

Diagnostic Assessment

Section One – Subjects and verbs

Underline the subject of the sentence and circle the *main verb* or verb phrase.

1. Lyrics are short poems that combine words and sounds.
2. In the sixteenth century, Edmund Spenser had his poems published.
3. When the sailors had finished their prayers, they let the sheep graze.
4. The beautiful golden palace shined brightly in the distance.
5. When he got back to Ithaca, he would sacrifice a calf to the gods of Olympus.

Section Two – Sentence types

Identify whether the following are (S) simple, (CO) compound or (CX) complex sentences:

6. We lit a much-needed fire by the edge of the river. (S)
7. We made an offering to the gods, and helped ourselves to some of the cheeses. (CO)
8. When we had eaten, we sat down in the cave to await our ship's arrival. (CX)
9. We hastily retreated to the inner recess of the damp cave. (S)
10. He drove some of his flock into the wider part of the cave, where he had built a yard. (CX)

Section Three – Nouns and pronouns

11. Which of the following is not an abstract noun? (circle the correct answer)
 - a) *knowledge*
 - b) *heroism*
 - c) *wisdom*
 - d) *island*
12. Which of the following cannot be a sentence subject. (circle the correct answer)
 - a) *pronoun*
 - b) *verb phrase*
 - c) *proper noun*
 - d) *noun phrase*
13. Which of the following is an auxiliary verb? (circle the correct answer)
 - a) *was*
 - b) *shall*
 - c) *will*
 - d) *run*

14-15 Read the following biography of Socrates and answer the two questions below.

Socrates was a controversial figure. Although **he** wrote nothing himself, **he** appears in many works, such as Plato's *Symposium*. In **this he** is portrayed as a man of great insight, integrity and argumentative skill. The impact of Socrates' life was made greater because of the way **it** ended: at age 70, **he** was brought to trial on charges of immorality and sentenced to death. His speeches are often powerful descriptions of the examined life and condemnation of Athenian democracy. **They** are some of the most important documents of Western culture.

14. How many pronouns are there in the extract? **Seven**
15. What does the pronoun 'they' refer to in the last sentence? **Socrates' speeches**

Section Four – Fragments and run on sentences

Identify what is wrong with the following sentences *i.e.* what is missing or grammatically incorrect?

16. His lofty sword in the air.
The sentence does not contain a main verb – it is a fragment
17. The ships by the edge of the sea.
The sentence does not contain a main verb – it is a fragment
18. Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets, they were published in 1609.
Two separate sentences are joined by a comma – it is a run on sentence
19. Dark clouds far off into the distance.
The sentence does not contain a main verb – it is a fragment
20. Odysseus was away from home for 20 years, he had given up hope of returning.
Two separate sentences are joined by a comma – it is a run on sentence

Section Five – non-finite and relative clauses

Identify whether the following contain (F) **finite**, (NF) **non-finite** or (R) **relative** clauses:

21. We made an offering to the gods, which was well received by Zeus. **(R)**
22. He threw his sticks down inside the cavern, giving us such a fright. **(NF)**
23. He drove some of his flock into the wider part of the cave, where he had built a yard. **(R)**
24. Odysseus picked up the spears that were hanging up along the sides of the great hall. **(F)**
25. He sat down to milk his bleating goats, putting her young to each mother. **(NF)**

Section Six – Conjunctions

26. Which of the following is correctly punctuated? (**circle** the correct answer)
 - a) Lenin believed in another revolution. However, other Bolshevik leaders were not sure.
 - b) Lenin believed in another revolution, however, other Bolshevik leaders were not sure.
 - c) Lenin believed in another revolution however, other Bolshevik leaders were not sure.
 - d) Lenin believed in another revolution however other Bolshevik leaders were not sure.
27. Which of the following is correctly punctuated? (**circle** the correct answer)
 - a) Catholics denounce murder, however they also do not agree with prolonging suffering.
 - b) Catholics denounce murder; however, they also do not agree with prolonging suffering.
 - c) Catholics denounce murder. However they also do not agree with prolonging suffering.
 - d) Catholics denounce murder, however, they also do not agree with prolonging suffering.
28. Which of the following is correctly punctuated? (**circle** the correct answer)
 - a) The ghost's arrival, however, gives substances to Hamlet's bitterness towards Claudius.
 - b) The ghost's arrival; however, gives substances to Hamlet's bitterness towards Claudius.
 - c) The ghost's arrival however gives substances to Hamlet's bitterness towards Claudius.
 - d) The ghost's arrival however, gives substances to Hamlet's bitterness towards Claudius.
29. Which of the following is correctly punctuated? (**circle** the correct answer)
 - a) In condition one suspects maintained focus; in contrast, in condition two they fidgeted.
 - b) In condition one suspects maintained focus in contrast in condition two they fidgeted.
 - c) In condition one suspects maintained focus, in contrast in condition two they fidgeted.
 - d) In condition one suspects maintained focus, in contrast, in condition two they fidgeted.
30. Which of the following is correctly punctuated? (**circle** the correct answer)
 - a) Participants recalled the true events, equally, they remembered the number sequence.
 - b) Participants recalled the true events. Equally, they remembered the number sequence.
 - c) Participants recalled the true events equally they remembered the number sequence.
 - d) Participants recalled the true events, equally they remembered the number sequence.