

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**Directions**

**For questions 1 through 4, fill in the circle for the answer you choose.**

**1. Read the sentence.**

*On our trip to Washington, we visited the food court at the Seattle Space Needle where we ordered Greek baklava, Japanese Sushi, and empanadas.*

**Which part of the sentence has an error in capitalization?**

- (A) On our trip to Washington,
  - (B) we visited the food court at the Seattle Space Needle
  - (C) we ordered Greek baklava,
  - (D) Japanese Sushi, and empanadas.
- 

**2. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?**

- (A) We will hold the wedding ceremony in the ballroom, if it rains next Saturday.
  - (B) We are still looking for volunteers to help with the following booths; the cake walk, the ring toss, and the dart throw.
  - (C) The security guard advised us to walk quickly, but also carefully.
  - (D) Power lines were toppled by the storm; therefore, some businesses closed early.
- 

**3. Which sentence has an error in subject-verb agreement?**

- (A) My biggest concern was the price of the new equipment.
- (B) The results of the survey were not surprising.
- (C) Only one of the students were chosen to represent the school in the next competition.
- (D) The literary efforts of the local writer's guild were reflected in their monthly publication.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

4. **Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.**

- Ⓐ The concert hall was filled with pianos of all sizes and types.
- Ⓑ Susan introduced us to her two brother-in-laws, Brian and Mark.
- Ⓒ Our neighbors were shocked that we had blue potatoes growing in our garden.
- Ⓓ The wildlife biologist had spent his career studying the migration patterns of geese.

# 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

## Directions

**Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 5 through 8.**

<sup>1</sup>Witnesses reported seeing a wall of water two feet high moving at a rapid pace through a high desert Nevada town. <sup>2</sup>Residents had only a few moments to gather their belongings. <sup>3</sup>Hundreds of homes were flooded. <sup>4</sup>When a canal swollen with water overflowing from the surging Truckee River burst. <sup>5</sup>Many homes and businesses in California were affected by a power outage.

<sup>6</sup>Helicopters were dispatched from the nearby naval airbase to assist with rescue efforts. <sup>7</sup>A fleet of school buses helped transport stranded or displaced residents. <sup>8</sup>A shelter was set up at a local high school to help with victims of the disaster. <sup>9</sup>Flood waters were diverted to a nearby irrigation canal. <sup>10</sup>By afternoon the flood level had begun to recede.

5. Which best describes Sentence 4?

- (A) It is a run-on sentence.
- (B) It is not relevant to the passage.
- (C) It is not a complete sentence.
- (D) It should be placed in the second paragraph.

6. Which sentence does not belong in this passage?

- (A) Sentence 5
- (B) Sentence 6
- (C) Sentence 8
- (D) Sentence 10

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

7. **Choose the best way to combine Sentence 9 and Sentence 10.**

- Ⓐ By afternoon the flood waters had begun to recede and were diverted to a nearby irrigation canal.
- Ⓑ Flood waters were diverted to a nearby irrigation canal, and by afternoon the flood level had begun to recede.
- Ⓒ Flood waters were diverted and receded.
- Ⓓ By afternoon flood waters were diverted and receded to a nearby irrigation canal.

8. **Which sentence could be used as a topic sentence for Paragraph 2?**

- Ⓐ Rescue efforts began almost immediately.
- Ⓑ The governor called for a state of emergency.
- Ⓒ Many people were stranded by the disaster.
- Ⓓ Emergency crews were called in to assist the victims of the flood.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**Directions**

**For questions 9 through 15, fill in the circle for the answer you choose.**

**9. Which sentence has an error in usage?**

- (A) Your going to be eligible to receive a community service award this spring for outstanding service and dedication.
  - (B) Whose shoes were left on the porch during the rain storm?
  - (C) The puppy wags its tail when it's excited.
  - (D) Their car window shattered after being hit by flying debris during high winds.
- 

