SOUTH DAKOTA ENGLISH 12 · FINAL EXAM

Final Exam — Practice Test

South Dakota English 12 • 50 questions

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - The Scribe's Window

Use this reading for questions 1, 5, 29, and 33.

In a stone room above the market town, a young scribe named Alden copied books by hand. Each morning he sharpened his quills, mixed his ink, and settled at a slanted desk beside a narrow window. The work was slow. A single page could take a whole day, and one careless stroke could spoil hours of labor.

Alden did not mind the slowness. He loved the way a finished page looked, with its even lines and bright first letter painted in red and gold. He believed that books kept memory alive, carrying stories and laws from one generation to the next, long after the people who first told them were gone.

One winter, a traveler brought news of a printing press in a distant city, a machine that could make many copies of a book in days. Alden felt both wonder and fear. He wondered what would happen to scribes like him, yet he also imagined books reaching people who had never owned one. By spring, he had decided to learn the new craft, not to fight it, because he wanted stories to travel farther than his own hand could carry them.

1 **According to Source I, what can the reader infer about Alden's decision in spring?**

- **A** he fears change so much that he stops working
- **B** he decides to leave books behind forever
- **C** he plans to destroy the printing press
- **D** he chooses to adapt so that stories can travel farther

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - Sleep and School Start Times

Use this reading for questions 2 and 6.

Many studies of teenagers find the same pattern: the brain's sleep clock shifts later in adolescence, so many teens do not feel sleepy until late at night, yet early school start times still require them to wake before dawn. The result is a regular sleep debt that builds across the school week.

Researchers who studied schools that moved start times later found that students reported less daytime sleepiness and, in several districts, tardiness fell. Supporters argue that a later start is a low cost change with clear benefits for attention and mood. Critics note that later starts can clash with bus schedules, after school jobs, and sports practice, so districts must plan the whole day, not just the first bell.

The evidence does not prove that a later start alone will fix every school problem. It does suggest, however, that sleep is one factor schools can influence, and that decisions about start times should weigh student health alongside transport and activities.

2 **According to Source I, what evidence supports later start times?**

- **A** students reported less daytime sleepiness and tardiness fell in several districts
- **B** every school problem disappeared
- **C** parents stopped driving students to school
- **D** teachers worked fewer hours

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - Draft Opening of an Essay

Use this reading for question 3.

Many schools should start later in the morning. Teenagers need sleep. Buses are a problem. Some students work after school. Later starts could help students pay attention. This paper will discuss sleep, buses, and jobs.

The writer of this draft knows the topic but has not yet shaped a clear argument. The ideas are listed rather than connected, and the reader cannot tell which reason matters most or what evidence will follow.

3 **According to Source I, which revision would most improve the opening?**

- **A** add more unrelated topics
- **B** state a clear thesis and preview reasons in logical order
- **C** remove the thesis entirely
- **D** repeat the first sentence five times

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - Two Ways to Say It

Use this reading for question 4.

Version A: The storm was bad. It did stuff to the town. People were upset.

Version B: The storm tore roofs from houses, flooded Main Street, and left families without power for two days. Neighbors shared food and generators, and by Friday, crews had cleared most roads.

Version B does not just name a feeling. It shows specific actions and results, so the reader can picture the storm and judge its impact. Precise verbs and concrete nouns do work that vague words like bad and stuff cannot do.

4 **According to Source I, which words in Version A are vague?**

- **A** bad and stuff
- **B** storm and town
- **C** people and upset
- **D** was and did

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **According to Source I, the narrow window in the stone room most likely symbolizes**

- A Alden's wealth and high rank
- B the limited but steady light by which old knowledge was preserved
- C the traveler's road to the distant city
- D the market town's busy trade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **According to Source I, the phrase sleep debt most nearly means**

- A money owed for school buses
- B sleep lost over time that is not made up
- C a fine for tardiness
- D time spent in sports practice

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source II - A Speech Draft

Use this reading for question 7.

Friends, we have a choice. We can keep a park that is safe and clean, or we can let it fall apart and lose the one free place where our whole neighborhood gathers. I have volunteered in this park for three years, and I have seen children learn to ride bikes on its paths and older neighbors meet for morning walks.

