

# PACT Writing Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What punctuation error is found in the sentence regarding Anita's ambitions: "Anita was a multi-talented student, who couldn't decide whether she wanted to be an astronaut; a veterinarian; or a professor"?**
  - A. Excessive commas**
  - B. Incorrect semicolon usage**
  - C. No error**
  - D. Missing periods**
- 2. Which type of writing is primarily represented in a narrative essay?**
  - A. Persuasion**
  - B. Storytelling**
  - C. Exposition**
  - D. Analysis**
- 3. What should be avoided in the expression of the flowers blooming?**
  - A. Using "started to bloom"**
  - B. Including "this week"**
  - C. Using "questions about photosynthesis"**
  - D. Creating a statement ending with a question mark**
- 4. What is a natural event that humans can influence according to the passage?**
  - A. Earthquakes**
  - B. Tornadoes**
  - C. Forest growth**
  - D. Natural resource extraction**
- 5. What transition word best connects ideas about art and society in the provided passage?**
  - A. Therefore**
  - B. But**
  - C. Additionally**
  - D. Before**

- 6. Which transition word would best fit the beginning of the third sentence in the storm description?**
- A. Accordingly**
  - B. Similarly**
  - C. First**
  - D. For example**
- 7. In the sentence "Laurence could not decide which was more important: learning to play the harmonica or learning to ride a tricycle," what is notable about this sentence?**
- A. It contains a spelling error**
  - B. It has a grammatical mistake**
  - C. There is no error**
  - D. It is a run-on sentence**
- 8. Identify the redundant word in the sentence about credit card rates.**
- A. Low**
  - B. Revert**
  - C. Back**
  - D. Complete**
- 9. What grammatical change is needed in the sentence about Margot's decision?**
- A. No change needed.**
  - B. Change "ignored it" to "ignored them."**
  - C. Remove "the three extra credit questions."**
  - D. Change "questions" to "question."**
- 10. Which term correctly identifies the way in which students were invited to participate in the debate club?**
- A. Bulletin**
  - B. Poster**
  - C. Flyer**
  - D. Newsletter**

## **Answers**

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1. B
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What punctuation error is found in the sentence regarding Anita's ambitions: "Anita was a multi-talented student, who couldn't decide whether she wanted to be an astronaut; a veterinarian; or a professor"?**

**A. Excessive commas**

**B. Incorrect semicolon usage**

**C. No error**

**D. Missing periods**

The correct choice highlights the misuse of semicolons in the sentence. Semicolons are primarily used to connect closely related independent clauses or to separate items in a complex list where commas are already utilized. In this case, the semicolon is incorrectly used to separate "an astronaut," "a veterinarian," and "a professor," which are not independent clauses, but rather parts of a single list. A more appropriate choice for separating items in this list would be commas. By replacing the semicolons with commas, the sentence would accurately reflect the intention of listing Anita's varied ambitions without creating unnecessary confusion. Thus, the error lies in the incorrect application of punctuation that does not conform to its grammatical rules.

**2. Which type of writing is primarily represented in a narrative essay?**

**A. Persuasion**

**B. Storytelling**

**C. Exposition**

**D. Analysis**

A narrative essay primarily focuses on storytelling. This form of writing engages readers by presenting a sequence of events or experiences from the author's perspective, often highlighting personal insights or lessons learned. The hallmark of a narrative essay is its ability to tell a story, usually incorporating elements such as characters, a setting, a plot, and a theme. While the other choices represent different forms of writing, they do not capture the essence of a narrative essay. Persuasion aims to convince the reader of a particular viewpoint, exposition intends to inform or explain a concept, and analysis involves breaking down information to understand it better. In contrast, the narrative essay's main purpose is to draw readers into a compelling story, making it a unique and engaging form of expression.

**3. What should be avoided in the expression of the flowers blooming?**

**A. Using "started to bloom"**

**B. Including "this week"**

**C. Using "questions about photosynthesis"**

**D. Creating a statement ending with a question mark**

Creating a statement ending with a question mark can lead to confusion and disrupt the clarity of the expression about the flowers blooming. A statement is expected to present information or an assertion, while a question mark implies a query that requires an answer. This can detract from the subject of flowers blooming, making it less effective in communicating the intended observation or description. In contrast, the other options focus on different aspects of phrasing or context. Using "started to bloom" or including "this week" provides temporal context that can enhance clarity, and discussing "questions about photosynthesis" could relate to broader botanical discussions without directly impacting the expression of the blooming itself.

**4. What is a natural event that humans can influence according to the passage?**

**A. Earthquakes**

**B. Tornadoes**

**C. Forest growth**

**D. Natural resource extraction**

Natural resource extraction is a natural event that humans can influence because it involves the deliberate removal of resources from the environment, which can have significant ecological impacts. Humans actively shape the process through decisions about what and how much to extract, leading to changes in the landscape, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem health. This contrasts with events like earthquakes and tornadoes, which occur as a result of natural processes and are largely beyond human control. While humans can influence forest growth indirectly through activities like deforestation or reforestation, the act of extracting natural resources is a direct human intervention that alters natural systems.