**10. Which sentence is written incorrectly?**

- (A) Which is longest, a mile or a meter?
  - (B) Mark is the oldest of the three boys.
  - (C) Who is the tallest child, Amy, Abby, or Melanie?
  - (D) Cheryl is the best speller in the entire class.
- 

**11. Which sentence is written correctly?**

- (A) The childrens' nursery was decorated with stuffed animals and Disney characters.
  - (B) The homecoming king and queen rode in the principals' car during the parade.
  - (C) During the convention, the women's voices were raised as they welcomed the guest speaker.
  - (D) The popular vacation destination was the group's choice.
- 

**12. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?**

- (A) Yes we will be having a spelling test tomorrow.
- (B) We will not hold class tomorrow, if it rains.
- (C) When the bell rings we can return to the building.
- (D) Please let me know, Amber, if you have any questions.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**13. Read the sentence.**

*“During our study of frontier literature,” Mrs. Johnson said to the class, “We will be reading excerpts from Mark Twain, Jack London, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Willa Cather.”*

**Which part of the sentence has an error in capitalization?**

- (A) “During our study
  - (B) of frontier literature,”
  - (C) Mrs. Johnson said to the class,
  - (D) “We will be reading excerpts
- 

**14. Which sentence has a voice that is inconsistent with the style of the others?**

- (A) Many employers actively advertise for employees who have strong written and verbal communication skills.
  - (B) Those employees who exhibit effective written and verbal communication skills are often considered for professional advancement.
  - (C) If you are a good speaker and writer, you can succeed in almost any job.
  - (D) In addition to having effective communication skills, successful employees must demonstrate good people skills as well.
- 

**15. Read the sentence.**

*The reckless driver caused his car to narrowly miss the young children playing in their front yard.*

**Which group of words is used as modifiers in the sentence?**

- (A) reckless, miss, young, front
- (B) narrowly, miss, young, yard
- (C) reckless, narrowly, young, front
- (D) reckless, caused, narrowly, young

## 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

### Directions

**Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 16 through 20.**

<sup>1</sup>The condition of the snow pack can determine the risk of an avalanche. <sup>2</sup>The snow pack increases during the colder months of the year as new snowfall accumulates.

<sup>3</sup>Each time there is a large snowfall, a layer of snow develops which then sets on the top of the previous snow pack. <sup>4</sup>If the new layer of snow does not bond strongly with the existing snow pack, the stability of the snow pack is affected, and could create the potential for a snow slide.

<sup>5</sup>Weather conditions can also influence the potential for a risk of an avalanche. <sup>6</sup>If there are periods when the weather becomes warmer and some of the snow pack melts, the condition and makeup of the snow could change. <sup>7</sup>These structural changes in the composition of the snow can weaken the bond between the layers of snow in the snow pack creating conditions favorable to an avalanche.

<sup>8</sup>Lastly, the steepness of the mountain slopes can be a factor in whether or not a specific area is more prone to an avalanche. <sup>9</sup>The snow pack has to be strong enough to resist the natural tendency of gravity to pull it downward. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, the steeper the slope, the stronger the bond of the snow pack has to be or the more likely the snow is to give way and slide downward.

<sup>11</sup>Avalanches are not uncommon in colder mountainous areas of the country, yet many people still travel and seek recreation in these areas. <sup>12</sup>The possibility of being caught in an avalanche, however, can be minimized if people familiarize themselves with some of the causes and triggers of avalanches.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

