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Name _____

(The passage below is a draft.)

(1) Buyers can expect to find bananas of roughly the same size, sweetness, and texture in grocery stores around the world, and growers can expect consistent yields across thousands of acres of Cavendish banana trees. (2) The uniformity of the Cavendish banana makes it uniquely vulnerable to disease.

(3) Growing only one breed of a crop is a common way for farmers to maximize output and other desirable qualities, but the Cavendish banana is terribly lacking in diversity because its trees are grown not from seeds but from cuttings of existing trees. (4) The dangers of this lack of genetic diversity are illustrated by the story of the Cavendish's predecessor in the global market: the Gros Michel banana. (5) Lacking any variants that were resistant to fusarium wilt, the Gros Michel was wiped out by the 1960s. (6) Banana growers replaced the Gros Michel with the Cavendish, which was immune to fusarium wilt, but a new fungus that affects the Cavendish has recently appeared in several banana-producing countries. (7) The history of the Gros Michel appears to be repeating itself with the Cavendish.

(8) Growers could limit bananas' vulnerability to disease and prevent devastating epidemics by cultivating more varieties of banana. (9) But decisions about what bananas to grow depend on what consumers will buy. (10) The Cavendish is popular because it is familiar, tasty, and inexpensive; other bananas would look and taste different and may cost more. (11) According to plant pathologist Randy Ploetz, consumers will need to be "more open-minded about what kind of banana they'll accept."

1. The writer wants to add a sentence before sentence 1 to introduce the main topic of the passage. Which of the following choices best accomplishes this goal?
- (A) Bananas have come a long way from being a luxury food in the early twentieth century to being one of the most widely available fruits today.
 - (B) The popular Cavendish banana requires a great deal of fertilizer and water as well as pesticides, insecticides, and fungicides to grow.
 - (C) The Cavendish banana, the most widely available type of banana in the world, is prized by consumers and producers in part because of its predictability.
 - (D) The popularity of bananas today can be traced back to an advertising campaign in the 1960s that focused on the uniform, blemish-free appearance of Chiquita-brand bananas.
 - (E) Americans eat an average of 28.5 pounds of bananas per person every year, making bananas the most popular fruit in the United States.



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2. The writer wants to add a transition to the beginning of sentence 2 (reproduced below), adjusting the capitalization and punctuation as needed, to show the relationship between sentences 1 and 2.

The uniformity of the Cavendish banana makes it uniquely vulnerable to disease.

Which of the following choices best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) Similarly
 - (B) However
 - (C) Therefore
 - (D) Particularly
 - (E) For example
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3. The writer wants to add a thesis statement after sentence 2 that accurately represents the main argument of the passage. Which of the following choices best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) If they successfully branch out, growers may be able to come up with a variety of banana that is even more appealing to consumers than the Cavendish banana.
 - (B) To ensure that bananas survive for years to come, producers and consumers need to diversify the types of bananas they grow and eat.
 - (C) Banana growers will have to take advantage of the latest developments in genetic research if they are to deal with the threats that face the Cavendish banana.
 - (D) Consumers who are used to eating bananas for breakfast may therefore need to find new fruits to eat.
 - (E) Both buyers and sellers of bananas should take the vulnerability of bananas into consideration, because it could lead to volatility in the market for this fruit.
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4. In the underlined portion of sentence 3 (reproduced below), the writer wants to use a neutral tone when describing the growing practices used to cultivate Cavendish banana trees.

Growing only one breed of a crop is a common way for farmers to maximize output and other desirable qualities, but the Cavendish banana is terribly lacking in diversity because its trees are grown not from seeds but from cuttings of existing trees.

Which of the following choices best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) (as it is now)
- (B) hopelessly
- (C) bizarrely
- (D) weirdly
- (E) unusually
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5. The writer wants to add a sentence after sentence 4 that develops the narrative in the second paragraph in a way that makes the audience feel the impact of the loss of the Gros Michel banana. Which of the following sentences best accomplishes this goal?



