ACT English Test Practice: Week 7

DIRECTIONS: In the following passage, 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 II

How Old Am I?

Many people might be surprised to learn that the American way of computing a person’s age differs from the traditional Korean way. In Korean tradition, a person is considered to be already one year old at the time of his or her birth.

As a child growing up in two cultures, I found this contest a bit confusing. When I was in the fifth grade, was I ten or eleven years old? To add to the confusion, every New Year’s Day a person according to this Korean counting system, becomes a year.

16. F. NO CHANGE
   G. change
   H. dispute
   J. difference

17. A. NO CHANGE
   B. person,
   C. person;
   D. person who,
older, regardless of his or her actual birthday.

Birthdays are important throughout the world. A person
who is sixteen years old on his or her birthday in March
would become seventeen years old on the following New
Year’s Day, even though he or she isn’t expected to turn
seventeen (in “American” years) until that next birthday
in March. Perhaps the celebration of New Year’s Day in
Korean culture is heightened because it is thought of as
everyone’s birthday party.

Today, after many birthdays and New Year’s
Days, I now find meaningful the difference I once
found confusing. Otherwise, this difference points
to significant underlying cultural values. The practice of
advancing a person’s age seems to me to reflect the value a
society places on life experience and longevity. Their idea
was demonstrated often when my elderly relatives, who
took pride in reminding younger folk of their “Korean
age.” With great enthusiasm, they added on a year every

18. F. NO CHANGE
G. Most cultures celebrate birthdays.
H. Birthdays focus attention on a culture’s youth.
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

19. A. NO CHANGE
B. raised
C. lifted
D. lighted

20. Upon reviewing this paragraph, the writer considers
deleting the preceding sentence. If the writer were to
delete the sentence, the paragraph would primarily lose:
   F. a comment on the added significance of the
   Korean New Year celebration.
   G. a repetitive reminder of what happens every birth-
   day.
   H. a defense of the case for celebrating every birth-
   day.
   J. an illustration of the Korean counting system.

21. A. NO CHANGE
B. Though,
C. In fact,
D. Then,

22. F. NO CHANGE
G. on
H. at
J. DELETE the underlined portion.

23. A. NO CHANGE
B. persons’ age
C. persons age
D. person’s age,

24. F. NO CHANGE
G. One’s
H. Its
J. This

25. A. NO CHANGE
B. by
C. while
D. as if

26. Which choice would most clearly communicate the
elderly relatives’ positive attitude toward this practice?
   F. NO CHANGE
   G. Duplicating an accepted practice.
   H. Living with two birthdays themselves.
   J. Obligingly.
New Year's Day. By contrast American society has often been described as one that values the vibrant energy of youth over the wisdom and experience gained with age. After a certain age, many Americans I know would balk, refuse, and hesitate at the idea of adding a year or two to what they regard as their actual age.

Even something as visibly simple or natural as computing a person's age can prove to be not so clear-cut. Traditions like celebrating birthdays reveal how deeply we are affected by the culture we live in.

27. A. NO CHANGE
   B. whose
   C. this
   D. whom

28. If the writer were to delete the phrases “the vibrant energy of” and “the wisdom and experience gained with” from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:
   F. its personal and reflective tone.
   G. an element of humor.
   H. details that illustrate the contrast.
   J. the preference expressed by the writer.

29. A. NO CHANGE
   B. balk and hesitate
   C. refuse and balk
   D. balk

30. A. NO CHANGE
   G. apparently
   H. entirely
   J. fully