Some will say repairs cost too much. They are right that money is tight. But the cost of losing the park, in safety, health, and community, is higher. Let us fix the paths, add lights, and keep this park open for everyone.

7 **According to Source II, the speaker appeals to emotion mainly by**

- **A** describing children learning to ride bikes and neighbors meeting for walks
- **B** listing budget numbers
- **C** defining the word park
- **D** quoting a law

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Which pair shows a difference mainly in connotation?**

A house and home, where home suggests warmth and belonging

B cat and dog

C run and walk, where both mean the same speed

D big and large, which never differ

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source II - On the Moor at Dusk

Use this reading for question 9.

The wind walks low across the moor at dusk,

and heather bends like listeners bowing their heads.

A path of pale stone climbs toward the hill,

where the last light gathers and quietly fades.

I have walked this way in joy and in grief,

and the moor has kept both, asking nothing in return.

9 **According to Source II, what does the speaker suggest about the moor?**

- **A** it changes its path every night
- **B** it frightens everyone who walks there
- **C** it belongs only to travelers from distant cities
- **D** it remembers the speaker's joy and grief without demanding anything

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source II - Should Towns Keep Public Libraries

Use this reading for question 10.

Some argue that public libraries are outdated because almost any fact can be found on a phone. That argument misses what libraries actually do. Libraries lend books, but they also provide quiet study space, help with job applications, classes for new readers, and free internet access for people who have none at home.

A town that closes its library does not just lose books. It loses a free, shared place where students can study after school, where job seekers can print resumes, and where older residents can learn new technology with patient help. Digital access helps, but it is not the same as a staffed public space open to everyone.

Keeping a library does cost money, and towns must make hard budget choices. The question is not whether libraries are free to run, but whether the services they provide are worth funding as a public good, like parks and roads.

10 **According to Source II, what does the author concede?**

- **A** libraries cost nothing to run
- **B** parks are useless
- **C** no one visits libraries anymore
- **D** keeping a library costs money and towns face hard budget choices

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **In a five paragraph essay, how many body paragraphs are there?**

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **Personification is shown in**

A the wind whispered through the trees

B the wind blew at 20 miles per hour

C the tree is tall

D the leaves fell

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source III - The Playhouse in London

Use this reading for question 13.

In Shakespeare's London, a play was a shared public event. People from many walks of life crowded into an open air playhouse: merchants, apprentices, soldiers, and nobles. The cheapest places were in the yard, where groundlings stood through the whole play, close to the stage.

Because there were few sets and no electric lights, language had to do much of the work. Actors used words to tell the audience whether a scene took place at night, on a battlefield, or in a forest. Costumes, music, and gesture helped, but the spoken lines carried the story.

Plays were performed in the afternoon, in daylight, so actors could see the crowd and the crowd could see them. A successful play depended on holding that crowd's attention, which is one reason Shakespeare's plays mix comedy and tragedy, highborn characters and common ones, and fast action with quiet speeches.

13 **According to Source III, why did Shakespeare's plays mix comedy and tragedy?**

- **A** to confuse the audience
- **B** to avoid using costumes
- **C** to follow a law about play length
- **D** to hold the attention of a mixed crowd

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source III - How to Judge a Source

Use this reading for question 14.

Not every source that looks professional is reliable. A strong researcher checks who wrote a source, when it was published, what evidence it cites, and whether other reliable sources agree. A personal blog may be honest, but it is not the same as a peer reviewed study or a report from an agency that checks its facts.

Bias does not always mean a source is useless. A source with a clear point of view can still be useful if the reader names the bias, checks its claims against other sources, and separates facts from opinions. The danger comes when a reader accepts one source alone, without checking, and treats opinion as settled fact.

