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Wondering if you're ACT ready?

Take this Act-style English test passage to find out more about the format and content of the test!

Directions:

Read the following passages carefully. On the right you will find questions that correspond with the numbers that appear under each section that is underlined. Select the choice which best replaces the underlined portion. If none of them are better than the existing underlined text, select "NO CHANGE." There will also be several content and style questions which correspond to the underlined portions or a section or passage as a whole. Mark the best answer for each question.

[1]

The period from 1214 to 1286 comprised the first pointed work in Scotland. The country was during the time prosperous, and is believed to have been more wealthy than at any time till after the Union with ¹ England. The disputed succession after the death of Alexander III gave Edward I the opportunity of asserting his claims to the Scottish throne, war followed, and with it ² poverty and barbarism.

[2]

"The first note of contest," says Dr. Joseph Robertson, "banished every English priest, monk, and friar from the northern realm. Its termination was followed by the departure of those great Anglo-Norman lords—the flower of the Scottish baronage—who, holding vast possessions in both countries, had so long maintained among the rude Scottish hills the generous example of ³ England wealth and refinement.

1.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. and believed it was
 - C. and was believed having been
 - D. and was believed, to have been
2.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. throne. War followed, and
 - C. throne, followed by war and
 - D. throne. Followed by war and
3. In this passage, what does "rude" most closely mean?
 - A. possessing poor manners
 - B. outspoken
 - C. unrefined
 - D. poorly constructed
4. In paragraph [2], what attitude does Dr. Joseph Robertson express regarding English culture?
 - A. It is secondary in quality to Scottish culture.
 - B. It caused conflict between the English and Scottish.
 - C. It was developed over centuries of cultural shifts and defining events.
 - D. It is the standard by which other cultures should model themselves.
5.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. example of English wealth
 - C. example, of the wealth of England
 - D. exemplifying England wealth

[3]

Then it was that De la Zouche and De Quincy, Ferrars and Talbot, Beaumont and Umfraville, Percy and Wake, Moubray and Fitz-Warine, Balliol and Cumyn, Hastings and De Coursi, ceased to be significant names beyond the Tweed—either perishing in that terrible revolution or withdrawing to their English domains, there to perpetuate in scutcheon and pedigree the memory of their ⁶rightful claims to many of the fairest lordships of Albany, and to much of the reddest blood of the north."

[4]

These were a twofold consequence to ⁷architecture. Comparatively few buildings arose in the north. And these were in a smaller scale. ⁸And England, now becoming a hereditary enemy, no longer supplied models for the churches north of the Tweed, which received the impress of France. In England the First Pointed was succeeded about 1272 by the Middle Pointed or Decorated, which swayed for about a ⁹century, being succeeded by the Third Pointed or Perpendicular, whose reign, beginning about 1377, ended with the Reformation.

6. This underlined portion indicates that:
- A. The nobility no longer held any power in Scotland but still held claim their lands from afar.
 - B. The English lords refused to vacate the Scottish lands.
 - C. The nobility gave up claim to the lands in Scotland when they returned to England.
 - D. The English lords and Scottish people were able to come to an arrangement regarding the lands in Scotland.
- 7.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. These had
 - C. This had
 - D. This conflict did
- 8.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. in the north, and
 - C. in the north; and
 - D. in the north, but
9. The author is considering removing the underlined portion. Should they?
- A. Yes, because it doesn't fit with the description of conflict between England and Scotland.
 - B. No, it should be moved to beginning of paragraph [4] instead of being removed.
 - C. No, because it is important to the understanding of the timeline in paragraph [5].
 - D. Yes, because it is factually inaccurate.

[5]

The Decorated style did not reach Scotland till it had passed away in England, and the Scottish representatives of the style are ¹⁰ scanty in number and late in date. When the country revived after the long struggle with England, and building began towards the close of the fourteenth or the beginning of the fifteenth century, few new works were undertaken, energy and resources were concentrated on the rebuilding or completion of the edifices that had been destroyed or left unfinished. This period, along with the Third Pointed in Scotland, is regarded as the work of native architects.

12

10. In this passage the expression “passed away” most closely means:

- A. gone out of style
- B. died
- C. become illegal
- D. been lost in a war

11. The author is considering adding the following sentence at the beginning of paragraph [5]:

Due to the conflict between England and Scotland, styles changes in England were delayed in their adoption by Sottish architects.

Should they do this?

- A. No, it should be added at the end of paragraph [3].
- B. No, the conflict has not been explained so referencing it would serve only to confuse the reader.
- C. Yes, because it explains more about the conflict between Scotland and England, allowing readers to make their own judgment.
- D. Yes, because it explains why the style was late being adopted in Scotland.

12. What attitude does the author use regarding “native architects”?

- A. disdain
- B. pride
- C. curiosity
- D. indifference

13. Which of the following seems true about this author?
- A. They feel that the conflict between England and Scotland hindered Scotland's progress culturally.
 - B. They regret that English architecture dominated Scottish culture through the 13th century.
 - C. They don't feel the conflict between England and Scotland affected the development of Scottish architecture.
 - D. They support the idea of Scottish independence.

14. Suppose the author's goal was to present the positive and negative effects of the revolution on Scottish architecture to create a balanced view. Was this accomplished?
- A. Yes, because the author presented unbiased source material to make their argument.
 - B. Yes, because there was not enough positive or negative information to make it biased either way, only objective facts.
 - C. No, because the author used a quote from a clearly pro-English contemporary to support their argument.
 - D. No, because the author did not present a historical context for the argument.

15. Which one of the following would be the best title for this passage?
- A. "The Effect of Conflict on Scottish Architecture"
 - B. "English Nobles and Their Influence on Scottish Culture"
 - C. "Scottish Architecture: A Comprehensive History"
 - D. "English Influence on 13th Century Scottish Architecture"