

4.1 Essay Revision

Passage 1 Directions: Read the passage below, then answer questions about the errors in the passage.

(1) "To be, or not to be...that is the question" (2) This wellknown utterance has been the source of both mystery and wonderment for students around the world since the turn of the 16th century—arguably the zenith of Shakespeare’s creative output. (3) However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about it’s rather mysterious context. (4) Where did it come from what does it mean? (5) The first of these questions (where does it come from?) can be answered fairly easily: from Shakespeare’s famous play Hamlet. (6) As for the last of the two questions, a complete answer would require a more deep look at Shakespearean culture and nuance.

1. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 1 (reproduced below)?

"To be, or not to be...that is the question"

- A. "To be, or not to be...that is the question"?
- B. "To be, or not to be...that is the question."
- C. "To be, or not to be...that is the question",
- D. "To be, or not to be...that is the question,"

2. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 2 (reproduced below)?

This wellknown utterance has been the source of both mystery and wonderment for students around the world since the turn of the 16th century—arguably the zenith of Shakespeare’s creative output.

- A. Replace "students" to "student’s"
- B. Delete "*—arguably the zenith of Shakespeare’s creative output.*"
- C. Replace "wellknown" with "well-known"
- D. Add a comma between "world" and "since"

3. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 3 (reproduced below)?
However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about it's rather mysterious context.

- A. However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about it's rather mysterious context.
- B. However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about it is rather mysterious context.
- C. However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about the rather mysterious context.
- D. However, the mere ubiquity of this phrase fails to answer some basic questions about its rather mysterious context.

4. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 4 (reproduced below)?
Where did it come from what does it mean?

- A. Where did it come from, what does it mean?
- B. Where did it come from or what does it mean?
- C. Where did it come from? What does it mean?
- D. Where did it come from? And what does it mean?

5. In context, which is the best revision to the beginning of sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

The first of these questions (where does it come from?) can be answered fairly easily: from Shakespeare's famous play Hamlet.

- A. The first of these questions...
- B. The first interrogative...
- C. The primary question...
- D. The first one...

6. In context, which is the best revision to the beginning of sentence 6 (reproduced below)?

As for the last of the two questions, a complete answer would require a more deep look at Shakespearean culture and nuance.

- A. in-depth
- B. deeper
- C. extended
- D. serious

Passage 2

Directions: Read the passage below. Then answer questions about errors in the passage.

(1) My stepmother is the jenealogist of the family. (2) She maintains records of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces. (3) She takes the job real serious. (4) She sends missives to the family whoever something noteworthy occurs. (5) We recently had a bulletin about the demise of the relative during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago. (6) This ancestor apparently bequeathed his old earthly possessions to his children, who in turn bequeathed their goods to their descendants. (7) My husband’s great-grandfather, his mother’s father, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture. (8) My husband wonders if he will one day pass heirlooms on to his progeny. (9) If yes, we may inherit some new furniture, and my stepmother will have even more to keep track of!

1. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 1 (reproduced below)?

My stepmother is the jenealogist of the family.

- A. My stepmother is the genealogist of the family.
- B. My stepmother is the jeneologist of the family.
- C. My stepmother is the genealegist of the family.
- D. My stepmother is the jenealegist of the family.

2. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 3 (reproduced below)?

She takes the job real serious.

- A. She takes the job real serious.
- B. She takes the job very serious.
- C. She takes the job really serious.
- D. She takes the job very seriously.

3. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 4 (reproduced below)?

She sends missives to the family whoever something noteworthy occurs.

- A. She sends missives to the family whoever something noteworthy occurs.
- B. She sends missives to the family whether something noteworthy occurs.
- C. She sends missives to the family whenever something noteworthy occurs.
- D. She sends missives to the family whatever something noteworthy occurs.

4. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 5 (reproduced below)?

We recently had a bulletin about the demise of the relative during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago.

- A. We recently had a bulletin about the demise of the relative during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago.
- B. We recently had a bulletin about the demise of a relative during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago.
- C. We recently had a bulletin about the demise of relativity during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago.
- D. We recently had a bulletin about the demise of a reality during the Civil War which transpired a century-and-a-half ago.

5. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

My husband's great-grandfather, his mother's father, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture.

- A. My husband's great-grandfather, his mother's father, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture.
- B. My husband's great-grandfather, the father of his father's father, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture.
- C. My husband's great-grandfather, his mother's father's mother, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture.
- D. My husband's great-grandfather, his father's father, has recently inherited some of this antique furniture.

6. In context, which is the best revision to the beginning of sentence 9 (reproduced below)? *If yes, we may inherit some new furniture, and my stepmother will have even more to keep track of!*

- A. If so,
- B. If not,
- C. This way,
- D. If true,

Passage 3

(1) It is 6:00 AM on a Friday. **(2)** You and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S. **(3)** The excitement is almost palpable as you all look at your watches and count down the minutes until you can have this brand new, amazing technology in your quivering hands. **(4)** To the few who have not jumped on the smartphone bandwagon this may seem like a waste of time.

