The following sentences test correctness and effectiveness of expression. Part of each sentence or the entire sentence is underlined; beneath each sentence are five ways of phrasing the underlined material. Choice (A) repeats the original phrasing; the other four choices are different. If you think the original phrasing produces a better sentence than any of the alternatives, select choice (A); if not, select one of the other choices.

In making your selection, follow the requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to grammar, choice of words, sentence construction, and punctuation. Your selection should result in the most effective sentence—clear and precise, without awkwardness or ambiguity.

1. Due to last year’s active hurricane season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has urged coastal residents to develop a family evacuation plan, organize important documents and valuables, creating a disaster supply kit for use in the car and at the evacuation destination.

   (A) creating a disaster supply kit for use
   (B) to create a disaster supply kit for use
   (C) creating a disaster supply kit for using
   (D) and create a disaster supply kit for using
   (E) and create a disaster supply kit for use

2. While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem, the introduction of invasive species has the potential to destroy nearly all of the aquatic plants and animals that inhabit the river.

   (A) While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem
   (B) While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem
   (C) Global warming has already made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem
   (D) Global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem
   (E) Although global warming has made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem

3. Reports from New York and Paris indicate that this season’s style is an eclectic mix of fashions from past decades, ranging from the empire-waist dresses of the relaxed and liberated 1960s and the legwarmers of the excessive and indulgent 1980s.

   (A) and
   (B) with
   (C) to
   (D) and to
   (E) from

4. Unlike Freud’s belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories, Jung asserted that the unconscious also contained creative reservoirs.

   (A) Freud’s belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
   (B) Freud and his belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
   (C) the belief of Freud that states the unconscious is solely a storehouse of repressed memories
   (D) Freud, who believed that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
   (E) Freud and the belief that the unconscious solely stores of repressed memories

5. The blue whale was thriving in all of the world’s oceans until the turn of the century, at which time they became hunted to the point of extinction.

   (A) The blue whale was thriving in all of the world’s oceans until the turn of the century
   (B) Blue whales were thriving in all of the world’s oceans until the turn of the century
   (C) The blue whale had been thriving in all of the world’s oceans until the turn of the century
   (D) At the turn of the century, blue whales were thriving in all of the world’s oceans
   (E) Blue whales had been thriving in all of the world’s oceans up until the turn of the century

6. Scientists believe that all domestic dogs originally have descended from three dogs that lived in China over 15,000 years ago.

   (A) have descended from three dogs that lived in China
   (B) descended by three dogs that lived in China
   (C) descended from three dogs that lived in China
   (D) have descended from three dogs living in China
   (E) descended from three dogs that had lived in China
answer key

1. E
In this sentence, NOAA has urged residents to do three things using three verbs: to develop, to organize, and creating. When three verbs are listed this way, they must be parallel, meaning they are composed in similar form. Therefore, the list should read to develop, to organize, and to create. When three are more verbs are listed, to can be used with just the first verb, or all three verbs. Thus, to develop, organize, and create is also correct.

Choice (B) omits the essential conjunction and. Choice (C) fails to use the infinitive form of to create, and illegally changes use from a noun (use) to a verb (using). Choice (D) also changes use to using. Only (E) is correct.

2. B
Adjectives modify nouns, and adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. The error in this sentence occurs in the word seeming. Seeming is an adjective, meaning the same thing as apparent: his seeming honesty, the report’s seeming inaccuracies. However, in this sentence, seeming is modifying fragile, an adjective. Therefore, seeming should be the adverb, seemingly.

Choice (B) is correct. Choice (C) has lost its subordinating conjunction (while), creating two complete sentences separated by a comma (a common error called a comma splice). Choice (D) does not correct seeming. Choice (E) uses the subordinating conjunction although, changing meaning of the sentence. The reader now expects a reverse effect on the river.

3. C
The correct idiom is ranging from x to y, rather than the current use of ranging from x and y. The current style is ranging from the empire-waist dresses (x) to the legwarmer (y).

Only Choice (C) makes this correction.

4. D
Just as verbs have to be parallel, two or more items being compared must be parallel, meaning they must be in similar form. Currently, this sentence is comparing Freud’s belief to Jung. To correct it, we must compare Freud’s belief to Jung’s belief (thing to thing) OR Freud to Jung (person to person).

Choice (B) compares Freud (person) and his belief (thing) to Jung (person). Choice (C) compares the belief of Freud (thing) to Jung (person). Choice (D) correctly compares Freud (person) to Jung (person). Choice (E) compares Freud (person) and his belief (thing) to Jung (person).

5. B
In the beginning of this sentence, the blue whale is mentioned as a singular object. However, it is later referred to as they, meaning more than one. Pronouns must agree in number to the noun referent. Because the blue whale is in the underlined portion of the sentence, it must be changed to blue whales. If they had been underlined, it could have been changed to it.

Choice (B) correctly changes the blue whale to blue whales. Choice (C) does not make this change. Choice (D) moves at the turn of century, leaving at which time to incorrectly modify oceans. Choice (E) changes the verb and adds the redundant up.

6. C
The use of has or have with a verb (has watched, have spoken) indicate events that started in the past, continued until the present, and may continue into the future. This sentence requires a simple past tense (descended) to show that the event took place in the past.

Choice (B) corrects the verb descended, but changes the preposition to by. Correct idiom is descended from x, rather than descended by x. Choice (C) is correct. Choice (D) does not remove have from the verb, and changes the past tense of lived to the present tense living. Choice (E) adds had to the verb lived. Had is only used to show a past event that occurred before another event in the sentence. It is unnecessary here.