**5. What transition word best connects ideas about art and society in the provided passage?**

**A. Therefore**

**B. But**

**C. Additionally**

**D. Before**

The choice of "but" as the transition word effectively connects contrasting ideas about art and society. This word indicates a shift or contradiction between two statements, which is often essential in discussions of art's role in society. For instance, art may reflect societal norms or values while simultaneously challenging them. Utilizing "but" underscores the complexity of the relationship between art and society, suggesting that while they are interrelated, they may also hold opposing views or outcomes. In contrast, the other options imply different relationships. "Therefore" typically suggests a conclusion drawn from a previous statement, which may not fit if the passage is highlighting the tension between art and societal expectations. "Additionally" indicates an additive relationship, which would not apply if the passage contrasts differing perspectives. "Before" denotes a temporal relationship, which may not accurately characterize the connection between ideas about art and society. By selecting "but," the emphasis on the nuanced interplay between the two concepts is more effectively conveyed.

**6. Which transition word would best fit the beginning of the third sentence in the storm description?**

**A. Accordingly**

**B. Similarly**

**C. First**

**D. For example**

In order to select the best transition word for the beginning of the third sentence in the storm description, it is essential to consider how the sentences flow and relate to each other. The word "accordingly" signals a result or a consequence of what precedes it. Thus, using "accordingly" suggests that the third sentence will discuss something that follows logically or is a result of the circumstances or events described in the earlier sentences. This type of transition helps create cohesion in the writing by connecting thoughts and maintaining a clear logical progression. In contrast, the other options either do not convey the same sense of consequence or are more suitable for differing contexts. "Similarly" would imply comparison, which may not be appropriate unless the preceding sentences discuss two analogous situations. "First" indicates an order of sequence, which may not fit if the third statement is not the first in a list of points. "For example" introduces a specific instance, but it would not be the best fit unless the third sentence is specifically illustrating a point made in the preceding sentences. Hence, "accordingly" is the most fitting choice for ensuring the writing flows logically.

**7. In the sentence "Laurence could not decide which was more important: learning to play the harmonica or learning to ride a tricycle," what is notable about this sentence?**

- A. It contains a spelling error**
- B. It has a grammatical mistake**
- C. There is no error**
- D. It is a run-on sentence**

This sentence effectively presents a comparison between two activities—learning to play the harmonica and learning to ride a tricycle—using a structure that is both clear and grammatically correct. The phrase "which was more important" is properly constructed to set up the contrast between the two gerunds ("learning") that follow. The use of a colon before the items being compared is appropriate, indicating that what follows will elaborate on what is being discussed. Additionally, the overall structure adheres to standard grammatical practices, ensuring that the meaning is conveyed effectively without ambiguity or confusion. The lack of any spelling mistakes or run-on elements further emphasizes the integrity of the sentence, confirming that it functions well as intended, making the assertion that there is no error accurate and justified.

**8. Identify the redundant word in the sentence about credit card rates.**

- A. Low**
- B. Revert**
- C. Back**
- D. Complete**

In the context of the sentence about credit card rates, the word "back" is redundant because it often serves as a preposition or adverb that implies returning to a previous state or condition. When discussing credit card rates, using the word "revert" alone effectively conveys the idea of returning to earlier rates without the need for "back." In this scenario, "low" would describe the type of rates, and "complete" might relate to the overall context of the information being shared. However, "back" does not add any new information. Therefore, its removal would streamline the sentence and enhance clarity without losing the original meaning.

**9. What grammatical change is needed in the sentence about Margot's decision?**

**A. No change needed.**

**B. Change "ignored it" to "ignored them."**

**C. Remove "the three extra credit questions."**

**D. Change "questions" to "question."**

To determine the necessary grammatical change regarding Margot's decision, we need to focus on the consistency of the pronoun used in relation to the noun it represents. If the sentence discusses three extra credit questions, the pronoun that refers back to them should be plural to remain consistent with the subject being discussed. In this context, changing "ignored it" to "ignored them" aligns the pronoun with the plural noun "questions." Using "them" correctly indicates that Margot is referring back to multiple extra credit questions, maintaining grammatical coherence and clarity in the sentence. This adjustment enhances the readability and ensures that the sentence accurately reflects the number of items being discussed, affirming the reader's understanding of Margot's action regarding the extra credit opportunities.

**10. Which term correctly identifies the way in which students were invited to participate in the debate club?**

**A. Bulletin**

**B. Poster**

**C. Flyer**

**D. Newsletter**

The correct term that identifies how students were invited to participate in the debate club is "Flyer." Flyers are typically designed to be distributed in large quantities to publicize an event, such as a club meeting or a special activity, and they often contain a call to action, encouraging students to join or participate. They are usually colorful, eye-catching, and provide specific details about the event, including the date, time, and location. While the other options may also involve communicating information about events or activities, a bulletin typically refers to an official announcement or report, often more formal and less visually appealing than a flyer. Posters are often larger and used for more permanent displays rather than for distribution, and newsletters are regularly distributed publications that include updates and news over a period, rather than a singular invitation to an event. Thus, a flyer is the most fitting choice for inviting students to participate in the debate club.