It has been suggested that true happiness lies in liking those things we approve of and approving of the things we like. Most people spend a great deal of time and energy trying to harmonize the two, often without much success. Such attempts may be about something minor, such as eliminating a bad habit or cultivating a good one, or about something more important, such as choice of major, career, or mate. Some people, for example, struggle to give up smoking; they like to smoke but don't approve of smoking because it is dangerous to their health. Others become computer science majors, aiming for a successful career, but find they really don't like working with computers. Write a clear and fully-developed essay giving an example or examples, which demonstrate what this statement means:

"True happiness lies in liking those things we approve of and approving of those things we like."

Your example(s) may be taken from your personal experiences or drawn from situations you have heard or read about. You should:

1. Describe your experience(s) or example(s) with specific details.
2. Explain why or how your example(s) or experience(s) show what the statement means.
WRITING SKILLS TEST SAMPLE PASSAGES

DIRECTIONS: In the passages that follow certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered; in the right-hand column are alternatives for each underlined part. Choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE."

There are also questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number in a box.

For each question, choose the best alternative and blacken the corresponding oval on your answer sheet. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. You cannot determine most answers without reading several sentences beyond the question. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead before you choose an alternative.

Passage I

How might laser optics technology be used to store 800 pages of medical information on a wallet-sized card? Four men in their early to mid-twenties called their answer the "LifeCard" and sold their idea to a Maryland health insurance company in 1985. The LifeCard deal provided them with millions of dollars and a national reputation. And since then Eric and Douglas Becker, Chris Hoehn-Saric, and Steven Taslitz, collectively as a group known as the Sterling Group, have applied their precocious entrepreneurial spirit to the world of corporate acquisitions. Within two years after the success of the LifeCard, the Sterling Group had raised $50 million. With that money, they bought a computer-training company and five radio stations and researched deals in a half dozen other directions, which are food distribution, to video production; to bus-stop advertising. The Sterling Group's specialty was not in any one field, but in their approach. Instead of waiting for deals to come their way, they tried to create their own opportunities, buying from people who had a reason to sell. For example, the LifeCard was their first profitable venture. After hooking up with a long time radio executive who knew the business, Sterling developed the following strategy.

1. A. NO CHANGE
   B. altogether
   C. as a whole
   D. in a body
   E. OMIT the underlined portion

2. F. NO CHANGE
   G. that is
   H. from
   J. as
   K. to

3. A. NO CHANGE
   B. distribution; to video production;
   C. distribution; to video production
   D. distribution to video production:
   E. distribution to video production,

4. F. NO CHANGE
   G. instead of
   H. however
   J. and even
   K. and so

5. Which of the following sentences most effectively introduces the illustrative example of how the Sterling Group created their own opportunities?
   A. NO CHANGE
   B. For Example, take their purchase of five southern radio stations.
   C. Bus-stop advertising proved to be one of their most profitable surprises.
   D. Take their lack of experience in food distribution.
   E. Picture these four young men convincing the Maryland health insurance company to buy their idea.
Someone wanting to buy radio stations, they would look for a certain type of seller, but who already owned as many as the law allowed, they would look for a certain type of seller.

For their efforts, the Sterling Group got a most profitable deal than they would have by just answering an advertisement and would have competed with others for the sale.

It is this sort of venture strategy that has made the Sterling Group a hot name in business acquisitions. It has also led one prominent corporate lawyer to forespeak that these four young men, all of them American citizens, could soon end up on Forbes magazine's list of the 400 richest people in America.
Recently in an article, a well-known writer identifies five kinds of "values which men prize." The writer is employing the "men" here in the conventional idiom in the word is meant to refer to both males and females and not to suggest that women do not prize, or are not capable of prizing the same values that men prize. While the avoidance of sex bias has for many years been a concern of conscientious and careful writers, it is still not always easy to stay clear of the various gender traps that language can spring upon even the most accomplished writers.

Such terms as "businessman" are a bit more cumbersome to free from gender bias. Rather than "man" or "mankind," there is a number of perfectly simple gender-neutral substitutes one can use, such as "humans," "people," or "society."

The term "businessperson" is somewhat awkward. But in most instances one can use a more specific reference, such as "executive," "manager," or "retailer." Other gender-neutral substitutes included "firefighter" for "fireman," "police officer" for "policeman," and "letter carrier" for "mailman."

13. A. NO CHANGE
   B. In recent times an article,
   C. Recently an article,
   D. In a recent article,
   E. An article recently,

14. F. NO CHANGE
   G. which
   H. whereby
   J. and
   K. therefore

15. For the sake of unity and coherence, the previous sentence should be placed:
   A. where it is now.
   B. at the beginning of Paragraph 1.
   C. at the beginning of Paragraph 3.
   D. at the end of Paragraph 3.
   E. at the beginning of Paragraph 5.

16. F. NO CHANGE
   G. are
   H. was
   J. were
   K. OMIT the underlined portion

17. A. NO CHANGE
   B. use: such
   C. use. Such
   D. use, and such
   E. use

18. F. NO CHANGE
   G. includes
   H. include
   J. were to included
   K. will include
As with the generic use of "man," the masculine pronoun has been considered acceptable to refer to individuals of either sex, historically as in "Each student should bring his own lunch." Now many people is objecting to this usage. One solution is to use "his or her" instead of just "his" in such situations. This could have, however, become awkward when several pronoun references are necessary. A better solution is to recast such sentences so that the subject - and all attendant pronouns - becomes plural: “Students should bring their own lunches.”

Students should also be sensitive in their writing to the potential biases that the language holds.

19. Which of the following sentences should be added at this point to provide the best transition between the discussion of gender-neutral nouns and pronouns?
   A. Another thing that I like about this change is how quickly people adapt.
   B. A more difficult problem is coping with the lack, in English, of a gender-neutral third-person singular pronoun.
   C. But if you ask people to use "his or her," they will become confused.
   D. A more challenging problem is that of spelling for Americans.
   E. We must work for these important changes.

20. F. NO CHANGE
   G. (Place before the generic)
   H. (Place before been)
   J. (Place before refer)
   K. (Place before should)

21. A. NO CHANGE
   B. But many people now object to this usage.
   C. Now many people objected on this usage.
   D. To this usage many people object.
   E. But this usage is objected by many people.

22. F. NO CHANGE
   G. could of,
   H. can have,
   J. can,
   K. is,

23. A. NO CHANGE
   B. becoming
   C. became
   D. were to become
   E. have become

24. Suppose the writer had been assigned to write a brief essay describing a personal experience. Would this essay fulfill the assignment?
   F. No, because the essay's primary concern is not a personal experience.
   G. No, because the essay is too lighthearted.
   H. No, because the essay discusses men versus women but not how the writer has been affected.
   J. Yes, because the writer has obviously learned new vocabulary.
   K. Yes, because the writer is now aware of language problem