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SAT Subject Test in Korean with Listening

This document gives detailed answer explanations to Korean practice questions from The SAT Subject Tests™ Student Guide. By reviewing these explanations, you’ll get to know the types of questions on the test and learn your strengths and weaknesses. Estimated difficulty level is based on a 1–5 scale, with 1 the easiest and 5 the most difficult.

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1. Difficulty: 2
   Choice (C) is correct. Hansu says he went to meet his older brother at the airport (공항) yesterday. Hansu went to the airport (C), not to his brother’s office (A), his brother’s house (B), or a graduation ceremony (D).

2. Difficulty: 3
   Choice (D) is correct. Hansu responds positively to the question, “Does your brother live on the East Coast (동부)?” and says that his brother also went to college there and that he graduated and is currently working for a company. He also indicates that it would be nice if his brother could stay longer, but his brother only has a three-day vacation. This points to choice (D) as the correct answer.

3. Difficulty: 4
   Choice (B) is correct. The announcement says that service on subway line #5 has been temporarily suspended but will resume after three hours. It is announced that service will be restored (B), not that service is not affected (A), that a new line will open on the following day, (C) or that there will be no service at 3 o’clock (D).

4. Difficulty: 2
   Choice (B) is correct. This question involves the use of the honorific expression 진지 드시다, which means “to have a meal.” The grandfather (할아버지) needs to use the plain form of this expression when answering the question, “Have you had your meal?” Therefore, the correct answer is choice (B).

5. Difficulty: 3
   Choice (C) is correct. This question involves the auxiliary adjective 싶다. In response to the question, “When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?” one needs to use the expression, “I wanted to become …” Therefore, the correct answer is choice (C).

6. Difficulty: 4
   Choice (A) is correct. To answer this question, you need to first know the difference between the two verbs 잊어버리다 and 잃어버리다. The first, 잊어버리다, means “to forget,” whereas 잃어버리다 means “to lose.” Then you need to know the connective ending -다가, which is used when an action is discontinued and changed to another action. In the given context, the older sister “forgot” her homework, so she came back home to get it. Choice (A) is the correct answer.

7. Difficulty: 3
   Choice (B) is correct. It is clear from the context that the missing structure should include the meaning “even if you try.” Choice (B) best completes the sentence, resulting in the statement, “This car is too old, so it is useless even if you try repairing it.”

8. Difficulty: 3
   Choice (A) is correct. Please note that the author has had an impatient personality since he or she was little and has frequently been told that he or she rushes things. Therefore, in the given context, choice (A), which means “often,” is the best answer, resulting in the sentence “Because of this personality, I have often been scolded by the elders.”

9. Difficulty: 3
   Choice (C) is correct. This question involves the idiomatic expression 야단법석을 떨다, which means “to make a fuss.” In this context, 떨다 means “to display a certain behavior.” It is important to pay attention to the correct spelling of the verb 떨다; the other answer choices look similar to this verb but have entirely different meanings. The correct answer is choice (C), with the connective ending -아, which expresses the reason for something, resulting in the sentence, “… when going away for some fun, I started making a fuss two or three days earlier, asking to prepare for the occasion, which made my mother worry a lot.”
10. Difficulty: 4

Choice (C) is correct. This question involves the causative verb 썩이다. When used along with 속을, 썩이다 means “to make someone worry.” In the given sentence, this expression is used with the honorific form -아/어 드리다, and the verb 썩이다 becomes 썩여 in this case. Therefore, choice (C) 썩여 best completes the sentence “… which made my mother worry a lot.” Choice (A) looks similar to 썩여 but is derived from a different verb, 섞이다, which means “to be mixed or to be blended.”

11. Difficulty: 3

Choice (B) is correct. The author of the passage talks about his or her impatient personality and what happened as a result of his or her personality. Thanks to the impatient personality, the author does his or her homework immediately after school, so he or she has never worried about homework. Therefore, the expression that best completes the sentence is choice (B). The bound noun 적 in this context indicates experience, and verb + 아/어 본 적이 없다 means “have no experience doing something,” making the last line of the passage “have never worried about homework.” Choices (C) and (D) are incorrect because the bound noun 수 indicates future possibility.

12. Difficulty: 2

Choice (A) is correct. The first two lines of the advertisement mention 서적 (“books”) and 월간지 (“monthly magazine”), and the third line says 다양한 서적 구비 (“equipped with a variety of books”). It is clear that the business being advertised is a bookstore (A), not a gift shop (B), a delivery service (C), or a drugstore (D).

13. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The sixth line of the advertisement says that for members (회원), various monthly magazines will be sold at a discounted price. Therefore, it is clear that one can receive a special discount by membership (C), not by mail order (A), by using a credit card (B), or by buying a large quantity (D).

14. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. To answer this question, you need to understand time-related expressions such as 적어도 일 년쯤 (“at least about a year”) and 걸리다 (“take”) as well as the expression 익숙해지다 (“get used to something”). These terms indicate that the writer thought it would take at least a year (C) to get used to American life, not that it would take about four months (A), about four years (B), or a lifetime (D).

15. Difficulty: 4

Choice (A) is correct. The writer states that in the United States, various races live together, so it is very important to understand and accept a variety of cultures (문화). In other words, the writer learned that it is important in American society to accept cultural diversity (A). The writer does not indicate that he or she learned it is important to speak many languages (B), to help international students (C), or to befriend many people (D).

16. Difficulty: 4

Choice (D) is correct. The writer emphasizes that learning a foreign language includes not only learning the language itself but also learning about the ways of thinking (사고방식) and culture of the country where the language is spoken. The passage indicates that the writer thinks the best way to become proficient in English is to learn and think in English (D), not to memorize a lot of vocabulary (A), attend various seminars (B), or participate in student clubs (C).