16. **This passage is missing an introduction and a thesis statement. Which sentence would work best as a thesis statement?**
- Ⓐ Although there are several different types of avalanches, the one most commonly referred to involves snowfall.
  - Ⓑ An avalanche involving snow is usually caused by one or more of the following conditions: the weather, the snow pack, or the mountain terrain.
  - Ⓒ This type of avalanche often occurs in the mountainous regions of the country where temperatures are colder and there are large accumulations of snowfall.
  - Ⓓ There are many factors which can cause an avalanche.
17. **Which is the best way combine Sentences 2 and 3 to improve the quality and effectiveness of the writing?**
- Ⓐ During the colder months of the year as the snow fall accumulates, each new layer of snow sets upon the previous snow pack.
  - Ⓑ The snow pack increases each time there is a large snow fall during the colder months of the year which accumulates and sets upon the previous snow pack.
  - Ⓒ A layer of snow develops during the colder months of the year when there is a large snow pack and as the snow accumulates it sets upon the previous snow pack.
  - Ⓓ As the snow fall accumulates a layer of snow develops during the colder months making a previous snow pack.
18. **The author would like to add an additional paragraph. Based on the comments in the conclusion, choose the best topic for the new paragraph.**
- Ⓐ Deaths caused by avalanches
  - Ⓑ Extreme sports
  - Ⓒ Winter adventures
  - Ⓓ Things that trigger avalanches

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**19. Correct the error in punctuation in Sentence 4 by**

- Ⓐ placing a semicolon after the word “pack”
- Ⓑ placing a colon after the word “affected”
- Ⓒ removing the comma after the word “pack”
- Ⓓ removing the comma before the word “and”

**20. Which sentence would work best for a lead or hook for this passage?**

- Ⓐ Avalanches can be a highly destructive and sometimes life-threatening force of nature.
- Ⓑ Each year avalanches claim the lives of the unsuspecting and unwary.
- Ⓒ The causes of an avalanche still remain a mystery today.
- Ⓓ Extreme winter sports can be hazardous in avalanche country.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**Directions**

**For questions 21 through 30, fill in the circle for the answer you choose.**

**21. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?**

- (A) Elvis Presley, known as the “King of Rock and Roll,” was forty two when he died.
- (B) Edward L. Stratemeyer (1862-1930 [founder of the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, and the Bobsey Twins series]) never really wrote the actual texts.
- (C) Since the proposed budget initiative was vetoed by the governor, it will now need a three fourths majority vote by our state congress in order to become a law.
- (D) The “shot heard ‘round the world” the first official military action was fired at Lexington and Concord Green.

---

**22. Which sentence contains an error in the usage of an apostrophe?**

- (A) Its very important to make sure that when you own a car that you keep a record of its oil changes.
- (B) There are several students whose last names begin with A’s who are presently in my class.
- (C) The women’s athletic club is located in the downtown section of our city.
- (D) They’re going to be receiving an unexpected gift at the graduation ceremony in April.

---

**23. Which sentence has a pronoun that is used incorrectly below?**

- (A) Although we are both competing for the same position on the student council, there is no conflict between Whitney and I.
- (B) At the awards presentation, front row seats were reserved for my dad and me.
- (C) My brother and she seemed to have many similar views on the topic of politics.
- (D) To Mark and me, the warm spring day meant that we could go fishing.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

24. Which sentence uses a homophone incorrectly?

- Ⓐ The construction foreman reassured us that our front yard would not be altered during the street repairs.
  - Ⓑ The convention center was designated as the site of the next mystery writer's conference.
  - Ⓒ An imminent politician was selected to speak at the community college winter graduation ceremony.
  - Ⓓ The team's morale improved greatly after they defeated their local rivals.
- 

25. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- Ⓐ His aunt Sara was Mom's roommate during her freshman year college.
  - Ⓑ My brother plans to travel to Mexico so that he can go sport fishing on the Baja Peninsula.
  - Ⓒ The publisher of the *Rocky Mountain Chronicle* plans to endorse senator Michaels in the next election.
  - Ⓓ I am scheduled to take a math class, a literature class, and a Spanish class next semester.
- 

26. Which sentence has an error in word usage?

- Ⓐ After the game was over, Carl said that he didn't feel good so he decided to go directly home.
- Ⓑ As the forest ranger spoke, the young hikers acted as if they had never before heard about the famous geyser, Old Faithful.
- Ⓒ Based on comments made to the press, the union has decided to go on strike regardless of recent concessions already made by the company's executive officers.
- Ⓓ The entire class is invited to go on the field trip except for those students who have had two or more discipline referrals.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**27. Which sentence contains an error in spelling?**