(5) People are often excited by what is trendy or “cool” without thinking about why those adjectives mean so much to them. **(6)** Because of these contributions to society, we value newness.

(7) Newness is important because it leads an increase of our quality of life. **(8)** Many inventions, from ergonomic desk chairs to more nutritional food, have enriched our day to day routines. **(9)** There are now smartphone applications that can help you with everything from your diet to your sleep schedule. **(10)** For example, one application takes advantage of the technological components of the iPhone to regulate your sleep cycle and wake you up at a time when you will not be groggy. **(11)** This can make a big difference in the quality of your daily life and, thus, is very valuable.

(12) While we sometimes forget why we want the latest model of the iPhone, we must remember there is a legitimate value in newness. **(13)** New ideas and new technologies have the power to improve our health and stimulate our minds. **(14)** Many people fear the new because it asks them to step outside of their comfort zone. **(15)** Newness is valuable not because it is cool, trendy, or cutting edge, but because it leads to a better life.

1. In context, which of the following is the best way to revise and combine sentences 1 and 2 (reproduced below)?

It is 6:00 AM on a Friday. You and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S.

- A. It is 6:00 AM on a Friday, you and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S.
- B. It is 6:00 AM on a Friday since you and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S.
- C. It is 6:00 AM on a Friday, and you and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S.
- D. You and hundreds of other people are standing in line for the new iPhone 5S because it is Friday at 6:00 AM.



2. In context, where would the following sentence best be placed?

Yet, there are logical reasons to pursue new ideas and technologies.

- A. After sentence 11
 - B. After sentence 9
 - C. After sentence 3
 - D. After sentence 5
3. In context, which of the following is best to insert at the beginning of sentence 9 (reproduced below)?

There are now smartphone applications that can help you with everything from your diet to your sleep schedule.

- A. However,
 - B. Moreover,
 - C. As a result,
 - D. On the other hand,
4. In context, which of the following sentences would best be inserted between sentences 14 and 15?
- A. However, the public should embrace the new.
 - B. iPhones, for instance, are powerful devices.
 - C. Some say that technology is a resourceful tool to have.
 - D. New research shows that Apple knows that newness is important.

5. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 4 (reproduced below)?
- To the few who have not jumped on the smartphone bandwagon this may seem like a waste of time.*

- A. Replace "seem like" to "seemed like"
- B. Delete "To the few who have not jumped on the smartphone bandwagon"
- C. Replace "smartphone" with "Android"
- D. Insert a comma between "bandwagon" and "this"

Passage 4

(1) Why do people like to play so much? **(2)** We love to play sports, play tag, playing the stock market, and play games online. **(3)** However, we're not the only species that loves to play. **(4)** Dogs, cats, dolphins, and other animals like to play as well. **(5)** But is there any point to this? **(6)** This is where you can understand what your peers think is fun and learn what your limits are.

(7) Play is an instinct wired by evolution into the brains of highly social animals that it is crucial to how we and they learn much of what we know. **(8)** In one test, kittens deprived of play still could hunt perfectly well when they grew up. **(9)** Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues. **(10)** These cats jumped to aggression much more quickly.

(11) Not surprisingly, scientists think the lack of play is a serious problem, especially at younger ages and particularly in school settings. **(12)** In trials where extra playtime was given to kids showing signs of ADD and ADHD, there was noticeable improvement in their behaviors as reported by teachers and parents.

(13) To conclude, playing is a very valuable thing for childhood development. **(14)** As a society, we have to learn to use it effectively, and make sure everyone gets plenty of it.

1. In context, which of the following is the best way to revise and combine sentences 9 and 10 (reproduced below)?

Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues. These cats jumped to aggression much more quickly.

- A. Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues. These cats jumped to aggression much more quickly.
- B. Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues; jumped to aggression much more quickly.
- C. Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues, and jumped to aggression much more quickly.
- D. Nevertheless, they could not read other cats' social cues, and these cats jumped to aggression much more quickly.



2. In context, which of the following is best to insert at the beginning of sentence 7 (reproduced below)?

Play is an instinct wired by evolution into the brains of highly social animals that it is crucial to how we and they learn much of what we know.

- A. However,
 - B. In addition,
 - C. In conclusion,
 - D. In fact,
3. In context, which of the following sentences would best be inserted between sentences 5 and 6?
- A. Scientists think dolphins are the best species for play.
 - B. In short, playing is how animals learn the rules of being social.
 - C. Research shows playing video games increases intelligence.
 - D. One might think not, but different species say yes.
4. In context, which is the best revision to sentence 2 (reproduced below)?
We love to play sports, play tag, playing the stock market, and play games online.
- A. Replace "love" to "loved"
 - B. Delete "and"
 - C. Replace "playing" with "play"
 - D. Remove a comma between "market" and "play"

5. In context, where would the following sentence best be placed?

Without play, we know that other species become quick to aggression and have trouble fitting in.

- A. After sentence 11
- B. After sentence 8
- C. After sentence 3
- D. After sentence 14



Answer Key 4.1 Passage 1

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

Answer Key Passage 2

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

Answer Key Passage 3

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. D

Answer Key Passage 4

1. D
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. A