

Here are the answer explanations for the December 2016 ACT English test. All five passages explained.

Passage I: From Word-Cross to a Crossword Craze

1. The right answer is B. There is an introductory phrase (In the early 1900s) then a subject (the "Fun" section of the *New York World*). This needs to be followed by a verb, since the rest of the sentence (a Sunday supplement that presented puzzles to entertain the newspaper's readers) is a subject complement. The only choice with a verb is B. For this reason, A, C and D are all incorrect since none have a verb ready to follow the subject.
2. The right answer is G. The introductory phrase is "One day in 1913" after which we need a comma. Next is the subject of the sentence "the section's editor" and this is followed by a non-defining appositive "Arthur Wynne" set off by commas. (It's non-defining and needs bracketing commas because there is only *one* section editor.) All the other choices are wrong because they lack the right commas!
3. The right answer is A. "Inspired by a game called "Magic Squares" from his childhood" is a past participial phrase (they describe the nouns they precede and act like adjectives) which is followed by a comma, the subject of the sentence "Wynne," and a verb, then the rest of the sentence. Choices B, C and D, are incorrect because they all have verbs of their own, and we'd end up with two independent clauses spliced together with that comma after the word *childhood*.
4. The correct answer is F. To *draw up* is a phrasal verb meaning to sketch out or design and in this case is in the past tense (drew up). To *draw down* is also a phrasal verb, but it means to reduce numbers or get funding, which makes no sense in this context, so G isn't right. H and J are incorrect, too, since Wynne couldn't have drawn *over* a variation (of what?) or drawn *to* a variation of anything.
5. The correct answer is C. All we need is a straightforward joining comma to add the introductory phrase "After the puzzle's debut in December" to the clause "Requests from readers came pouring in for more word-crosses." A isn't right, because "After the puzzle's debut in December" isn't a full sentence and can't end in a period. B isn't right, because we can only add information using a dash to the *end* of a clause, not before it. D isn't right, because we can only use a semicolon to join two independent clauses and we only have a phrase and a clause.
6. The correct answer is H. As we said before, we can add information to the *end* of a clause using a dash. F isn't right, because "Usually one he wrote himself but sometimes a reader's submission" is only an adverb phrase, not a clause, so it can't start with a capital letter. G isn't right because we use "and" to join two things or two clauses, and we only have one clause. J isn't right, because we can only use a semicolon to join two independent clauses, and like question 5, we only have one clause and a phrase.
7. The correct answer is B. This is about appositives, and the essential information is that Martha Petheridge started helping Wynne manage all the puzzles, so explaining that she was Wynne's secretary is non-essential, and can be set off with commas. We only use a comma after "that" in a that clause if we're going to interrupt the flow of the sentence. If the author wrote "reader submissions arrived in such great numbers that, *to everyone's relief*, Martha Petherbridge, Wynne's

secretary, began assisting Wynne in managing and editing the puzzles" then a comma would be fine as it sets off the interruption. In this question "Martha Petherbridge" isn't an interruption, but an essential part of the sentence, so A isn't correct. C and D aren't right because there are no commas after the word *secretary*.

8. The right answer is G. Little typos or content errors made the crossword fans complain, so deleting this information would remove a detail that explains how seriously they took the puzzles. F isn't right because the fact that crossword fans complained over typesetting or factual errors says nothing about the newspaper's importance to Wynne. H isn't right, because the author is writing about crossword puzzles in the *New York World*, their fans and the people (Wynne and his secretary) who dealt with them, not about his or her own views. J isn't right, although it's plausible. If Martha made a lot of mistakes, fans would undoubtedly become frustrated, but that's not what the passage says.

