

## WRITING CENTER PRACTICE TEST - SPRING CONVENTIONS 2

### *Questions 1-10*

Read each of the sentences below and find the error in Standard Written English in each. There is no more than one error in each sentence.

Remember that Standard Written English is the kind of English you are usually asked to write in class and that there is a difference between the way we write something and the way we say the same thing.

1. Adelaide Casey was not the most popularest poet of her time, but some people believe that she was one of the most talented.
2. Hungry birds strip a holly bush of its berries rapid and swoop away searching frantically for other food.
3. High levels of air pollution causes damage to the respiratory tract.
4. The morning was so cool and clear that the hikers couldn't hardly wait to get started.
5. Frank had been reading the play for an hour when he falls asleep.
6. Every runner must train rigorously if they want to excel.
7. No one was able to make more intricate designs than him.
8. Before one purchases an electrical appliance, you should find out how expensive it will be to operate.
9. The balloon that hanged over the doorway suddenly burst.
10. The leader, who had been in office since 1989, is announcing her retirement this afternoon.

### *Questions 11-20*

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. Choice (A) is the same answer as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose answer (A).

**11. Of all the children in his kindergarten class, John was the liveliest.**

- (A) John was the liveliest.
- (B) John was the most liveliest.
- (C) John was the more liveliest.
- (D) John was the more livelier.

**12. A new dam was built to control floods, also furnishing recreation.**

- (A) floods, also furnishing recreation.
- (B) floods and to furnish recreation.
- (C) floods, and also furnishing recreation.
- (D) floods and to furnishing recreation.

**13. Samuel Johnson was a famous British writer of the Eighteenth century, and he was raised in poverty.**

- (A) Samuel Johnson was a famous British writer of the Eighteenth century, and he was raised in poverty.
- (B) Samuel Johnson was raised in poverty, and he was a famous British writer of the Eighteenth century.
- (C) Samuel Johnson was a famous Eighteenth century British writer who was raised in poverty.
- (D) Raised in poverty and being famous, Samuel Johnson wrote in the Eighteenth century.

**14. The crisis resulting from Nina's decision to move out of her parents' house took on a life of their own.**

- (A) of their own.
- (B) of themselves.
- (C) of its own.
- (D) of her own.

**15. Although the crime rate is high, and society has progressed in some ways.**

- (A) high, and society
- (B) high, so society
- (C) high, but society
- (D) high, society

**16. Doing the best he could, the amateur cook fried the fish, warmed the bread, and he took the dessert from the freezer.**

- (A) warmed the bread, and he took the dessert
- (B) warmed the bread, and took the dessert
- (C) he warmed the bread, and took the dessert
- (D) warmed the bread, also taking the dessert

**17. If a student is uncertain about where to look for sources, you should consult a reference librarian.**

- (A) you should consult
- (B) they should consult
- (C) one should consult
- (D) he or she should consult

**18. The recently published biography of Winston Churchill is interesting, detailed, and well-written.**

- (A) detailed, and well-written.
- (B) detailed and also it is well-written.
- (C) detailed, and it is well-written.
- (D) detailed, also is well-written.

**19. Professor Timrod requires outside reading and a research paper, and he teaches political science.**

- (A) Professor Timrod requires outside reading and a research paper, and he teaches political science.
- (B) Professor Timrod is a political science teacher and who requires outside reading and a research paper.
- (C) Professor Timrod, the political science teacher, requires outside reading and a research paper.
- (D) Professor Timrod requires his students to read outside and write a research paper teaching political science.

**20. Workers outside the building made so much noise that we could not scarcely hear the speaker.**

- (A) we could not scarcely hear
- (B) we could scarcely hear
- (C) we couldn't scarcely hear
- (D) we could scarcely not hear