



**The New
GMAT[®] Sentence Correction
Question Bank**

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Introduction

At Aristotle Prep, we regularly ask GMAT test takers for their feedback on the actual test so that we can further improve our products. Over the past few months, one aspect of the feedback has been surprisingly consistent - the Sentence Correction questions were very different from those that students had practiced in the Official Guides and other practice material. This feedback was consistent irrespective of the score that the student eventually ended up with - a 500 scorer felt this way and so did a 700 scorer. A lot of the students also reported that they did not get too many (in some case none) idiom questions and that they found it very difficult to split the options.

These were some of the salient points of the feedback:

- One or two (in some cases none) questions testing the knowledge of idioms
- Not possible to split the options in several questions because all the options were different
- More than one answer choice was grammatically correct
- A lot of questions had difficult to spot errors such as fragments and run-ons

The recent snippets coming from the GMAC have only confirmed a lot of these points.

In this set of 100 questions we have tried to incorporate this feedback by putting in questions that are broadly in sync with the above points. The regular GMAT errors will of course be there in the questions as well. Please treat this as a supplement to the question bank that is already a part of the SC Grail. We would also recommend that you go through the SC Grail before attempting this practice set so that you are well versed with all the SC concepts that could be tested on the GMAT.

Good luck!

SC GRAIL PRACTICE SET

Sample Copy

SC Grail Practice Set

1) The principal, having increased the number of teachers in the school, is being accused of maintaining a poor ratio of students to a teacher.

- (A) The principal, having increased the number of teachers in the school, is being
- (B) The principal, increasing the number of teachers in the school, however is still being
- (C) Although the principal has begun to increase the number of teachers in the school, is still being
- (D) Although the principal has increased the number of teachers in the school, he is still being
- (E) Although the principal has increased the number of teachers in the school, yet he is being

2) It is difficult to study the depths of the Arctic Ocean, primarily due to the icy surface being difficult to penetrate using current technology.

- (A) primarily due to the icy surface being
- (B) primarily due to the icy surface is
- (C) because the primarily icy surface is
- (D) primarily caused by the icy surface
- (E) primarily because the icy surface is

3) The acclaimed writer said that his writing, which were powerfully influenced by storytellers in its family and that the landscape of his childhood also shaped his thinking and provided themes for his stories.

- (A) his writing, which were powerfully influenced by storytellers in its family
- (B) his writing was influenced by powerful storytellers in his family
- (C) storytellers in his family powerfully influenced his writing
- (D) storytellers in the family being powerful influence on his writing
- (E) powerfully influential in his writing were family storytellers

4) As the economy battles recession, the Board of Directors of the company believes that they will be able to maintain profits by tapping into new markets abroad

- (A) believes that they will be able to maintain profits by
- (B) believe that it will be able to maintain profits by means of
- (C) believes that it will be able to maintain profits by
- (D) have a belief that they will maintain profits by
- (E) believe in maintaining profits and

5) A positive cure for rabies, scientists believe, may be found within the next decade

- (A) scientists believe, may be
- (B) scientists may believe to be
- (C) in the belief of some scientists, should be
- (D) there are some scientists who believe it may be
- (E) which, some scientists believe, may be

Answer Explanations

1) The principal, having increased the number of teachers in the school, is being accused of maintaining a poor ratio of students to a teacher.

- (A) The principal, having increased the number of teachers in the school, is being
- (B) The principal, increasing the number of teachers in the school, however is still being
- (C) Although the principal has begun to increase the number of teachers in the school, is still being
- (D) Although the principal has increased the number of teachers in the school, he is still being
- (E) Although the principal has increased the number of teachers in the school, yet he is being

Explanation:

Official Answer (OA) – D

Concepts Tested – Meaning, Redundancy

The original sentence looks grammatically correct but fails to make logical sense. If the principal has increased the number of teachers in the school, then why is he being accused of maintaining a poor ratio of students to a teacher? Thus eliminate A

B - The modifying phrase starting with 'increasing' cannot possibly be used to modify the principal because it is not the principal who is increasing

C - The use of 'has begun' distorts the meaning because the original sentence suggests that the principal has already increased the number of teachers. Also the subject (*principal or he*) needs to be repeated in the clause after the comma.

