

SAT Writing and Language Sample Paper 7

Park Rangers, Naturally

Of the many parks that are part of the American heritage, the National Park Service (NPS) is easily the most majestic. From the moment of the first European settlements in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, visitors and residents alike have marveled at the natural beauty and diversity of the American landscape's attractiveness. As part of a commitment to preserving these national treasures against the forward movement of industrialization, the National Park Service was founded in 1916 during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

Today, there are over 400 parks in the service, and these parks are run and overseen by the Department of the Interior. The day-to-day operations, including maintenance and tours, are the work of park rangers. These park rangers are responsible for the upkeep of the parks, their main responsibility is to maintain the balance between the wildlife and plant species and the human visitors that come to the parks every day.

Without park rangers, the parks would be overrun with pollution. Some are scientists who revel in the ecological aspects of maintaining the parks. Some are educators helping visitors to understand the unique aspects and historical significance of the parks. Still others come from law enforcement and firefighting, given that their posts are often very far indeed from the municipal bodies that typically provide them.

There are nearly 4,000 park rangers in service with the NPS today. Visitors are on the rise, poising that number for growth. Although park visitation numbers peaked in 1987, the general trend has been a steady rise. The numbers continue to be high, with over 270 million visitors in 2013. It seems that as economic conditions in the country as uncertain, more and more people turn to parks for economical, educational, and enlightening alternatives to the more costly tourist activities and trips. Now, too, that climate science has foretold difficult times, the NPS is seen to be protecting the last vestiges of our green world before it slips away.

The park-ranger workforce is so diverse, there are actually a few common attributes among park rangers. Park rangers need at least a two-year degree and some experience working in parks. Many seasonal park workers and volunteers go on to become park rangers. Ultimately, attaining work as a park ranger is less about a skill-set than a particular mindset. Park rangers must honor and revere the natural world: they spend their entire careers learning about and living in the places they work. Park rangers have special jobs, so it naturally takes a group of special people to do those jobs.

1. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

A. Service, NPS,

- B. Service NPS
 - C. Service—NPS—
 - D. Service, abbreviated NPS,
- 2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the pulchritudinous American landscape.
- C. the pretty American landscape.
- D. the American landscape.

3. The writer wants to include a detail that will clarify the phrase "day-to-day operations." Which of the following would best fulfill this goal?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. and some that are more long-term,
- C. often repetitive tasks,
- D. not the political decisionmaking,

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. parks their
- C. parks—their
- D. parks, their—

5. Which of the following would best introduce the topic of this paragraph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Park rangers can come from all walks of life.
- C. Many millions visit the National Parks every year.
- D. The most successful park rangers usually have some background in ecology.

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. that are helping
- C. who are helping
- D. who help

7.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. these services.
- C. those.
- D. it.

8.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Visitation numbers are poised on the rise for significant growth.

- C. That number is poised to grow, as visitation numbers are on the rise.
- D. Poised on the rise, visitation numbers are growing.

9. Which of the following gives accurate information based on the graph?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Park visitation peaked in the mid-1980s and has tapered off since then.
- C. Park visitation reached record highs in 2009.
- D. Park visitation has risen in a linear progression since the late 1970s.

10. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?

- A. predicted
- B. stated
- C. anticipated
- D. forecast

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Truly, the park-ranger
- C. Because the park-ranger
- D. Although the park-ranger

Question	Correct Answer
1	B
2	D
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	D
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	B
11	D