9. The right answer is A, but this sentence involves punctuation, sentence structure, dependent prepositions and adverbs, so there are plenty of opportunities for mistakes. The first thing to notice is that the verb is "checked" which has a dependent preposition, "for." (We can say check *with* someone, but we check *for* something.) That means that the only thing we can put between the verb and its dependent preposition is an adverb, so we can say "checked carefully for" and follow that with *what* (typographical and content errors) and when (prior to printing). B isn't right because the subject (Petherbridge) needs to be followed by a verb, so if we follow it with an interruption or an aside (prior to printing) that needs to be set off by commas, and in B, there aren't any. The adverb "carefully" is also a long way from the verb. C isn't right, because we have two sets of bracketing commas, but the first pair surround the verb (checked for errors), so it can't be non-essential and mustn't be set off by commas. Added to that, the end of the sentence has two adjectives which haven't been related to the noun they modify. "Both typographical and content," could precede or follow the word "errors" but in this choice they are left dangling. D isn't right, although it is close. The verb correctly follows the subject (Petherbridge checked). The information that this happened prior to printing (which is implied anyway and so non-essential) is bracketed with commas, but the problem is the adverb at the end of the sentence which has become a fragment.

10. The right answer is J. The subject of the sentence is "Crowds of crossword fans" and they waited to use dictionaries in the library. If we ask *how* did they wait, the answer is "in line." The other choices are ambiguous. In F, G and H, we don't know whether the writer means fans of crosswords (and there happened to be many of them) or fans of crosswords done in crowds (unlikely, but the sentence isn't clear.)

11. The right answer is A, because "it" refers to a "company." B isn't right, because themselves is a reflexive pronoun (used when the subject and object are the same) but we need a subject pronoun for the clause "when --- released a smash hit." C isn't right because "them" is an object pronoun. D isn't right because "one" is an impersonal pronoun and we know what the sentence is about, not an impersonal "anyone" but a very particular publishing company.

12. F is the right answer. Where information elucidates or explains the sentence preceding it, we can join it with a colon. G isn't right, because we can only join two independent clauses with a semi colon and "the first book-length collection of crossword puzzles" is not a clause. H isn't right because it has no punctuation or connector. J isn't right, because although the portion before the period is fine, it leaves us with a fragment which is not a complete idea.

13. The best choice is D because it is the most precise and concise way of expressing the idea that the public's obsession with crosswords was at its greatest. A and B aren't right because they both use the word *crosswords* which is mentioned in the phrase *the public's obsession with crosswords* and so is redundant. They are also repetitious, as is C, because indicated and signalled express the same idea.

14. The best answer is F because it suggests that what originally attracted Wynne's readers at the start of crossword puzzles remains intriguing today. G isn't really relevant since the focus is crossword puzzles rather than the *New York World*. H isn't the best answer because the essay doesn't focus on what kind of clues are used in crosswords. J isn't a great answer because the essay focuses on the development of the crossword by an editor and their growth in *popularity*, rather than on their geographical spread.

15. The best answer is B. The essay informs the reader about the origin of the modern crossword puzzle (at the *New York World*) and the inspiration for crossword puzzles ("Magic Squares" from Wynne's childhood) and explains how crosswords developed (through reader submissions and guidelines for grids). A is only partly right, because it gives a wrong reason (the essay is not about how famous Arthur Wynne became), and C and D are wrong because they suggest the essay doesn't inform readers about the history and development of crosswords.

Passage II: A Siletz Speaker

16. G is the right answer. Very few people are going to know what "Ghaa yalh," means, so it makes sense to explain it to readers. F isn't right, because knowing what the words mean doesn't indicate whether the phrase is one of the easiest to translate or not. H isn't right, because the focus of the paragraph isn't Lane's granddaughter. J isn't right either, because if the phrase had several meanings the author would have explained them.

17. The best answer is D because it's the most concise way of ending the sentence. A isn't good, because the paragraph has already stated that Coastal Athabaskan is the language of the ancestors of the Siletz Indians. B is even more long-winded and unnecessary, since the paragraph has already explained the language was spoken thousands of years before Europeans arrived in America. C isn't a good choice, because it tells us again that the little girl is Lane's granddaughter, which we know from the opening sentence.