Between D and E, the usage of 'although' and 'yet' together in E is a redundancy. Hence D is the best answer.

2) It is difficult to study the depths of the Arctic Ocean, primarily due to the icy surface being difficult to penetrate using current technology.

- (A) primarily due to the icy surface being
- (B) primarily due to the icy surface is
- (C) because the primarily icy surface is
- (D) primarily caused by the icy surface
- (E) primarily because the icy surface is

Explanation:

Official Answer (OA) – E

Concepts Tested – Usage, Meaning (Modification)

Let's keep out A for the time being because it uses the avoidable 'being' (*Remember the usage of 'being' is to be avoided but it may not always be incorrect. If we don't like any of the other options we will go back and reconsider option A*)

Option D does not have a verb so let's eliminate D.

This brings us down to B, C, and E. Comparing these three options vertically, we immediately spot the split between 'due to' and 'because'. Remember 'due to' can only be used to replace 'caused by', it can never be used to replace 'because/because of'. Try replacing 'due to' with 'caused by' in option B and you'll realise that this makes no sense. So B goes out.

C and E both are grammatically correct. Now you are being tested on the meaning of the sentence. The original sentence is using 'primarily' to modify 'because' so as to suggest that the primary reason for the difficulty is the fact that the icy surface is difficult to penetrate. E conveys this same meaning whereas C (*by using 'primarily' to modify 'icy'*) distorts the meaning by suggesting that the surface is primarily 'icy'. Thus E is the best answer.

3) The acclaimed writer said that his writing, which were powerfully influenced by storytellers in its family and that the landscape of his childhood also shaped his thinking and provided themes for his stories.

- (A) his writing, which were powerfully influenced by storytellers in its family
- (B) his writing was influenced by powerful storytellers in his family
- (C) storytellers in his family powerfully influenced his writing
- (D) storytellers in the family being powerful influence on his writing
- (E) powerfully influential in his writing were family storytellers

Explanation:

Official Answer (OA) – C

Concepts Tested – Verb, Meaning

The sentence, as written, is a fragment because it is missing a verb. It also incorrectly gets 'were' to agree with 'writing'.

B does not have a grammatical error but distorts the meaning of the original sentence by using 'powerful' as an adjective to modify 'storytellers'

D has an awkward construction that makes no logical or grammatical sense

Between C and E, E has a passive construction that makes it sound awkward; C is the best answer

4) As the economy battles recession, the Board of Directors of the company believes that they will be able to maintain profits by tapping into new markets abroad

- (A) believes that they will be able to maintain profits by
- (B) believe that it will be able to maintain profits by means of
- (C) believes that it will be able to maintain profits by
- (D) have a belief that they will maintain profits by
- (E) believe in maintaining profits and

Explanation:

Official Answer (OA) – C

Concepts Tested – Sub-Verb Agreement, Pronoun Agreement, Wordiness

The *Board* of Directors is singular so the plural pronoun 'they' cannot be used to refer to it. Hence eliminate A

D - 'Have a belief' is wordy. Plural 'they' cannot refer to the singular 'Board'

E - Distorts the meaning by removing the causal relation and instead suggesting that the Board believes in doing two things - maintaining and tapping.

Between B and C, in B the singular 'Board' does not agree with the plural 'believe'. Also the phrase 'by means of' is unnecessarily wordy. Hence C is the best answer.

- 5) A positive cure for rabies, scientists believe, may be found within the next decade
- (A) scientists believe, may be
 - (B) scientists may believe to be
 - (C) in the belief of some scientists, should be
 - (D) there are some scientists who believe it may be
 - (E) which, some scientists believe, may be

Explanation:

Official Answer (OA) – A

Concepts Tested – Meaning, Verb, Wordiness, Run-on

The sentence is correct as written.

B distorts the meaning by changing the placement of 'may'. It is also missing a main verb

C - The usage of should distorts the meaning because 'should' implies that the scientists 'suggest' (*and not 'believe'*) that a cure be found. 'In the belief of' is wordy

D is a run-on sentence because it uses a comma to connect two independent clauses

E is missing a main verb