- Ⓐ The gift store in the mall contains a collection of knives with intricately carved scrimshaw handles.
  - Ⓑ The moving company charged the university music department extra handling fees for packing, transporting, and delivering their grand pianos.
  - Ⓒ Health department officials suggest that travelers get vaccines for malaria if they plan to visit areas overseas that are prone to high populations of mosquitoes.
  - Ⓓ Our favorite Mexican restaurant makes fresh guacamole dip at your table when you order nachos.
- 

**28. Which sentence contains an error in subject-verb agreement?**

- Ⓐ Some of the menus have gourmet selections listed.
  - Ⓑ The youngest child and her friend were too young to ride on some of the attractions at the amusement park.
  - Ⓒ The boys or their friend was last seen riding the new mini scooter.
  - Ⓓ One of the family members send us an invitation to the gala celebration each year.
- 

**29. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?**

- Ⓐ During the first phase of the project, Mr. Clark (our supervisor) assigned team leaders for each work group.
- Ⓑ The pioneers, who traveled westward on foot and by wagon in search of a better life, in my opinion are a testament to the American character.
- Ⓒ We postponed the garden party until the end of the month because it is supposed to rain for the next two weeks.
- Ⓓ In our country it is against the law to dispose of trash in public places unless it is placed in a garbage container.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**30. Read the following sentence:**

*No I don't think you understand what I am saying; however, I am willing to reword my explanation if you think that would help.*

**Which is the correct way to write this sentence?**

- (A) No I don't think you understand what I am saying, however, I am willing to reword my explanation if you think that would help.
- (B) No, I don't think you understand what I am saying; however, I am willing to reword my explanation, if you think that would help.
- (C) No, I don't think you understand what I am saying; however, I am willing to reword my explanation if you think that would help.
- (D) No I don't think you understand what I am saying, however, I am willing to reword my explanation, if you think that would help.

**Directions**

**Read this passage. Use it to answer questions 31 through 35.**

<sup>1</sup>In spite of historian's best efforts to understand, what happened to the original settlers of the ill-fated Roanoke Colony may continue to be one of those enduring mysteries in American history. <sup>2</sup>Roanoke Island is located in what is now the Outer Banks of North Carolina. <sup>3</sup>In 1587 a group of settlers arrived on Roanoke Island to form one of the first official British colonies in the New World. <sup>4</sup>Three years later when their governor returned after a prolonged absence in England not one person was found. <sup>5</sup>The skeletal remains of two men were the only remainders of what had once been an active colony.

<sup>6</sup>Although there are several theories of what happened to the residents of what has become known as the "Lost Colony," it now seems that historians may never really know what actually transpired to cause the disappearance of 90 men, 17 women, and 11 children. <sup>7</sup>They were not the first group to try this experiment; however. <sup>8</sup>Originally, another group arrived in 1585 but only managed to stay a little less than a year before the entire colony petitioned a passing adventurer to take them back to England since they were low on supplies and their future looked bleak. <sup>9</sup>The captain, Sir Francis Drake, agreed to transport them but left 15 of his men behind to secure the colony. <sup>10</sup>When the second group (the settlers who eventually disappeared) arrived at Roanoke Island a year later there was no trace of the men. <sup>11</sup>Instead of taking warning from that ominous sign, the highly motivated group decided to stay, and it is assumed to have met an untimely fate.