18. The best answer is F. The paragraph explains that Lane wasn't born in the land of his ancestors and went back when he could. This choice explains why: to learn about Siletz culture. G isn't a good choice because it repeats information already given in the paragraph and still doesn't explain what he wanted to learn. H isn't good because it doesn't say *what* he wanted to learn, is incorrectly punctuated as there is no comma after the word could, and "to do so" has nothing to refer to. (This choice would only work if the sentence said he went back to learn Athabaskan, or tribal law, for example.) J isn't good because "as the purpose of his move" requires something to be claimed or asserted, such as Lane declaring, as the purpose of his move, that he wanted to learn Siletz culture.

19. The best answer is C. The paragraph is about Lane's background and the fact he didn't grow up in Oregon, so introducing information about a program to teach a different language (Chinook Wawa) to preschoolers (Lane didn't go to school there) is utterly irrelevant. A and B aren't right,

because the language of the Confederated Tribes and whether the programme would be successful isn't relevant to this paragraph. D isn't right (although it agrees the sentence should be deleted) because it gives a silly reason: who led the program isn't relevant.

20. The best answer is G, because it explains what kind of "fragments" Lane was learning. F, H and J are poor choices because the question asks for "specific examples," and these choices don't provide any.

21. The right answer is A, because "who" is the correct relative pronoun to start a clause talking about a person (Nellie Orion, a tribal elder). B isn't right, because whom is an object relative pronoun, not a subject relative pronoun. C isn't right, because "she" is a subject pronoun, but not a relative pronoun and would only work if the author had divided this sentence into two. (Lane convinced Nellie Orion to be his teacher. A tribal leader, *she* knew the language well but never spoke it in public.) D isn't right because without a relative pronoun there is nothing to relate the tribal leader who didn't speak in public with Nellie Orion.

22. The following paragraph is about Lane leaving his job in a paper mill to teach Athabaskan to the Siletz tribe at the behest of the tribal council, so the best link is G, because it explains how he became expert enough to run a language program. F isn't right because the following paragraph doesn't focus on language preservation but on teaching programs. H isn't a good choice because clearing trees is irrelevant to the essay. J isn't good, because although relevant to *this* paragraph, mentioning his other teachers doesn't offer a link to Lane's career in the next paragraph.

23. The right answer is C because when a term to be discussed is introduced for the first time it can be enclosed in quotation marks or italicized, but it does not need to be introduced with a comma because it is not a quotation. A isn't right because adding a comma after the word *dictionary* turns "of words that had previously existed only in the few speakers' heads" into a fragment. D isn't right, because "online" describes Coastal Athabaskan and is not part of a string of adjectives.

24. The right answer is A because the words "asked Lane" are the verb and object of the subject "The tribal council" and don't need any punctuation. G and H aren't right because they separate the verb from its subject with a comma. J isn't right because when a main clause precedes a subordinate clause (as it does here) then it does not need to be followed by a comma.

25. The correct answer is B because we need future in the past when we relate an historical event which refers to something that at the time was in the future. A isn't right because it confuses the subjunctive and conditional. C isn't right because it is simple past which doesn't make sense. (The council would know whether he'd started classes or not.) D isn't right because the essay is about events in the past and this is present simple.

26. The best answer is J which doesn't use a discourse marker. This sentence reports what Lane did as a *result* of being asked to run language classes in the community, so if any discourse marker is used, it needs to be one that indicates effect, such as "so." F, G and H are all incorrect choices because none indicate result.

27. D is the right answer because it is the most concise way of expressing the idea by joining an introductory prepositional phrase to a main clause using a comma. A isn't right because "with these funds" is redundant since the sentence opens by explaining he had financial help from a grant. B isn't right, because the sentence begins with the preposition "with" explaining how Lane was able to

do his word, so "this is how" is also redundant. C isn't right, because we could only use "and then" to join a clause, and the opening part of the sentence is a prepositional phrase.

28. The best choice is J, since the final sentences explain his beliefs about language, so this sentence needs to refer to language in some way. F, G and H are all poor choices because they make no reference to language.

