

Form 70G

(April 2012)



The **ACT**[®] 2011 | 2012



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ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Sculpting History's Heroes

Tina Allen's bronze sculptures are striking for their powerful combination of monumental size and fine detail. Allen created large statues to acknowledge¹

the historical contributions'² of African Americans.

Her statue of Sojourner Truth:³ a nineteenth-century abolitionist and women's rights advocate, stands twelve feet tall and weighs two tons. Her thirteen-foot-tall depiction of *Roots* author Alex Haley weighs⁴ five

tons. As famous as she is,⁵ Allen captured each figure with lifelike precision.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. remark
C. perceive
D. mention
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. contributions
H. contribution's
J. contributions's
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. Truth;
C. Truth,
D. Truth
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. at a weight of
H. weighing
J. weighted
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. Consistent with public opinion,
C. Even working on such a large scale,
D. Although Haley died in 1992,



For these sculptures, Allen used the “lost wax” process. In this ancient technique, the sculpture is first carved in clay; the clay is then covered with rubber to make the creation of a mold. The rubber mold is ⁶carefully removed from the clay and filled with wax.

After the wax was cooled and the rubber is discarded, ⁷

that one is touched up to mirror the clay original. The ⁸wax statue is then coated with liquid ceramic, which

hardens over several days. When the ceramic mold is fired ⁹in a kiln, the wax burns out of the mold, leaving the empty ceramic shell—thus the name “lost wax” process. The statue is then completed by filling the empty ceramic shell with molten bronze and breaking away the shell once the bronze has cooled.

Allen became interested in painting and sculpting ¹⁰as a young girl. She took over four years to complete ¹⁰

the Alex Haley Memorial in Tennessee, in his hands ¹¹which portrays Haley seated with an open book. For

some Sojourner Truth statue in Michigan, Allen ¹²spent more than a year on the clay model alone.

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. produce the creation of
H. create the manufacture of
J. create
7. A. NO CHANGE
B. cooled
C. cools
D. had cooled
8. F. NO CHANGE
G. this wax version of the statue
H. this one
J. that
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. a time period of several days.
C. the duration of several days long.
D. several days' duration of time.
10. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively introduces the paragraph?
F. NO CHANGE
G. Allen insisted on time-consuming detail at every step of the process.
H. Allen's father, a professional percussionist, was supportive of Allen's artistic pursuits.
J. Originally from the West Indies, Allen moved to Los Angeles.
11. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
A. where it is now.
B. after the word *portrays*.
C. after the word *with*.
D. after the word *book* (and before the period).
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. their
H. her
J. its



13 To mimic the coarse fabric in Truth's dress,

for which Allen pounded the clay with a mallet covered
¹⁴
with chicken wire. She also used a delicate paintbrush
to create the small wrinkles on Truth's hands.

Like many of her works, the statues of Truth and
Haley are displayed in public because Allen wanted to
¹⁵
make the accomplishments of African Americans visible
¹⁵
in everyone's day-to-day lives. She also wanted to
¹⁵
speak directly to African Americans through her art,
characterizing it as a way of "writing our history in
bronze."

PASSAGE II

Polaris: Not Always the North Star

Polaris, the star now almost directly over the North
Pole, has played a significant role in many mythologies
¹⁶
and in the history of navigation. For centuries, sailors
and leaders of desert caravans used the North Star to chart
their courses. Polaris has been called the Lodestar, the
Steering Star, and *Stella Maris* (the Star of the Sea). 17

13. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Her sculpture of Frederick Douglass was featured in the motion picture *Akeelah and the Bee*.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it provides another example of Allen's accomplishments.
- B. Yes, because it explores one thing that Douglass and Truth have in common.
- C. No, because it interrupts the paragraph's description of Allen's creation of the Truth statue.
- D. No, because it shifts the main focus of the essay from sculpture to motion pictures.

14. F. NO CHANGE

- G. Allen pounded
- H. by pounding
- J. pounding

15. The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion (adjusting the punctuation as needed). Should the underlined portion be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because it adds information about the purpose for the location of Allen's statues.
- B. Kept, because it gives additional details about how Allen created the statues of Truth and Haley.
- C. Deleted, because it introduces new information about Truth and Haley in the conclusion of the essay.
- D. Deleted, because it is redundant with information already presented in the preceding paragraph.

16. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. an important
- G. a prominent
- H. an abundant
- J. a major

17. If the writer were to delete the phrase "the Star of the Sea" (and the parentheses) from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:

- A. an explanation of the importance of Polaris to sailors and caravan leaders.
- B. a translation of a phrase from a language other than English.
- C. a clarification of the exact location of Polaris.
- D. the name of a specific caravan.



Finally, people in ancient India believed it was the Golden Peg that held the universe together. In Scandinavian mythology, Polaris was thought to be the jeweled head of the World Spike—an enormous nail the Norse gods had hammered into the sky so the stars could revolve around it. ¹⁸ 19

[1] However, as the Greek astronomer Hipparchus discovered around 129 BC, the North Star, or polestar, is not eternally fixed over the North Pole, as the mythmakers had supposed. [2] In the process of compiling an astronomical catalog, Hipparchus noticed that the stars had seemingly shifted from positions noted in Babylonian records from many centuries earlier. ²⁰ [3] He concluded that it was not the stars that were moving but rather the position from which they were being observed that varied. [4] Precession, in turn, is caused by the gravitational pull of the Sun and the Moon on the bulge at Earth's equator. [5] A wobbling in Earth's axis of rotation, called ²¹

precession, cause this variation in ²² position. 23

18. F. NO CHANGE
G. Nevertheless, people
H. Anyway, people
J. People
19. If the writer were to delete the words “so the stars could revolve around it” from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:
- A. the method used to secure the World Spike in the sky, according to Scandinavian mythology.
 - B. an explanation of why the World Spike exists, according to Scandinavian mythology.
 - C. a description of the jeweled head of the World Spike.
 - D. a suggestion of a breakthrough in astronomy.
20. F. NO CHANGE
G. having noted
H. were noted
J. noting
21. A. NO CHANGE
B. rotation: called
C. rotation (called)
D. rotation called
22. F. NO CHANGE
G. causes
H. are causing
J. are caused
23. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 5 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
 - B. after Sentence 1.
 - C. after Sentence 2.
 - D. after Sentence 3.