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- (A) This delicious and productive banana was also grown from cuttings until a fungus called fusarium wilt devastated Gros Michel trees.
- (B) A fungus called fusarium wilt began to kill Gros Michel trees, which were also grown from cuttings.
- (C) Fusarium wilt is a fungus that kills banana trees, and Gros Michel trees, which were also grown from cuttings, began to be infected by the wilt.
- (D) Also grown from cuttings, Gros Michel bananas were never as popular as Cavendish bananas would become, but they were the most common type of banana until they were killed by a fungus called fusarium wilt.
- (E) A devastating fungus called fusarium wilt began to kill Gros Michel banana trees, which, like Cavendish banana trees, were grown from cuttings.

6. In sentence 9 (reproduced below), the writer wants to make a claim that rebuts the claim made in sentence 8 and that sets up the rest of the paragraph.

But decisions about what bananas to grow depend on what consumers will buy.

Which of the following versions of sentence 9 best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) (As it is now)
- (B) However, banana growers essentially have no control over what they plant.
- (C) It is a fantasy to imagine that the Cavendish will be replaced with something else.
- (D) But there are other ways to combat epidemics, such as modifying the genes of bananas to increase their resistance to disease.
- (E) Bananas are just one of many crops that are vulnerable to such diseases, though, and they are arguably not the most important one.

(The passage below is a draft.)



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(1) While scientists are discovering titanosaur bones all over the world with remarkable frequency, according to paleontologist Kristina Curry Rogers, “the earliest phases of [the titanosaur] take over are still pretty mysterious.” (2) Now, however, paleontologists have undoubtedly uncovered the key piece in the puzzle with the announcement of a new dinosaur discovery in Tanzania: a titanosaur dubbed the *Mnyamawamtuka moyowamkia*. (3) The specimen unearthed by the scientists lived between 110 and 100 million years ago, meaning that the species was an early member of the titanosaur group. (4) By studying this new dinosaur, paleontologists believe they can determine the precise function of its mysteriously heart-shaped tail bones.

(5) The announcement in February 2019 created a great buzz in both the scientific community and the general public. (6) This excitement was in part because of a unique feature: the titanosaur’s heart-shaped tail bones. (7) Indeed, the dinosaur’s name, *Mnyamawamtuka moyowamkia*, comes from the Swahili for “animal of the Mtuka with a heart-shaped tail.” (8) Eric Gorscak, the paleontologist who led the excavation, described the long process involved in unearthing the titanosaur fossils from the Mtuka riverbed in Tanzania, a complicated endeavor that required excavators to scale a cliff wall with climbing gear. (9) Gorscak’s team knew they had found a new species thanks to the weird tail bones, as well as specific neck and chest bones. (10) As for the function of the heart-shaped tail bones, Patrick O’Connor, a coauthor on the study, theorizes that they might have allowed the titanosaur to stiffen its long tail.

(11) The location of the dinosaur find, however, excited scientists even more than the distinctive tail bones. (12) Until recently, most titanosaur fossil discoveries have been in South America. (13) Hence, this new discovery of an early titanosaur species in Tanzania “provides a critical look at the group before the widespread diversification around the planet,” says O’Connor. (14) And while titanosaurs were one of the most domineering groups during the age of dinosaurs, says Gorscak, “their early evolutionary history remains obscure, and *Mnyamawamtuka* helps reveal those beginnings.” (15) Gorscak plans additional fossil digs in other parts of Africa, hoping to find other critical pieces of the Cretaceous titanosaur puzzle.

7. The writer wants to avoid expressing the argument of the passage in absolute terms. Which of the following changes should the writer make in order to achieve this goal?

- (A) In sentence 1, deleting “with remarkable frequency”
 - (B) In sentence 2, changing “have undoubtedly uncovered the” to “may have uncovered a”
 - (C) In sentence 7, adding “most likely” before “comes”
 - (D) In sentence 9, changing “thanks to” to “due to”
 - (E) In sentence 10, changing “they might have” to “the heart-shaped tail bones may have”
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8. The writer wants to add an introductory sentence to the passage that orients the audience by providing contextual information. Which of the following sentences best accomplishes this goal?

(A) If movies like *Jurassic World* piqued your interest in paleontology, then you may be excited to learn about a new species of dinosaur discovered in Tanzania and the painstaking process it took to excavate it.