29. The best choice is A because the word "history" forms part of a list of sources (stories, poetry, history, and art). None of the other choices is correct because they add words unnecessary in a list.

30. The best choice is H because it begins "the dictionary," which is a reference to a particular dictionary—in this case the Coastal Athabaskan "talking dictionary" referred to in Paragraph 3. Nowhere else in the essay are dictionaries mentioned, so F, G and J are incorrect choices.

Passage III: The Fulton Fish Market

31. The right answer is C, because the first part (Walking in Manhattan just south of the Brooklyn Bridge) is a present participial phrase, so it needs to be followed by the subject it describes (in this case "I" or the narrator). A isn't right because while it is perfectly possible to have a second present participial phrase following the first (feeling as if I've been transported back in time), that just means the subject would come after the second one, and in this case, there isn't one. B and D aren't right, because although "each choice joins the phrases together, there's still no subject: walking in Manhattan, transported back in time what?

32. The right answer is J, because the adjectives "several," "well-preserved," and "nineteenth-century" are non-coordinate adjectives: the schooners are not several and well preserved, and "nineteenth-century" qualifies which multimasted schooners we mean, so no commas are required. For the same reason, F, G and H are incorrect.

33. The best answer is B, because the writer mentions the fishy smell of the East River in the first paragraph, and then talks about the Fulton Street Fish Market in the second paragraph and the rest of the essay. A is a poor choice because where the narrator doesn't walk very often is irrelevant. C is also irrelevant to the topic of the Fulton Fish Market, (which is the title of the essay, remember), while choice D is informative, but doesn't provide a link to the main topic.

34. The right answer is H, because a relative clause allows the writer to join the two clauses (The market would open as early as 3:00 a.m. on weekday mornings) and (---- fishing-boat crews would bring their fresh catch in) together. F and G aren't right, because both result in comma splices: each sentence should end with a period. J isn't right because the sentence would only make sense *without* the underlined words if the words *the market would open* were also deleted to leave one verb and a single clause.

35. The best choice is B because the following sentence talks about "the distributors" but unless we mention distributors beforehand, this sentence wouldn't make sense. For the same reason, A, C and D are poor answer choices.

36. The right answer is J, because we use the relative pronoun "who" for a relative clause about people where "who" is the subject of the clause. F and H aren't right because "whom" is only

possible for a relative clause about people where "who" is the object of the clause. G isn't right, because we use "which" for places and things, not for people.

37. The subject of the underlined verb is "rows upon rows of carts and wooden bins" which is plural and so needs the plural form "were." Reading too carefully could make you choose A, because "seafood" is uncountable and takes a singular verb, but that *isn't* the subject of the sentence. B isn't right, because the story is about the past and past simple is required. D isn't right because removing the auxiliary verb would make this an active sentence, and the carts and wooden bins aren't capable of cramming *themselves* into the building.

38. The right answer is H. The writer is explaining that anyone new would be overwhelmed not just by the small and the noise and bustle but by the variety of seafood on its own. Using a colon then introduces a list of some of the species involved. F isn't right because "alone with" creates ambiguity (the "new" person isn't alone with the fish). G isn't right because using a placeholder subject like "there" creates a new sentence, but that comma after "alone" creates a comma splice. J isn't right, because we can only add an independent clause to a sentence with a semicolon, and the list of seafood is not a sentence.

39. The best answer is A because each noun is preceded by an adjective: *live* blue crabs, *half-ton* swordfish, *twenty-pound* tuna fillets, *fresh* octopus. Choices B and C don't follow this pattern, and "etc" is too informal an ending to an otherwise descriptive list.

40. The best choice is G, because it is most logical to start the paragraph with the statement that the author remembered the first visit before going on to describe the things that the author saw.

41. The best answer is D because the writer is explaining what happens as he passes by the old market premises, so "as" (meaning at the time that) is appropriate. A isn't right since "because" suggests that his listening to tourists was a deliberate consequence, rather than incidental, and would need to read something like "I happened to overhear the voices of tourists." B isn't right because it suggests a routine (being that I pass by the baker's every day, I collect the donuts for work) and requires a conditional, such as "I could listen to the tourists." C isn't right, because "in passing" or "while passing" are possible constructions, but not "while in passing."

