutch astronomer who discovered Saturn's moon, Titan, figured out what he was seeing while observing Saturn. [2] In 1659 he realized that a set of rings surrounded the solar system's second largest planet, a conclusion that had initially escaped Galileo, who first observed the peculiar appendages

2. The author wants to add this sentence to paragraph 1.  
The sun is setting over the earth, and the night begins.  
Where should it be placed?  
F. After sentence 2  
G. After sentence 3  
H. After sentence 1  
J. Before sentence 1
3. The BEST order of sentences for paragraph 2 is:  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. 1, 3, 2.  
C. 2, 1, 3.  
D. 3, 1, 2.

in 1610. [3] Galileo's later observations indicate that he had some ideas about the rings' true nature, but he never stated them. 3 4

[3]

[1] Try it on your neighbors this fall. [2] Today, even the smallest telescope is powerful enough to reveal the delicate structure of the rings. [3] On first sight through a telescope, Saturn makes most people gasp with surprise. 5 6 7

[4]

[1] Saturn swims among the stars of Pisces the Fish, below the line of dim stars that forms the southern fish. [2] A nearly full moon glides half a degree north of Saturn on October 15. [3] For people in central Africa, Saudi Arabia, and much of Asia (including India, China, and Japan), the moon passes in front of Saturn on this night, occulting it from view. [4] By the end of October, Saturn is clear of the eastern horizon by nightfall and the only bright "star" in that area of sky. 8 9

4. The author wants to add this sentence to paragraph 2.

In fact, Galileo reported to Johannes Kepler that "Saturn consists of three stars in contact with one another."

It would BEST fit:

- F. before sentence 1.
- G. after sentence 3.
- H. after sentence 2.
- J. after sentence 1.

5. The BEST order for the sentences in paragraph 3 is:

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. 1, 3, 2.
- C. 3, 2, 1.
- D. 2, 3, 1.

6. The author wants to delete a sentence (or sentences) in paragraph 3. The BEST one(s) to delete is (are):

- F. 1
- G. 2 and 3
- H. 3
- J. 1 and 2

7. The author then wants to replace the deleted sentence(s) with this one:

Although Saturn is 780 million miles away, it is astounding owing to its radiance.

Where in the passage should it go?

- A. At the beginning of paragraph 3
- B. At the end of paragraph 3
- C. In the middle of paragraph 3
- D. At the end of paragraph 2

8. The BEST order for sentences in paragraph 4 is:

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. 1, 4, 3, 2.
- H. 4, 1, 2, 3.
- J. 4, 3, 1, 2.

9. The author wishes to delete one of the sentences in paragraph 4. Which is BEST?
- A. Sentence 4
  - B. Sentence 3
  - C. Sentence 2 and change “this night” in sentence 3 to “October 15”
  - D. Sentence 1

Questions 10 and 11 ask about the passage as a whole.

10. What is the BEST order of paragraphs in this passage?
- F. NO CHANGE
  - G. 4, 2, 3, 1
  - H. 2, 4, 1, 3
  - J. 3, 4, 2, 1

11. The author wants to add the following paragraph.

Despite its great distance, Saturn has been known since ancient times because it glows so brightly. Bright clouds cover every square inch of its huge surface, reflecting 47 percent of the sunlight striking them. This copious amount of reflected sunlight, compared with the mere 12 percent reflectivity of our moon, gives Saturn much of its radiance.

It should be placed:

- A. at the beginning of the essay.
- B. at the end of the essay.
- C. between paragraphs 1 and 2.
- D. between paragraphs 3 and 4.

*(Answers on pages 165–166)*

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**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.

**3. A**

These sentences make sense as they are now. The second sentence cannot be first because then the reader would not know who the “he” is that realizing something in 1659. Also, the sentence about Galileo cannot go before the opening sentence because then it has no reference—his observations that were later than what?

**4. H**

This sentence needs to fall between the first mention of Galileo and the final sentence about Galileo’s later observations. The *In fact* means that this follows an initial statement about Galileo’s findings. However, we know the report he gave to Kepler does not mention rings, and therefore it is not one of his “later observations.”

**5. D**

By moving Sentence 1 to the end of the paragraph, the word *it* makes sense. People gasp with surprise when they look at Saturn through a telescope. So try it on your friends; make them look through the telescope at Saturn.

**6. F**

This initial sentence makes no sense in paragraph 3 as it stands. The word *it* in the first sentence has no reference—what should the reader try on his or her friends? The other two sentences, however, follow directly from the discussion of Saturn’s rings in the preceding paragraph.

**7. B**

This sentence explains why people gasp in surprise—because it is so far away yet so astounding. Therefore, it should go after sentence 3.

**8. F**

The paragraph makes the most sense as it is. The first sentence sets up where Saturn is in the sky. Sentences 2 and 4 explain in chronological order what happens to Saturn in October—the moon passes north of it, and by the end of the month it is the only bright star. Sentence 3 elaborates on sentence 2, giving more information about it.

**9. D**

Deleting sentence 1 would not affect the overall message of the paragraph. The other three sentences all describe Saturn’s movement in the sky and the movement of other stars or moons in relation to it. Sentence 1 talks about astrology and could, therefore, be deleted.

**10. F**

The paragraphs make sense as they are. Paragraph 1 describes nightfall and the idea of looking at stars through a telescope. The second paragraph explains a specific instance of observation in relation to a telescope—this one about Saturn. Paragraph 3 elaborates on what we know about Saturn today, and the last tells where to look for Saturn in October.

**11. D**

This paragraph tells us more about Saturn in general and therefore should fall after paragraph 3 and before paragraph 4 because the last paragraph is much more specific about finding Saturn in the sky.

**ACT-TYPE QUESTIONS Style (pages 159–160)****1. D**

*Continuing* and *ongoing* are synonyms, which makes the sentence redundant. Omit *and continuing* to remove the redundancy. Inserting *and repeating* or *and recycling* changes the meaning of the sentence, so neither is correct.

**2. F**

No change. *Spirit and Opportunity* repeat the meaning of *two rovers*, but this information adds useful detail and is not redundant.

**3. B**

The original wording *easier said than done* is a cliché meaning “difficult.” Replace the cliché.

**4. J**

The phrase *wide range* and the word *varied* convey the same meaning in the sentence. Omit *varied* (and don’t use its other word forms presented in the remaining choices) to eliminate the redundancy.

**5. A**

No change. The word *past* tells us about the time period of the water activity under study. There is no redundancy. Using any of the other word choices changes the meaning of the sentence.

**6. H**

The rover operated beyond, past, the primary mission time. Saying *above and beyond* or *beyond the call of duty of* is both wordy and cliché. Omitting the phrase completely makes the sentence nonsensical.

**7. B**

The underlined portion is wordy, but it contains important information, so it cannot be omitted entirely.