

**ACT English Test Practice: Week 8**

**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 V****Her Letters to the World**

Emily Dickinson, one of America's great nineteenth-century poets, was a prolific letter writer.

Although her physical contact with the world was limited by caring for her invalid mother and by her

own poor health, whose correspondence was

61

extensive; over one thousand letters to upwards of one

62

hundred correspondents. These letters provide insight into her daily life and her poetry.

Dickinson's lifetime of letters range from playful to serious. As a young woman she wrote, of pining for a

63

valentine and of visiting the Chinese Museum in Boston.

64

Her letters in later years reveal that she missed friends and

61. A. NO CHANGE

B. their

C. Dickinson's

D. who's

62. F. NO CHANGE

G. extensive, and over

H. extensive; over

J. extensive. Over

63. A. NO CHANGE

B. (Do NOT begin new paragraph) As a young woman, she wrote

C. (Begin new paragraph) As a young woman, she wrote,

D. (Begin new paragraph) As a young woman, she wrote

64. F. NO CHANGE

G. visiting to

H. of her visiting to

J. of her visiting at

encouraged them to visit. Dickinson stayed in contact with correspondents for many years. In a teasing letter to her

brother, she bemoaned the fact that a big barn fire couldn't have waited until he returned to see it, since he "enjoyed

such things so much." Other letters are solemn; speaking

of relatives and friends whom had died.

Perhaps the correspondent who came to know Dickinson best through their thirty-six-year exchange of letters was Emily's friend, sister-in-law, and neighbor, Susan Gilbert Dickinson. Susan was a spiritual, social, and intellectual companion for Emily. In fact, in one letter, Emily stated that Shakespeare was the only person who had taught her more than Susan had.

One significant aspect of this relationship was: that Susan was perhaps the only reader of Emily's poems-in-progress. Letters between the two suggest that Susan might frequently have given feedback on her work, including some of her most famous

poems, composed at her home in Amherst, Massachusetts.

At one point, Emily sent a draft of her poem "Safe in Their

Alabaster Chambers" to Susan, who read the poem. As

65. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best develops the paragraph's focus on the roles that letters played in Emily Dickinson's life?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Her personal interests also included keen observation of the natural world around her.
- C. Though she produced volumes of letters, none were shared publicly until after her death.
- D. She enjoyed hearing their news and reflecting with them on political events.

66. F. NO CHANGE

- G. solemn they speak
- H. solemn; speaking
- J. solemn. Speaking

67. A. NO CHANGE

- B. who
- C. who they
- D. of whom

68. F. NO CHANGE

- G. was that Susan
- H. was, that Susan
- J. was that Susan,

69. A. NO CHANGE

- B. her feedback on Emily's
- C. Emily feedback on her
- D. her feedback on her

70. F. NO CHANGE

- G. poems, which varied in form, style, and line length.
- H. poems, most without obvious rhyme.
- J. poems.

71. Given that all the choices are true, which one would most clearly describe an interaction between Susan and Emily during Emily's writing process?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. liked the poem tremendously.
- C. considered and thought about the poem.
- D. praised the poem but suggested revisions.

1



1

a result, Emily wrote two other versions of the second  
stanza.

72

Dickinson's last twenty years of letters—many over  
1,500 words in length—reveals the breadth and depth of

73

one's connection to the world through a wide circle of

74

correspondents. Perhaps, this legacy of letters, explains  
what she meant when she said that her friends were her  
“estate.”

75

- 72. F. NO CHANGE
- G. rewrote two other alternate
- H. rewrote two additional alternate
- J. wrote two alternate revised

- 73. A. NO CHANGE
- B. reveal
- C. will of revealed
- D. would of revealed

- 74. F. NO CHANGE
- G. people's
- H. her
- J. their

- 75. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Perhaps this, legacy of letters,
- C. Perhaps this legacy of letters,
- D. Perhaps this legacy of letters

TLC Stamp