42. The right answer is H because a contrast is necessary between the area being busy and the fact that the market is no longer there, so "but" is the best option. F and G aren't right, because the market didn't move to the Bronx because the area is still busy, meaning "so" and "because" would be inappropriate. J doesn't work because "or" is used between two alternatives and the fact that the market is still busy is not an alternative to its having moved.

43. The best choice is D, because although the market is gone, the author is saying he can imagine it, so we need a discourse marker showing contrast. The only one that does that is "though," making A, B and C incorrect choices.

44. The right answer is G, because paragraph 2 says that the market was the most important on the East Coast, and then goes on to explain what time the market opened and when the catch landed. Inserting details of the amount of fish sold makes sense here. F isn't right, because that paragraph talks about the historical nature of the South Street Seaport. H and J aren't right, because Paragraph 4 talks about the modern-day building being a museum and the fact that the market has moved, so it wouldn't make sense to detail the size of the market there.

45. The best answer is B. The essay gives a historic overview of the market—its location, feel, look and even smell—using historical facts and personal recollections, so the essay accomplishes the goal. A is only partly right: the goal is accomplished, but not because the essay describes the narrator's "central" role in the market's history which extended from 1824 to 2005. C and D aren't right, because they suggest that the goal of sketching a historic site by blending facts and personal experiences has not been fulfilled.

Passage IV: Surf's Up

46. The best answer is F because "a cluster of air bubbles" is the most precise and concise way of expressing the idea. G is too long winded and uses an unnecessary comparison with a bunch of grapes which is inappropriate for a marine topic. H isn't good because "self-made" is redundant (the sentence ends with "they made themselves") and a "clump" suggests something lumpish and heavy rather than light and foamy. J isn't right because "a bunch" is insufficient to explain what the group was: a bunch of what?

47. The best answer is C because "wherever water and wind take them" stresses the utter lack of control the bubble-rafting snails have: they go where the weather and tides take them. A isn't a good choice, because while the snails will rise and fall slightly with each tide, this only suggests vertical movement, not the endless drift across oceans the writer wants to convey. B and D aren't good choices because neither says anything about the snails' passivity.

48. The most concise expression of ideas is J, since buoyant means capable of remaining afloat. F isn't the best choice because the words "in that way" are redundant. G and H aren't good choices because they repeat the idea of feeding on prey that also floats—already mentioned the sentence before.

49. The right answer is D because it gives an infinitive of purpose explaining *why* the research was done. A isn't right because to maintain this structure, the conjunction "and" would be required before the word *determining*. (her team began by analyzing and comparing and determining...). B and C aren't right because the team compared DNA *in order to* determine lineages, they didn't compare the DNA of snail families *as a determination of* lineage, or worse, as determining ancestral lineage. (The lineage determines what DNA is in evidence, not the other way round.)

50. The right answer is H because there is a subject (Churchil) verb (was surprised) and complement (to find that...). F and J aren't right because they both use the expression "in her surprise" which requires an action. (Churchill, in her surprise, dropped the bucket of snails.) G isn't right, because it gives us a relative clause with no clause to attach to (Churchill, who found this was similar to that.... what?)

51. The right answer is A, because the author is comparing bubble rafters to wentletraps and we need an adjective after most and the adverb (genetically). B isn't right, because the adjective form of "compare" is comparable. C isn't right, because "the same" has a dependent preposition of "as" when comparing two things and cannot be preceded by "most". (Something is either the same as something or it isn't, it can't be most the same.) D isn't right, because "alike" must follow both of the nouns it compares. (Bubble rafters and wentletraps are alike.)