**31. This passage was most likely written to**

- (A) entertain.
- (B) inform.
- (C) describe.
- (D) persuade.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**32. For better sentence fluency, which would be the best way to combine Sentence 2 and 3?**

- Ⓐ In 1587 a group of settlers arrived on Roanoke Island, located in what is now the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to form one of the first official British colonies in the New World.
- Ⓑ Located in what is now the Outer Banks of North Carolina, a group of settlers arrived in 1587 on Roanoke Island to form one of the first official British colonies in the New World.
- Ⓒ To form one of the first official British colonies in the New World, a group of settlers arrived in the Outer Banks of North Carolina in 1587 on what is now known as Roanoke Island.
- Ⓓ A group of settlers in 1587 arrived on Roanoke Island to form one of the first official British colonies in the New World in what is now known as the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

**33. To improve clarity and logical progression of ideas where would Sentence 6 fit best?**

- Ⓐ After Sentence 1
- Ⓑ After Sentence 3
- Ⓒ After Sentence 7
- Ⓓ After Sentence 11

**34. Choose the correct way to punctuate Sentence 10.**

- Ⓐ When the second group, (the settlers who eventually disappeared) arrived at Roanoke Island, a year later there was no trace of the men.
- Ⓑ When the second group (the settlers who eventually disappeared), arrived at Roanoke Island, a year later there was no trace of the men.
- Ⓒ When the second group (the settlers who eventually disappeared) arrived at Roanoke Island a year later, there was no trace of the men.
- Ⓓ When the second group (the settlers) who eventually disappeared, arrived at Roanoke Island a year later, there was no trace of the men.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**35. To avoid being redundant, which would be the best way to rewrite Sentence 5?**

- Ⓐ The remains of two male skeletons were the only remainders of what had once been an active colony.
- Ⓑ The skeletons of two men were the only remaining evidence of what had once been an active colony.
- Ⓒ The skeletal remains of two men were the only remaining evidence of what had once been an active colony.
- Ⓓ The only remains of what had once been an active colony were the skeletal remainders of two men.

**Directions**

**For questions 36 through 60, fill in the circle for the answer you choose.**

**36. Which sentence contains a spelling error?**

- Ⓐ Their apartment buildings were separated by dark, narrow alleys.
  - Ⓑ We expect more than three-fourths of the students to attend the dance.
  - Ⓒ At our school students who accumulate more than 3 tardys may receive lunch detention.
  - Ⓓ It pays to be thorough when you are planning a long trip.
- 

**37. Which sentence uses a modifier incorrectly?**

- Ⓐ Steven said that he had never felt more happier than at his graduation.
  - Ⓑ Bill had the most complete baseball collection of those attending the show.
  - Ⓒ Nothing is more pleasant than sailing on the lake in the summer.
  - Ⓓ The children crept down the stairs more softly than goose down.
- 

**38. Which sentence contains a misplaced modifier?**

- Ⓐ When whistling for the dog, I cracked my lip.
- Ⓑ Stacked on top of each other, the bricks made a solid barrier.
- Ⓒ If packed correctly, glassware can be shipped without breakage.
- Ⓓ Vine ripened and fresh, we found the tomatoes to be juicy and sweet.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**39. Read the sentence.**

*If you travel east from Pismo Beach, California, within four hours you will be in the middle of the Mojave desert and near the gateway to Death Valley, one of the hottest spots in North America.*

**Which part of the sentence has an error in capitalization?**

- (A) If you travel east from Pismo Beach, California
  - (B) you will be in the middle of the Mojave desert
  - (C) near the gateway to Death Valley
  - (D) one of the hottest spots in North America
- 

**40. Which sentence contains an error in subject-verb agreement?**

- (A) Few of the photographers in the group was familiar with the peculiar rock formation.
  - (B) One of the books was now out of print but could still be purchased through private dealers.
  - (C) The price of the glasses was partially covered by his medical insurance.
  - (D) Neither the movies nor the play was anything like the book.
- 

**41. Which sentence has an error in verb tense?**

- (A) The newly planted flowers lived for just a week before the frost killed them.
- (B) If you plan your vacation early enough, you will have had a better time.
- (C) If we win this game, we will have secured our play-off standing.
- (D) By the time you receive this message, I will have left for the airport.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

