

**ACT English Test Practice: Week 3**

**DIRECTIONS:** The following test consists of underlined words and phrases in context or general questions about the passage. Most of the underlined sections contain errors and inappropriate expressions. You are asked to compare each with the four alternatives in the answer column. If you consider the original version best, choose letter **A** or **F**: **NO CHANGE**. For each question, circle the letter of the alternative you think best. Read the passage through before answering the questions.

Of all the musical instruments produced by human skill, the three of which are the most distinguished<sup>31</sup> are the violin, the piano, and the pipe organ. Of these, the violin still remains the instrument of the virtuoso. No method to play it<sup>32</sup> has yet been discovered<sup>33</sup> except by the slow and tedious process of learning it. It is the

instrument of the accomplish<sup>34</sup> musician. 35

On the other hand, self-playing devices have been employed successfully with both the piano and the organ—but with this difference. Piano music derives

some of its essentialness<sup>36</sup> from the personality of the player. The touch of human fingers has never been exactly reproduced by mechanical devices. In some compositions, however, the mechanical piano player approaches the pianist,<sup>37</sup> although not by any means

in all. 38

31. A. NO CHANGE  
B. that are most distinguished  
C. of those that are distinguished  
D. most distinguished
32. F. NO CHANGE  
G. playing at  
H. in playing it  
J. of playing it
33. A. NO CHANGE  
B. invented  
C. divined  
D. developed
34. F. NO CHANGE  
G. accomplishing  
H. accomplished  
J. more accomplished
35. Which of the following writing strategies would permit the writer to present details about all three types of instruments?  
A. Classifying and dividing  
B. Narration  
C. Comparison and contrast  
D. Persuasion
36. F. NO CHANGE  
G. pith  
H. quality  
J. life-blood
37. A. NO CHANGE  
B. approaches the sound of the pianist  
C. comes close to the piano  
D. typifies the piano
38. The writer could most effectively strengthen the passage at this point by adding:  
F. documentation and detail to support opinions delivered as facts.  
G. a review of all the orchestral instruments, including their musical ranges.  
H. a discussion of the great violin makers of the past.  
J. a detailed description of organ structure and mechanism.

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The pipe organ consequently<sup>39</sup> is made for automated playing. There is virtually nothing the organist can do with his or her hands or feet that cannot be duplicated by mechanical devices. When an organ manual is touched, the resulting tone is the exact same,<sup>40</sup>

whether the touch be<sup>41</sup> hard or soft, slow or quick.<sup>42</sup> The tone continues at the same volume until the key is released. Brilliance, variety, and other qualities are obtained by other sets of pipes, and these pipes are brought into play by pulling out stops. Such stops can be pulled by mechanical means just as effectively as by human fingers. If the organ music is correctly cut in the music roll, with all the stops, couplers, and swells operated at the proper places, the most acutest ear<sup>43</sup> cannot distinguish between the human organist and

the organist who is mechanical.<sup>44</sup> 45

39. A. NO CHANGE  
B. on the contrary  
C. to be sure  
D. similarly

40. F. NO CHANGE  
G. exact identical  
H. same  
J. equal

41. A. NO CHANGE  
B. is  
C. was  
D. has been

42. F. NO CHANGE  
G. soft, slow, or quick.  
H. soft: slow or quick.  
J. soft slow or quick.

43. A. NO CHANGE  
B. the acute ear  
C. the more acute ear  
D. the most acute ear

44. F. NO CHANGE  
G. the organist, who is mechanical.  
H. the mechanical organist.  
J. the organist who is a nonhuman.

45. The main purpose of this passage is to provide:  
A. a discussion of the virtues of the mechanical organ.  
B. a history of music.  
C. a comparison of the violin, piano, and organ.  
D. a general discussion of mechanized musical instruments.

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