52. The correct answer is J since "feeding" begins a present participial phrase describing the wentletraps' habits and create a single compound complex sentence. F, G and H all result in comma splices since each choice inserts a subject and makes two independent clauses which need to be separated by a period and capital letter or joined with a semicolon.
53. The correct choice is C, which used "or" to introduce an explanation of a technical term, correctly separated by a comma. A isn't right, because it appears that "of egg masses" is redundant as nothing indicates it is a special term. B isn't right, because although brackets is a good way to offer an in-text explanation, this example adds "with" which is unnecessary. D isn't right, because although an explanation could be set off by commas, this choice lacks the extra comma after the word *masses*.
54. The right answer is G, because it explains precisely what the author means. "These egg masses" are what Churchill assert are precursors to bubble rafts. F isn't right because "Churchill asserts *that is*" suggests that it is the ocean floor which is the precursor, since "ocean floor" is the nearest referent to "that." H isn't right, because "that which are" doesn't refer to the egg masses and uses a plural verb. J isn't right because "it" is singular and can't refer to egg masses.
55. The correct answer is C because a comma is required to separate the preceding introductory past participial phrase (Given the abundance of jellyfish and other foods on the surface) and the clause (creating air bubbles became a survival advantage) and a pair of dashes is required to set off the additional information (and floating). A and D aren't right, because they each only have one dash, while B and D aren't right because there isn't a comma after the word *surface*.
56. The best answer is F because "survival advantage" is the most concise and precise way of expressing the idea that floating under the surface gave the snails a real advantage. G, H and J aren't good choices because they are just far too wordy.
57. Unusually for ACT, this question is almost identical to the previous one, with A being the most precise and concise way of expressing the idea that the skill of making their own bubbles is what gave wentletraps an advantage, while B, C and D are long winded and less precise.
58. The best choice is J, because there is already a contrast discourse marker (though) earlier in the sentence. There are two ideas: the ability to make bubbles didn't evolve quickly, and that some wentletraps developed the ability anyway. The discourse marker needs to be applied to one or the other, but NOT both. We could say despite/though/while/whereas this ability didn't evolve quickly, some wentletraps managed it anyway, or we could say this ability didn't evolve quickly, but/however/yet/even so, some wentletraps developed it anyway. That means F, G and H are all incorrect because they are in the wrong place or won't work with "though" earlier in the sentence.
59. The best answer is A, as this is the clearest and most concise way of expressing the idea that Churchill solved the puzzle of how some snails began to surf the oceans. B is very long-winded and imprecise: She didn't offer an "unknown," she offered a solution; an explanation has by definition been provided, so there is no need to say so. C is imprecise because it is unnecessary to say Churchill has given an answer to a question, (what else would she answer?) and "related biologically" is a poor way of expressing the idea of evolutionary change. D is a very poor choice. The language is very casual, but the words don't tell us what Churchill has done that that has done "something".

60. The best position for this sentence, which is about steps in an evolutionary process, would be in the paragraph which talks about evolution: paragraph 4. The sentence which follows begins "these snails" which connects to the referent in the missing sentence (those snails that evolved bubble-rafting to feed at the ocean's surface). F, G and H aren't right because none discuss evolution.

Passage V: Paris: Where Apiary Meets Opera House

61. The best answer is C because that makes clear Paucton ordered bees. All the other choices are ambiguous and could mean that he ordered props, rather than bees.

62. J is the right answer because "The Palais Garnier" is an appositive (for Paucton's workplace" which is supported by another appositive "a preeminent opera house in the city's historic district" so no verb is required and the sentence is correctly punctuation with a comma after Garnier. F, G and H are all incorrect because they turn one sentence into two, but joined by a comma splice.

63. The best answer is B because we need a verb that means "move" or "shift" (he was supposed to take the bees home) and that will take the preposition "to." A isn't right because it means to settle or found, C isn't right because it means to set down or settle. D isn't right because it means to alight or live, and none of these verbs go with "to."

64. The right answer is H, because the relative clause (in brackets) begins with "who" and needs to follow the noun it describes, which is "fireman". None of the other choices ends with a noun.