42. Which sentence has a voice that is inconsistent with the style of the others?

- (A) Hawaii's moderate tropical climate and spectacular beaches make it a favorite vacation destination with those seeking relaxation.
  - (B) New Zealand with its fascinating terrain, pristine coastline, and exotic wildlife is gaining popularity with travelers in search of adventure.
  - (C) Because of its warm temperatures and seaside resorts, Mexico is a hotspot for tourists looking for good times and a break from the long, cold winter months.
  - (D) Disneyland and Disneyworld offer families a wide variety of activities and a lifetime of precious memories.
- 

43. Choose the sentence that does not contain information that is redundant.

- (A) If the temperatures are going to be frigid and well-below zero tomorrow, we will have to wrap our water pipes with heat tape and insulation.
  - (B) If the temperatures are going to be frigid and in the subzero range, we will have to wrap our water pipes with heat tape and insulation.
  - (C) If the temperatures are going to be extremely cold and freezing, we will have to wrap our water pipes.
  - (D) If the cold temperatures are going to be extreme, we will have to wrap our water pipes.
- 

44. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- (A) Phillip graduated from high school early, and he enlisted in the army within a month.
- (B) Melanie was recently promoted to senior salesclerk yet, she has only worked at the store for less than one year.
- (C) The hail storm yesterday was devastating; the hail was the size of ping pong balls.
- (D) The surfers came from up and down the coast to tackle the giant waves; however, no one was in the water since sharks had been sighted close to the shore.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

45. Choose the sentence that contains a misplaced modifier.

- (A) While reading my book, I was able to sit on a bench near San Francisco Bay.
  - (B) Because it was cloudy outside, I decided to bring my umbrella to the game.
  - (C) Seeing sharks at the aquarium, we thought was a thrilling experience.
  - (D) If stranded in the mountains, your cell phone may not be able to receive a signal.
- 

46. Which sentence uses a pronoun incorrectly?

- (A) Between you and I, the pep rally could use some new ideas for the class skits.
  - (B) The ball sailed into the stands just missing Rob and me.
  - (C) The school photographer agreed to take a picture of her and me.
  - (D) Whenever my mother answers the phone she says, "This is she."
- 

47. Which way is the best way to combine the following sentences?

*Ground blizzards are caused by high winds.*

*Ground blizzards are also caused by blowing snow.*

*Road conditions can quickly become hazardous.*

*Driving can soon become treacherous.*

- (A) Ground blizzards, caused by high winds, can make driving hazardous.
- (B) Roads can become treacherous during ground blizzards, which are caused by high winds and blowing snow.
- (C) Driving can become treacherous during ground blizzards, which are caused by high winds blowing snow.
- (D) Road conditions can soon become hazardous and driving treacherous during ground blizzards, which are caused by high winds and blowing snow.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

48. Which sentence uses a pronoun incorrectly?

- (A) If an employee is late for their shift more than 3 times, they will be placed on probation.
  - (B) With hard work and determination, everybody has the potential to achieve his or her goals.
  - (C) Neither of the girls remembered to bring her gym clothes.
  - (D) The school sent a new calendar to all of its students.
- 

49. Which sentence does not contain a dangling modifier?

- (A) After careful instruction, people can be guided by seeing-eye dogs.
  - (B) When properly filled with air, car owners can make their tires last longer.
  - (C) Marinated and basted for several hours, a tender prime rib, the chef's specialty, was served with au jus and creamy horseradish.
  - (D) While skimming the page, you should move your eyes quickly.
- 

50. Read the outline.

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Thesis statement</li><li>II. Dictionary definition of social and economic justice</li><li>III. Examples of social justice in society</li><li>IV. Examples of economic justice in society</li><li>V. The importance of social and economic justice in society</li></ul> |
|---|

Choose the best thesis statement for an essay based on the outline.

