



[4]

Once in a while, I take a friend with me on my searches. People who know of my fascination will point me to where they think they have seen a ghost sign. Favorite finds include an ad for sliced bread, one for a “modern” motel, and yet another for fountain pen repair services. As fun as it is to have company, my best hunts have been solitude trips. I appreciate the beauty of ghost

27

signs more when I like the signs, am alone.

28

27. A. NO CHANGE
B. solitarily
C. solitaire
D. solo
28. E. NO CHANGE
F. I, like, the signs
G. I, like, the signs
H. I, like the signs,
J. I like, the signs,

Questions 29 and 30 ask about the preceding passage as a whole.

29. For the sake of logic and cohesion, Paragraph 2 should be placed:
- A. where it is now.
B. before Paragraph 1.
C. after Paragraph 3.
D. after Paragraph 4.
30. Suppose the writer's primary purpose had been to describe starting and enjoying a new hobby. Would this essay accomplish that purpose?
- F. Yes, because it presents the event that led to the narrator becoming interested in finding ghost signs and taking photographs of them.
G. Yes, because it describes the narrator's experience of learning from a friend where to find ghost signs and how much fun the search itself can be.
H. No, because it uses negative terms such as *lonely* and *forlorn* to describe the narrator's experience of collecting ghost signs.
J. No, because it instead describes two hobbies—photography and collecting ghost signs—and does not indicate which one gave the narrator more pleasure.

PASSAGE III

Blue Holes of the Bahamas

[1]

The Bahamas, a series of semitropical islands off the southeast coast of the United States, which are home to some of the most unusual geological formations in the world: underwater caves known as blue holes. [A] These

31

31. A. NO CHANGE
B. States, are
C. States are
D. States,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

vertical caves were formed over thousands of years, and their cold depths provide abundant clues to the islands' past.

[2]

³² During the formation process, tiny grains of calcium carbonate separated from the seawater. These

grains ³³ built up, then compacted, forming the limestone that makes up the islands. [B] Over time, rainwater permeated the porous limestone but was trapped just above sea level, ³⁴ buoyed by the denser seawater below. Jostled back and forth by tides, the layer of slightly acidic, brackish water eroded limestone faster than either ³⁵ rainwater—or seawater—could alone. As the

³⁶ limestone eroded caves formed.

[3]

Over time periods in which the weather changed ³⁷ drastically, sea levels rose and fell by hundreds of feet. This allowed the cave-creating process to

be a process that repeated at different depths ³⁸ hundreds of feet apart. The roofs of many caves ³⁸ collapsed, leaving the chambers beneath exposed.

32. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most effectively introduce the topic of this paragraph?

- F. The Bahamas were formed from calcium carbonate, a component of seawater.
- G. Calcium carbonate, a common rock substance, is also found in seawater.
- H. Much of the land making up the Bahamas is still underwater.
- J. Most types of limestone contain calcium carbonate.

33. A. NO CHANGE
B. are building
C. will build
D. build

34. F. NO CHANGE
G. being buoyed because of
H. it being buoyed by
J. buoying it was

35. A. NO CHANGE
B. rainwater, or seawater,
C. rainwater, or seawater
D. rainwater or seawater

36. F. NO CHANGE
G. limestone, eroded caves
H. limestone eroded, caves
J. limestone eroded caves,

37. Which choice most specifically illustrates how long the cave-creating process took?
A. NO CHANGE
B. Between ice ages and the more temperate eras that followed them,
C. During this extended time,
D. As time passed,

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. repeat again and again at various different depths.
H. repeat at different depths that varied.
J. repeat at different depths.



Some of these blue holes open to small contained caves

39

others open to miles-long interconnected tunnels. [40]

[4]

The telltale sign of a blue hole is a circular patch
of water striking darker than the water surrounding

41

them. (The darker water indicates greater depth.)

42

[C] Divers have found the remains of turtles and

alligators. Now extinct on the islands, stalactites and
stalagmites from a time when the caves were above
sea level, and artifacts of early human inhabitants.

[5]

[D] Hundreds of blue holes can be sighted off the
Bahamas. So far, most remain unexplored by divers, owing
in part to the danger of cave diving. Often the only clue to
the mysteries below is the tantalizing sight of dark blue
water leading deep into the sea.

39. A. NO CHANGE

- B. caves that
C. caves;
D. caves,

40. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true sentence:

At 663 feet deep, Dean's Blue Hole in Long Island, Bahamas, is a popular cave-diving destination.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- F. Yes, because it supports the preceding sentence by providing an example of a blue hole that is very deep.
G. Yes, because it allows the reader to visualize a specific blue hole in the Bahamas.
H. No, because it offers a detail that is unrelated to the paragraph's focus on the cave-creating process.
J. No, because it does not provide an adequate description of Dean's Blue Hole.

41. A. NO CHANGE

- B. strikingly darker
C. strikingly darkly
D. striking darkly

42. F. NO CHANGE

- G. these.
H. one.
J. it.

43. A. NO CHANGE

- B. alligators now. Extinct on
C. alligators now extinct on
D. alligators now extinct. On

44. Which choice most effectively suggests the shape of blue holes as described earlier in the essay?

- F. NO CHANGE
G. dot the waters of
H. darken parts of
J. appear in

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. The writer wants to add the following sentence to the essay:

In these depths, fossils and ancient rock formations are incredibly well preserved.

This sentence would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 1.
B. Point B in Paragraph 2.
C. Point C in Paragraph 4.
D. Point D in Paragraph 5.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.