(B) Titanosaurs, the group of dinosaurs notable for their behemoth size, small heads, and long necks and tails, once plodded over every continent on Earth during the Cretaceous, the last period of dinosaurs before their extinction.

(C) Paleontology is defined as a branch of science focused on fossils of animals and plants; a paleontologist named William Buckland first uncovered dinosaur bones in the early 1800s.

(D) On February 14, 2019, paleontologists announced a scientific discovery appropriate for Valentine’s Day: that of a new species of titanosaur with heart-shaped tail bones.

(E) To date, paleontologists have identified approximately 60 different titanosaur species, and the newest discovery, *Mnyamawamtuka moyowamkia*, is relatively small compared to other titanosaurs, some of which reached lengths of 120 feet.

9. The writer is considering changing sentence 4 (reproduced below) so that it clearly articulates the passage’s overarching claim.

By studying this new dinosaur, paleontologists believe they can determine the precise function of its mysteriously heart-shaped tail bones.

Which of the following versions of the underlined portion of sentence 4 best supports this goal?

(A) (as it is now)

(B) solve the mystery of how titanosaurs became so widespread during the Cretaceous period

(C) develop more effective techniques for extricating fossils from rugged terrain

(D) learn how titanosaurs used their immense size to defend themselves from predators such as the *Tyrannosaurus rex*

(E) predict with greater accuracy where to find other titanosaur fossils in Africa



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10. The writer wants to combine sentences 5 and 6 (reproduced below) to reduce redundancy and ensure precision of meaning.

The announcement in February 2019 created a great buzz in both the scientific community and the general public. This excitement was in part because of a unique feature: the titanosaur's heart-shaped tail bones.

Which of the following changes to the underlined portion of sentences 5 and 6 best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) public, which was being caused by a unique feature
- (B) public because of a unique feature in some aspect
- (C) public, the cause of this buzz being in part due to a unique feature
- (D) public; this buzz was because of a unique feature in part
- (E) public, in part because of a unique feature
-

11. The writer wants to ensure that the language used in sentence 9 (reproduced below) maintains the tone used in the rest of the passage.

Gorscak's team knew they had found a new species thanks to the weird tail bones, as well as specific neck and chest bones.

Which of the following versions of the underlined text best accomplishes this goal?



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- (A) (as it is now)
 - (B) really cool
 - (C) bizarre
 - (D) totally peculiar
 - (E) distinctive
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12. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the second paragraph.

In fact, so prolonged was the process that even though paleontologists first discovered M. moyowamkia bones in 2004, it took 15 years to fully excavate them, piece them together, and analyze the results.

Which of the following choices is the most logical place to insert this sentence in the paragraph?

- (A) Before sentence 5
 - (B) Before sentence 7
 - (C) Before sentence 8
 - (D) Before sentence 9
 - (E) Before sentence 10
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13. The writer is considering changing the underlined portion of sentence 14 (reproduced below) so that it is consistent with the writer’s perspective on titanosaurs in the passage.

And while titanosaurs were one of the most domineering groups during the age of dinosaurs, says Gorscak, “their early evolutionary history remains obscure, and Mnyamawamtuka helps reveal those beginnings.”

Which of the following versions of the underlined portion of sentence 14 best accomplishes this goal?

- (A) (as it is now)
 - (B) commanding
 - (C) prevalent
 - (D) rampant
 - (E) mundane
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14. The writer is considering adding the following sentence after sentence 15.

It should be noted, of course, that Gorscak and his team found approximately 45 percent of the M. moyowamkia skeleton and unfortunately did not recover the skull.

Should the writer make this addition after sentence 15 ?



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- (A) Yes, because it strengthens the passage by providing evidence to support the claim that fossil digs can be lengthy processes.
- (B) Yes, because the reader might otherwise wonder about the appearance and intactness of the *M. moyowamkia* skeleton.
- (C) Yes, because it provides a compelling image at the end of the passage that complements other details regarding the titanosaur fossils.
- (D) No, because it undermines the unity of the passage's conclusion by adding a detail that does not add to the discussion of the find's importance.
- (E) No, because the details it provides are not rendered in clear enough terms to be accessible to the audience.