- (A) There are many types of social and economic justice in society.
- (B) Social justice should be the goal of any society.
- (C) Economic justice should be the primary goal of any society.
- (D) Achieving social and economic justice should be the goal of every society.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

51. Which sentence has an error in its abbreviation?

- (A) Our club advisor told us that the bus will be leaving at 7:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.
  - (B) Does *CIA* stand for the Central Intelligence Agency?
  - (C) Maria lives on Cottonwood Ave not Cottonwood Dr.
  - (D) The Washington Monument is located in Washington, D.C.
- 

52. Which sentence has an error in comma usage?

- (A) “This lakeside resort, I believe, has been highly recommended by business travelers and tourists alike,” our taxi driver told us.
  - (B) “Don’t forget to mail your college application early, Becky,” warned her mother.
  - (C) An adventurous, fun-loving young man he was the first to volunteer to enter the haunted house attraction at the carnival.
  - (D) Cocoa, which is made from the cacao tree, contains caffeine.
- 

53. Kathy is writing a paper comparing airline travel with railway travel. Which transitions would she most likely use in her paper?

- (A) First, Second, Third
- (B) Next, Then, Consequently
- (C) However, For example, In addition
- (D) For example, Otherwise, Therefore

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

54. Which sentence uses quotation marks incorrectly?

- (A) My uncle warned, "Make plenty of noise as you walk through the woods if you want to keep the bears away."
- (B) "Did you remember to have the post office hold all of your mail?" my mother asked before I left on my vacation.
- (C) Our neighbor said "she was fine" when we called to check on her.

(D)

We couldn't understand why they said not to call again.

---

(A) 55. Which sentence contains an error in punctuation?

The newspaper article; "The Quest for Gold" stirred my imagination.

(C) The airline refused to allow passengers to board the plane after 7:35.

The (D) ingredients needed to make the gourmet cheesecake are as follows:  
eggs, cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, lemon rind, butter and graham crackers.

The books chosen for the academic decathlon competition were *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen; *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Bronte; and *Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens.

---

56. Which has an error in subject-verb agreement?

- (A) (B) Give anyone who has entered the drawing a free pass to the next game to give to
- (C) their friends or family.

That store's customer service and prices are worse than they used to be.

Each of the business owners is going to donate candy for the mall's grand opening.

(D)

Several of the classes had seen the dress rehearsal so the murder mystery was not as suspenseful for them.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

57. Choose the sentence that has an error in verb tense.

- (A) Unfortunately, the mountain marathon he had run each spring was canceled due to the recent mudslides.
  - (B) Only one flavor of ice cream had been froze long enough not to melt quickly.
  - (C) They had drunk so much water that they could not eat all of their dinner.
  - (D) The snow had begun to fall more heavily after the wind stopped blowing.
- 

58. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- (A) Do you want me to buy Bolthouse Farms chai tea or the store's own brand?
  - (B) My grandmother preferred Sunkist brand navel oranges, Green giant brand French- style green beans, and red potatoes.
  - (C) We usually bring our German shepherd to the Easton Veterinary Clinic in the area of town known as Nob Hill.
  - (D) I couldn't decide whether I should take a foreign language class, an English class, or General Psychology 101 next semester.
- 

59. Read the sentence.

*The graduation ceremony will be held outdoors, weather permitting.*

Which sentence uses an adverb clause to vary the sentence beginning?

- (A) Weather permitting, the graduation will be held outdoors.
- (B) If the weather permits, the graduation will be held outdoors.
- (C) The graduation ceremony, weather permitting, will be held outdoors.
- (D) The graduation, which will be outdoors, depends upon the weather.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

**60. Which sentence contains a spelling error?**

- Ⓐ A lot of people still like to lay on the beach during the summer to get a suntan.
- Ⓑ The school board said that they would consider the matter after further discussion.
- Ⓒ Heat waves reflecting off the ground in the desert often give the illusion of an oasis.
- Ⓓ The band director confirmed that the students had already taken their seats on the stage.

10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WRITING ANSWER SHEET

<b>WRITING</b>				
<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Key</b>		<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Key</b>
1			45	
2			46	
3			47	
4			48	
5			49	
6			50	
7			51	
8			52	
9			53	
10			54	
11			55	
12			56	
13			57	
14			58	
15			59	
16			60	
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				
39				
40				
41				
42				
43				
44				