DRILLS 3 – EXPRESSION OF IDEAS

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1. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

   - Annie Wu is a prominent American flutist who graduated from the New England Conservatory.
   - She has won multiple national flute competitions.
   - She is best known for a 2011 YouTube video that has been viewed over two million times.
   - The video shows her performing Three Beats for Beatbox Flute, an original work by composer Greg Pattillo.
   - Wu combines flute playing and beatboxing in the video.

   The student wants to emphasize Wu's most well-known achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

   A) Among her many achievements, prominent American flutist Annie Wu graduated from the New England Conservatory and has won multiple national flute competitions.
   B) Annie Wu is best known for a 2011 YouTube video of *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* that has been viewed over two million times.
   C) Composer Greg Pattillo's original work *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* combines flute playing and beatboxing.
   D) Annie Wu, who has won multiple national flute competitions, has also combined flute playing and beatboxing.

2. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

   - A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.
   - In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.
   - Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
   - The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.
   - One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

   The student wants to present the study's findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

   A) Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.
   B) The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
   C) Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may reside in the planets' upper atmospheres.
   D) Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere.

3. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

    - Muckrakers were journalists who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era (1897-1920).
    - Ida Tarbell was a muckraker who investigated the Standard Oil Company.
    - She interviewed Standard Oil Company executives, oil industry workers, and public officials.
    - She examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications, including letters and financial records.
    - Her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) exposed the company's unfair business practices.

    The student wants to emphasize the thoroughness of Ida Tarbell's investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

    A) Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications.
    B) As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.
    C) Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell's book The History of the Standard Oil Company exposed the company's unfair business practices.
    D) Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era, L897-1920).

4. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

    - Platinum is a rare and expensive metal.
    - It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.
    - Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
    - Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.
    - Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

    The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

    A) Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.
    B) While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other platinum catalysts.
    C) Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
    D) Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.

5. A 2017 study of sign language learners tested the role of iconicity—the similarity of a sign to the thing it represents—in language acquisition. The study found that the greater the iconicity of a sign, the more likely it was to have been learned. _____ the correlation between acquisition and iconicity was lower than that between acquisition and another factor studied: sign frequency.

   Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

   A) In fact,
   B) In other words,
   C) Granted,
   D) As a result,

6. Before the 1847 introduction of the US postage stamp, the cost of postage was usually paid by the recipient of a letter rather than the sender, and recipients were not always able or willing to pay promptly. _____ collecting this fee could be slow and arduous, and heaps of unpaid-for, undeliverable mail piled up in post offices.

   Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

   A) Regardless,
   B) On the contrary,
   C) Consequently,
   D) For example,

7. The number of dark spots that appear on the Sun, known as sunspots, can vary greatly. For example, there were about 180 sunspots in November 2001. _____ there were only about 2 sunspots in December 2008.

   Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

   A) In other words,
   B) Similarly,
   C) Therefore,
   D) By comparison,

8. It has long been thought that humans first crossed a land bridge into the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. _____ based on radiocarbon dating of samples uncovered in Mexico, a research team recently suggested that humans may have arrived more than 30,000 years ago—much earlier than previously thought.

   Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

   A) As a result,
   B) Similarly,
   C) However,
   D) In conclusion,

ANSWERS

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

Answer explanations can be found in the *SAT Official Guide* on pages 174 to 176.