



In Class Exercises Set A

Answers and Explanations: RC Social Science 2

- 1) (Blueprints may vary)
Paragraph 1: Despite dissent, grammar is a vital imperative.
Paragraph 2: Grammar is essential to expression of thought and provides authors structure and control.
Paragraph 3: Grammar is in constant evolution but still provides consistency to writing.
Paragraph 4: Uniform grammar rules allow communication across cultural lines.
Paragraph 5: Grammar rules are amenable to challenge, but rules are essential to maintain.
- 2) The answer is **B**). The author's central idea is that grammar is necessary for conventions in formal writing. He does believe that spoken English can use improper grammar, but not that that should dictate learning, so A and C are out. Choice D isn't quite there either: even if grammar is based on changing norms, it is still generally good to follow the rules of grammar.
- 3) The answer is **C**). The best evidence for this answer is the example of the muses. The reason, the author argues, for grammar in writing is to honor the muse as an artistic subject. The other answers reference some other idea in the paragraph but are ultimately unrelated to the artistic function of grammar.
- 4) The answer is **A**). Answer choices sometimes use the same wording as the passage. This exact wording is used at the conclusion of paragraph two in reference to structure. Using the right punctuation and clause combination, the author argues, provides greater control over the development of an idea.
- 5) The answer is **A**). The author recognizes the arbitrary nature of using spaces or punctuation but furthers that these changes make language more efficient and organized. F incorrectly assumes that our current system of language is the most effective way possible to communicate, while G and H incorrectly cast the author's intentions to describe grammar as unimportant.
- 6) The answer is **A**). *In flux* means changing. Specifically in the context of the passage, it refers to grammar rules, which change over time.
- 7) The answer is **C**). Using spaces is a change in grammar conventions that has produced more clear language. A's ideas about technology are not stated in the passage, and as we saw in question 4, B and D miscast the author's purpose.
- 8) The answer is **C**). Challenges to the structure of grammar are critical for its continued development, as per the author. The author would not negatively connote that the theorist trying to improve language is interruptive, disposable, or unoriginal, as A, B, and D indicate.
- 9) The answer is **D**). This is where the author's example of a Southerner writing in formal English comes in. Grammar allows different dialects of a language to unite under one known convention. Choices A, B, and C incorrectly indicate that it would add communication with new speakers, in spoken English, or in a population with no differences between members.
- 10) The answer is **C**). The author believes that challenges to grammar in those cases have had good effects but that challenges not focused on a goal are harmful. This takes out choices A and B: they both would indicate that one should always apply the paradigm of challenging grammar. Choice D misses the mark because it describes Twain and the Queer movement as misguided, while the author believes their effects are good.
- 11) The answer is **A**). The author believes, very clearly, that formal writing is art while grammar in everyday spoken English is unimportant. Choice A best fits this paradigm (quotidian means daily). Choice B incorrectly implies that the differences in dialect don't exist. C and D misstate the author's idea that we shouldn't eliminate said difference.