



GMAT Sentence Correction Practice Questions

Directions: The following questions consist of sentences that are either partly or entirely underlined.

Select the answer choice that represents the best revision of the underlined text. Choice A duplicates the original version. If the original seems better than any of the revisions, then select it.

Question 1

The concert this weekend promises to attract an even greater amount of people than attended the last one.

- A. an even greater amount of people
- B. an ever larger amount of people
- C. an amount of people even greater
- D. a number of people even larger
- E. an even greater number of people

Answers and Explanations

E
Notice that three choices contain the word *amount* and two choices contain *number*. People, because they can be counted, come in numbers rather than amounts. (E) is best because of the remaining two because the phrase *an even greater amount of people* clearly refers to more people, while a *number of people even larger* could be referring to bigger people.

Question 2

Records of the first 736 British convicts deported to Australia reveal convictions for crimes against property in all cases and they ranged from highway robbery to forgery.

- A. convictions for crimes against property in all cases and they ranged
- B. convictions in all cases were crimes against property and ranging
- C. the ranging of convictions for crimes against property in all cases
- D. that all were convicted of crimes against property ranging
- E. that all of them had convictions for crimes that were against property; the range was

Answers and Explanations

D

(A) is awkwardly worded and the pronoun *they* has more than one possible antecedent. In (B) the two verbs linked by *and* aren't parallel; "were convicted" doesn't match "ranging." In choice (C), "the ranging of convictions" is awkward and unidiomatic. Choice (E) is wordy. (D) is the best choice.

Question 3

Scoliosis, a condition when the spine curves abnormally and throws the body out of line, can cause heart and lung problems as well as physical deformity.

- A. a condition when the spine curves abnormally and throws the body out of line
- B. an abnormal curvature of the spine that throws the body out of line
- C. a condition of the spine curving abnormally and in which the body is thrown out of line
- D. where the body is thrown out of line by an abnormal curvature of the spine
- E. a condition of an abnormal curvature of the spine throwing the body out of line

Answers and Explanations

B

Choices (A) and (D) are wrong because *when* should be used only to refer to a time, and *where* should be used only to refer to a place. Choices (C) and (E) are wordy and awkward.

Question 4

Many of the thousands of students currently enrolled in night courses hope for the exchanging of their drab jobs for new careers that are challenging.

- A. for the exchanging of their drab jobs for new careers that are challenging
- B. for exchanging drab jobs for new careers that will challenge them
- C. to exchange their drab jobs with new careers that will be new and challenging
- D. to exchange their drab jobs for new and challenging careers
- E. to exchanging their drab jobs and find careers that will be new and challenging.

Answers and Explanations

C

In this sentence, the students want to do something (change careers); the proper idiom is *hope to* instead of *hope for*. So eliminate (A) and (B). The use of *exchange for* is incorrect in choice (D). In choice (E), something's missing; this version of the sentence doesn't specify what the "drab jobs" are being exchanged for. Choice (C) is correct.

Question 5

The public's widespread belief in the existence of UFOs and their general curiosity about extraterrestrial life has generated considerable interest in science fiction.

- A. UFOs and their general curiosity about extraterrestrial life has
- B. UFOs and they are generally curious about extraterrestrial life which has
- C. UFOs, as well as their general curiosity about extraterrestrial life, have
- D. UFOs, as well as its general curiosity about extraterrestrial life, has
- E. UFOs, as well as general curiosity about extraterrestrial life, have

Answers and Explanations

D

The original has two mistakes. First, there's a problem with subject/verb agreement. It's also unclear what the word *their* refers to—*public* or *UFOs*. Logically, it would seem the reference is to the public, but *public* is singular; so we would have to use *its*, not *their*. Choice (B) is awkward. Choices (C), (D), and (E) change the sentence's structure so that the word *belief* becomes the only subject—now we need a singular verb. Only (D) contains the singular verb *has*.