14 **According to Source III, what should a reader do with a biased source?**

- **A** ignore it completely
- **B** treat its opinions as settled fact
- **C** name the bias, check claims against other sources, and separate facts from opinions
- **D** copy it without citation

Understand It with Pulse **Flag a mistake**

15 **A conclusion should**

- **A** introduce a brand new argument with no evidence
- **B** repeat the introduction word for word
- **C** restate the thesis in new words and leave a final thought
- **D** end with a new quotation and no comment

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **Which sentence is in passive voice?**

- **A** Maya painted the fence.
- **B** Painting fences is fun.
- **C** Maya paints fences.
- **D** The fence was painted by Maya.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **Beowulf is best described as**

A a short lyric poem about nature

B an Old English epic about a hero who faces monsters

C a medieval romance written in French

D a Victorian novel about London

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **A primary source is**

A a firsthand record from the time, such as a diary, letter, or original data

B a textbook summary of an event

C a review of other books

D an encyclopedia entry

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **Which sentence gives the best evidence for a claim about reading?**

- **A** reading is great
- **B** everyone should read
- **C** in a 2024 school survey, students who read 20 minutes daily scored higher on vocabulary tests
- **D** books are old

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **The word effect is usually used as**

- **A** a verb meaning to influence
- **B** a conjunction
- **C** an adverb
- **D** a noun meaning a result

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21

A Shakespearean sonnet has how many lines?

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22

Plagiarism is best defined as

A quoting a source with full citation

B presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own without credit

C paraphrasing in your own words with citation

D using common knowledge facts

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **Which is the most formal tone?**

- A The committee requests a review of the proposal
- B Hey guys, this stuff is cool
- C Wow, totally amazing
- D Just trust me on this

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **Parallel structure means**

- A using different verb forms in a list
- B writing only short sentences
- C using the same grammatical form for items in a list or series
- D repeating the same word

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **The Romantic poets, including Wordsworth, most often valued**

A factory machinery and city trade

B strict classical rules above feeling

C nature, emotion, and the individual imagination

D scientific reports in verse

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

26 **Which statement shows a fact, not an opinion?**

A the library is the best place in town

B the library is open until 8 p.m. on weekdays

C libraries are boring

D everyone loves reading

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

27 **Which opening is most effective for a persuasive essay?**

A I am going to write about parks

B Every child deserves a safe park, yet ours is falling apart, and the town must act now

C Parks exist in towns

D This is my essay

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

28 **Diction refers to**

A a writer's choice of words

B sentence length only

C the title of a work

D the plot of a story

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

29 **According to Source I, what is the main idea of the passage?**

A Alden restores an old printing press found in his town

B Alden copies books by hand and then decides to learn printing so stories can reach more people

C Alden becomes a traveler who carries news between cities

D Alden paints pictures to sell in the market town

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

30 **A student plans a research paper with 3 main sections and 2 sources discussed in each section. How many source discussions are planned in total?**

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - Draft Email to a Principal

Use this reading for questions 31 and 35.

hi principal i want a chess club at school lots of kids like chess can we have one thanks sam

The message has a real request, but its tone and form are too casual for a school leader, and it gives no reasons, plan, or offer to help.

31 **According to Source I, what is the main problem with Sam's email?**

- **A** it asks for a chess club
- **B** its tone is too casual and it gives no reasons, plan, or offer to help
- **C** it is too formal
- **D** it is too long

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - The Old House on the Hill

Use this reading for questions 32 and 36.

The house on the hill did not shout. It waited, its windows dark, its porch sagging like a tired mouth. Ivy climbed its walls as if trying to keep it warm. When the wind moved through the empty rooms, the floorboards answered with low, careful creaks.

Visitors called the house haunted, but the narrator calls it lonely. The difference matters: a haunted house threatens, while a lonely house waits for company that no longer comes.

32 **According to Source I, the phrase its porch sagging like a tired mouth is**

- **A** a simile, because it uses like
- **B** a metaphor, because it says the porch is a mouth
- **C** hyperbole, because it exaggerates size
- **D** a fact about mouths

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

33 **According to Source I, why does Alden value his work as a scribe?**

A because it pays more than any other trade in town

B because he enjoys painting market scenes

C because books keep memory alive for later generations

D because the traveler pays him to copy laws

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source I - Water in a Dry Town

Use this reading for question 34.

The town of Red Mesa gets less than ten inches of rain in a typical year. For decades, residents watered lawns as if rain were plentiful, and the town's wells dropped lower each summer. In 2019, the council offered rebates for low water plants, fixed leaks in town pipes, and charged more for very high household use.

