Punctuation Practice Set 1 – Hard Module 2

Question 1

A recent study tracked the number of butterfly species present in twenty-three Oregon wildflower meadows over a ten-year period. _____ found that when nearby forested areas were cleared, the number of butterfly species observed in the meadows declined.

A. Ecologist, Nina Soto,
B. Ecologist Nina Soto,
C. Ecologist Nina Soto
D. Ecologist Nina Soto:

Question 2

The minimalist sculptures of Arman Petrov, which fuse industrial materials with organic forms, have drawn praise from many contemporary _____ them Canadian curator Suri Ma, who wrote that Petrov's work 'resonates with quiet intensity.'

A. artists. Among
B. artists among
C. artists; among
D. artists, among

Question 3

To support residents during the 2008 financial crisis, innovative Detroit librarian Keisha Lin offered bilingual workshops on budgeting and taxes, an unusual _____ hosted community potlucks to share resources; and organized book clubs on economic resilience.

A. practice, at the time
B. practice at the time;
C. practice, at the time,
D. practice at the time,

Question 4

In addition to lobbying for agricultural reform in two major policy proposals, the Green Fields Act and the Farmers' Charter, Ramon Vélez personally organized coalitions in three rural regions—El Norte (present-day northern Mexico and the Texas borderlands), El Valle, and La Sierra (present-day _____ from national land-use restrictions.

A. Honduras),
B. Honduras)—
C. Honduras)
D. Honduras,)

Question 5

In a 2021 study, University of Toronto psychologist Mira Lang found that, among participants who reported chills while reading emotionally powerful literature, there was one task that they excelled _____ exploring intricate plots of human relationships.

A. exceptionally in:
B. exceptionally in
C. exceptionally in;
D. exceptionally. In

Question 6

On May 14, 1932, a passenger train called the Western Arrow arrived in Denver _____ departed from Chicago under the navigation of engineer Thomas Bell and fireman Daniel Chow just 57 hours earlier, the sleek locomotive had made one of the fastest cross-country runs of its time.

A. Station. Having
B. Station and having
C. Station, having
D. Station having

Question 7

When external forces act on polymer glass, stress builds up around microscopic imperfections, resulting in cracks. Recently, chemist Lucia Benanti of the University of Florence used the chemical _____ to create a synthetic glass that resists such stress better than typical polymers.

A. compound titanium carbide,
B. compound, titanium carbide,
C. compound titanium carbide
D. compound, titanium carbide

Question 8

In 2020, a team led by Dr. Jonas Meyer gathered all recorded data on soil nutrient turnover from the previous 25 years. With this expansive data set, the researchers could analyze how microbial-driven nutrient cycling varies across _____ and what influence it has on agricultural sustainability.

A. landscapes
B. landscapes;
C. landscapes:
D. landscapes,

Question 9

Scientist Hana Rafiq developed a method for increasing the thermal conductivity—measured in watts per meter-kelvin—of spider _____ spinning the silk into nanostructures using a solution containing silver nanoparticles and protein stabilizers, Rafiq raised its conductivity significantly.

A. silk and by
B. silk by
C. silk. By
D. silk, by

Question 10

In analyzing Emily Brontë's 1847 novel Wuthering Heights, literary critic Jayden Fong points to the character of Mr. Lockwood. As Fong notes, Lockwood is not the story's _____ as the one recording the tale, he's the filter through which readers view the emotional chaos.

A. narrator
B. narrator,
C. narrator; rather,
D. narrator, rather,

Question 11

In a landmark experiment on consumer behavior, behavioral economist Tara Dominguez set up a tasting booth for olive oils at a weekend market. The number of oils available for sampling _____ some shoppers had eighteen choices, others just five. Surprisingly, those with fewer choices bought more.

A. varied while
B. varied:
C. varied,
D. varied, while

Question 12

On hot afternoons, black asphalt absorbs solar radiation and releases it as heat, raising the ground-level air _____ a layer of white or reflective coating can reduce this effect and lower nearby surface temperatures.

A. temperature by applying
B. temperature. Applying
C. temperature, applying
D. temperature; by applying

Question 13

Historian Celeste Ng serves on the panel that evaluates submissions to the Canadian National Heritage Register, which includes sites like the Montreal Biosphere and the Saguenay Fjord Trail. Ng doesn't make these decisions _____ all entries must be approved by a committee of eight scholars in related disciplines.

A. independently, however,
B. independently however,
C. independently; however,
D. independently, however;

Question 14

Because a catalyst —a substance that enables a chemical reaction to proceed at a faster rate—accelerates chemical reactions without being permanently altered in the process, _____ a crucial role in many industrial manufacturing methods. This property allows factories to produce materials more efficiently.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. these often play
B. they often play
C. this often plays
D. it often plays

Question 15

Astronomer Vera Rubin's early research on galactic rotation initially focused on a relatively small set of observational data, but Rubin would later expand her analyses substantially over the following decades. These groundbreaking _____ the discovery of unusually fast stellar movement at the edges of galaxies, the refinement of dark matter models, and the development of new methods for measuring galactic mass, transformed scientists' understanding of the structure of the universe.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. findings, including
B. findings would include
C. findings included
D. findings, include