

# LESSON 4 - VERBAL



## OVERVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS ON STANDARD ENGLISH CONVENTIONS

- The *Standard English Conventions* domain accounts for 26% of the verbal points.
- That's 11 to 15 questions.

## STANDARD ENGLISH CONVENTIONS – QUESTION TYPES

The *Standard English Conventions* section has two question types:

1. Boundaries Questions
2. Form, Structure, and Sense Questions

### 1. Boundaries Questions (Page 179)

1. In the novel *Things Fall apart* by Chinua Achebe, Okonkwo is a leader of Umuofia (a fictional Nigerian clan) and takes pride in his culture's traditions. However, when the arrival of European missionaries brings changes to Umuofia, the novel asks a central question: How \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) will Umuofia's traditions be affected?
- B) Umuofia's traditions will be affected?
- C) Umuofia's traditions will be affected.
- D) Will Umuofia's traditions be affected.

2. Humans were long thought to have begun occupying the Peruvian settlement of Machu Picchu between 1440 and 1450 CE. However, a team led by anthropologist doctor Richard Berger used accelerator mass spectrometry to uncover evidence that it was occupied \_\_\_\_\_ 1420 CE, according to Berger, humans were likely inhabiting the area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) earlier, in which
  - B) earlier, in
  - C) earlier. In
  - D) earlier in
3. In a 2016 study, Eastern Washington university psychologist Amani El-Alayli found that, among the study participants who experienced frisson (a physiological response akin to goosebumps or getting the chills) while listening to music, there was one personality trait that they scored particularly \_\_\_\_\_ openness to experience.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) high on;
- B) high on
- C) high. On
- D) high on:

## 2. Form, Structure, and Sense Questions (Page 182)

4. Wanda Diaz-Merced, an astrophysicist who is blind, has developed software that can translate astrophysical data into sound. Such tools \_\_\_\_\_ astrophysicists to detect subtle patterns in data—patterns that may not be evident in graphs and other visual formats.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) has enabled
  - B) enable
  - C) is enabling
  - D) enables
5. Official measurements of the Mississippi River’s length vary: according to the US Geologic Survey, the river is 2,300 miles long, whereas the Environmental Protection Agency records its length as 2,320 miles. This disparity can be explained in part by the fact that rivers such as the Mississippi expand and contract as \_\_\_\_\_ sediment.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) one accumulates
- B) they accumulate
- C) it accumulates
- D) we accumulate

6. In 1990, California native and researcher Ellen Ochoa left her position as chief of the Intelligent Systems Technology Branch at a NASA Research Center \_\_\_\_\_ the space agency's astronaut training program.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) to join
- B) is joining
- C) joined
- D) joins

7. After winning the 1860 presidential election, Abraham Lincoln appointed Edward Bates, Salmon P. Chase, and William H. Seward to his cabinet. Lincoln's decision was surprising, since each of these men had run against him, but historians have praised it, noting that Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_ his rivals' diverse talents to strengthen his administration.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) will leverage
- B) is leveraging
- C) has leveraged
- D) leveraged

8. In 2015, a team led by materials scientists Anirudha Sumant and Diana Berman succeeded in reducing the coefficient of friction (COF) between two surfaces to the lowest possible level—superlubricity. A nearly frictionless (and, as its name suggests, extremely slippery) state, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) reaching superlubricity occurs when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.
- B) superlubricity is reached when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.
- C) when their COF drops below 0.01, two surfaces reach superlubricity
- D) two surfaces, when their COF drops below 0.01, reach superlubricity

9. When they were first discovered in Australia in 1798, duck-billed, beaver-tailed platypuses so defied categorization that one scientist assigned them the name *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*: "paradoxical birdsnout." The animal, which lays eggs but also nurses \_\_\_\_\_ young with milk, has since been classified as belonging to the monotremes group.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to conventions of Standard English?

- A) it's
- B) their
- C) they're
- D) its

## ANSWERS

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

Answer explanations can be found in the *SAT Official Guide* on pages 177 to 188.