Five years later, total household water use had fallen by about one fifth, even though the town had grown. Supporters credit the rebates and the leak repairs. Critics point out that farms outside town still use far more water, and they argue that household savings alone will not secure the town's future supply. Both sides agree on one point: without a long term plan, a dry town cannot keep using water as if it were unlimited.

34 **If a household used 100 litres a day before the changes, about how much would it use after five years?**

- **A** 80 litres
- **B** 90 litres
- **C** 50 litres
- **D** 10 litres

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

35 **According to Source I, which reason would best support a chess club?**

A chess is fun for Sam only

B chess needs no teacher

C chess replaces all sports

D chess builds planning skills and gives students a free after school activity

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

36 **According to Source I, the mood of the passage is best described as**

A cheerful and loud

B comic and silly

C angry and violent

D quiet, lonely, and a little sad

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

37 **Blank verse, used by Milton in Paradise Lost, is**

- **A** rhymed couplets in groups of four
- **B** verse written only for songs
- **C** free verse with no regular meter
- **D** unrhymed iambic pentameter

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

38 **Which is a primary source for a study of a school's history?**

- **A** a new article summarizing the school's past
- **B** the school's original 1960 yearbook
- **C** a modern textbook chapter
- **D** a review of the yearbook

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

39 **Which is a run on sentence?**

A She ran, and he walked.

B She ran to school.

C She ran he walked to school quickly.

D Running to school, she waved.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

40 **Which sentence uses there correctly?**

A Their going to school.

B They're books are on the table.

C There are three books on the table.

D There books are here.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

Source II - A Town Changed by the Mill

Use this reading for question 41.

When the mill opened beside the river, the town changed in a single generation. Cottages that had housed farm workers filled with mill hands, and the lane to the church grew busy at dawn and again at dusk. Wages were steadier than farm pay, but hours were long and the air in the mill was thick with dust.

Some townspeople praised the change. Shops sold more goods, and families could plan beyond the next harvest. Others warned that children worked too long and that the river, once clear, now ran dark after rain. The town council argued for years about rules for hours, safety, and clean water, while the mill bell kept marking the day.

41 **According to Source II, what problem did critics link to the mill?**

- **A** a shortage of shops
- **B** the closing of the lane to the church
- **C** a lack of farm workers in winter only
- **D** dark river water after rain and long hours for children

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

42 **An author who uses loaded words like corrupt and heroic to sway readers is mainly using**

A neutral reporting

B a summary

C a citation

D emotional language to persuade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

43 **A speech has 4 main points and the speaker spends 2 minutes on each point. How many minutes do the main points take in total?**

ANSWER _____

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

44 **Which is a dependent clause?**

A she passed the test

B she studied hard

C because she studied hard

D the test was hard

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

45 **In Macbeth, ambition is best described as**

A a minor detail about soldiers

B a comic subplot

C a central theme that drives Macbeth's choices and downfall

D a type of stage costume

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

46 **A summary should**

- A copy the whole text
- B add new opinions about the topic
- C state the main ideas briefly in the writer's own words
- D quote every sentence

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

47 **A writer who anticipates an objection and answers it is using**

- A a counterargument
- B a summary
- C a quotation
- D a title

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

48 **Which revision uses the most precise diction?**

A He sprinted down the track.

B He went fast.

C He did movement.

D He was speedy-ish.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

49 **Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley, is often studied as an early work of**

A detective fiction

B science fiction, raising questions about creation and responsibility

C travel writing

D historical biography

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

50

In an argument, a counterclaim is

A a claim no one can test

B an opposing view the writer acknowledges and answers

C the same as the thesis

D a quotation without citation

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. 3
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. C
16. D
17. B
18. A
19. C
20. D
21. 14
22. B
23. A
24. C
25. C
26. B
27. B
28. A
29. B
30. 6
31. B
32. A
33. C
34. A
35. D
36. D
37. D
38. B
39. C
40. C
41. D
42. D
43. 8
44. C
45. C
46. C
47. A
48. A
49. B
50. B

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