65. The right answer is B since "thriving" means flourishing or living well and most specifically indicates the bees were living healthy lives. A isn't right because "cared for" relates to Paucton rather than the bees. C isn't right because "present" simply denotes existence rather than in what state the bees were living. D isn't right, because "noted" means observed or known about and relates to the public, not the bees.

66. The best choice is F since the previous sentence explains how the bees are thriving and the following one explains how the yield has increased, so the information that there are now five hives would fit most logically here. G and H aren't right, because saying Paucton is in his seventies and now has five hives before learning that the original bees didn't make it to the countryside and went on the roof doesn't make sense. Nor does it make sense to put this information *before* saying the bees are thriving up on the roof, so F is the only logical option.

67. A is the right answer because this sentence needs a pronoun (for all the charm of it). B isn't right, because pronouns never take apostrophes. C isn't right because "it's" means "it is" and makes no sense here. D isn't right because without "its" the author would need to write "for all the story's charm" and replace "Paucton's story" with "it" later on.

68. The best answer is F since it is the most concise and precise way of completing the sentence. G and J aren't right, because "dimensionality" is a scientific and mathematical term which is inappropriate when the author means "aspect." H isn't right, because although it uses "dimension" correctly, it adds "as it relates to importance" which is redundant since "serious" already carries this idea.

69. The right answer is D. This sentence gives an explanation of the serious dimension in the previous sentence and needs no discourse marker. It is not in contrast, so "however" and "nevertheless" are incorrect, and it is not additional information so "furthermore" is inappropriate.

70. The right answer is H, because it tries to join two independent clauses with a comma. All the other choices correctly keep the two sentences apart, or correctly joins the second with a colon since it expands or explains the first.

71. The right answer is C since the underlined portion gives examples of crops that might suffer without bees and so strengthens bees' role in agriculture. A isn't right, because even if some readers do think of bees as pests the sentence is not confusing. B is tricky, because bees in the countryside can pollinate crops which don't grow in urban areas, but that isn't the point the writer is trying to make. D isn't right, because the passage doesn't suggest that hobbyists are becoming professional bee-keepers.

72. The right answer is G because the sentence is making a comparison (better than). F isn't right because we don't make comparisons with "then" (a commonly confused word). H isn't right because "its" would refer to something singular but "plants and trees" are plural so "their" is correct. J isn't right because without a pronoun we don't know whose "country cousins" the flowering trees and plants are faring better than.

73. This is a tricky question because the sentence refers to "the disorder" (which hasn't been mentioned before), which means that the information "widely known as "colony collapse," should NOT be set off between commas. (If we remove the portion between commas we end up with "While the disorder defies a simple explanation," which would be fine if the author had already told us what the disorder is, but she didn't.) This portion should read "While the disorder widely known as "colony collapse" defies a simple explanation," but the fact is, it doesn't. Because the author has chosen to make it non-essential by putting a comma after the word "collapse," we have to choose the option with a comma before "widely" which makes A the right answer. B and C aren't right because the comma after widely would be in the wrong place. D would be correct but for that comma after "collapse" so we can't choose it however much we want to.

74. The best answer is F since "them" refers to experts and amateurs and correctly has a second bracketing comma (the first is after the word "amateurs"). G and H aren't right, because "who" would begin a relative clause describing the urban beekeepers, and the sentence would then have no ending. The author could write, for example, that "experts and amateurs, urban beekeepers among them, who have joined the effort to reestablish the health of all bees, are still trying to find answers" but since the sentence ends after the word "bees" there is no place for a relative clause. J isn't right, because the information "urban bee-keepers among them" is parenthetical and so needs bracketing commas.

75. The focus of the essay is not a pressing environmental issue (colony collapse disorder) but the accidental establishment of an urban hive on the top of a Paris building. It goes on to mention the problem, explains that the issue hasn't been solved and that rural and urban, professional and amateur beekeepers are all looking for a solution. That makes D the best answer. A and B are incorrect because the essay doesn't accomplish the goal, and C is incorrect, because although it answers "no" it gives an inappropriate reason.