

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Damian is excited about being eligible to vote in the next presidential election, but he's also disappointed that many Americans do not participate in the voting process. He has written this paper to persuade people to vote. Read Damian's paper and think about the revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Vote!

(1) According to the United Nations, the right to vote is a fundamental human right. (2) It's the most direct way for people to influence the decisions of their government. (3) This right is not guaranteed in all nations of the world, but it is part of the U.S. Constitution. (4) Surprisingly, however, many Americans fail to exercise this right. (5) In fact, in 2008 only 64 percent of eligible Americans voted in the presidential election. (6) And in local elections the percentages were even smaller. (7) This isn't a wise move for you or the country.

(8) Before the American Revolution the British government taxed the colonists living in what is now the United States. (9) These colonists had no say in the decisions about taxes made by the government in Great Britain. (10) This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined. (11) They wanted to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation. (12) Thousands of Americans fought and died in the revolution that followed, which eventually led to independence and voting rights for many.

(13) Even today this right is very limited in some countries around the world. (14) Therefore, in Saudi Arabia the government operates under an absolute monarchy, and people have no opportunity to vote in national elections. (15) And in communist North Korea, citizens are allowed to vote, but there is only one name on the ballot. (16) Voting rights activists say that absurdities like these have been alleged in other countries as well, including Egypt and Iran. (17) As Americans, we should appreciate the fact that we live in a democracy where we are free to voice our opinions. (18) The best way to demonstrate gratitude for this right is by showing up at the polls.

(19) Government decisions affect your life every day. (20) How can you complain about issues concerning school funding, the environment, and health care if you don't even take the time to vote on proposals involving those issues?

(21) It's astounding to me that one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States is what Texas has. (22) In fact, in a recent presidential election, only about 55 percent of eligible Texans cast a vote. (23) And in local elections sometimes less than 10 percent of the voting population chooses who will make them.

(24) At one time only white male citizens could vote in the United States, but today most citizens who are 18 or older are eligible to vote. (25) And registering to vote is a simple process. (26) You just need to complete a voter registration application and mail it to the voter registrar in your county. (27) So when you turn 18, take the time to become a registered voter. (28) Then pay attention to election candidates and issues.

- 1 Damian has not effectively stated the position he is taking in this paper. Which of the following could best replace sentence 7 and provide a stronger position statement for Damian's paper?
- A Can you believe this outrageous statistic?
 - B This low voter turnout is appalling, and all Americans should exercise their right to vote.
 - C I plan to vote in both national and local elections.
 - D There are groups that review human rights violations in this country as well as in other countries around the world.
-

- 2 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 10 and 11?
- F This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined, who wanted to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation.
 - G This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation.
 - H This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined because they separated from Great Britain and formed their own nation.
 - J This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined separating from Great Britain and forming their own nation.
-

- 3 Damian would like to use a more appropriate transition in sentence 14. Which of the following is the best replacement for *Therefore*?
- A Furthermore
 - B Meanwhile
 - C However
 - D For example

- 4 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 21?
- F Because it's astounding to me, Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
 - G It's astounding to me what Texas has being one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
 - H It's astounding to me that Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
 - J As astounding as it is, it's also shocking that Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
-

- 5 The meaning of sentence 23 is unclear. What is the most effective way to clarify the meaning of this sentence?
- A Change *sometimes* to **there are times when**
 - B Change *population* to **citizenry**
 - C Change *chooses* to **selects**
 - D Change *them* to **those important decisions**
-

- 6 Damian needs a stronger closing for his paper. Which sentences should he add after sentence 28 to bring his paper to a more effective conclusion?
- F You must be the one who changes this. It isn't fair to make others think they have all the rights.
 - G Don't be lazy. Get off the couch and do something that matters.
 - H When Election Day comes, go to the polls and cast your vote. It's not only your right but also your responsibility.
 - J You'll feel better if you persuade people to vote. You can help make your community more vibrant.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Katy read about some newlyweds who created an unusual home for themselves. She wrote this paper to tell about the couple's experience. Read Katy's paper and think about the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Home Sweet Rosie

(1) In today's world many people live in smaller apartments and houses than they would like, especially in cities where space is limited and prices are high.

(2) But for some people, living in small quarters isn't a necessity; it's a choice.

(3) Mike and Natalie Young, of Austin, are two people who have made that choice.

(4) They have a bus and have named it Rosie.

(5) "For years I have been interested in the mobile lifestyle, tiny houses, repurposing useful materials, and auto mechanics," Mike Young wrote in his blog.

(6) So in 2011, when he and his fiancée Natalie began discussing where they would live after they got married, the idea of a bus came up. (7) They investigated some low-budget apartment rentals but quickly concluded that living in a school bus would be even less expensive. (8) The pair first contacted school districts to try to find a used bus that they could afford. (9) They eventually found the perfect vehicle on a website specializing in classified ads.

(10) It all started then. (11) Although the former owner had already removed all the seats inside the bus, there was still a lot of work to do before the space would be livable. (12) As a resourceful twist on traditional wedding gifts, Mike and