

SAT Writing and Language Sample Paper 5

Alexander's Empire of Culture

Alexander the Great is a name known to all, but not all know the extent of Alexander's accomplishments. Now that the study of the "classics" (mainly Roman and Greek civilizations) 1 has disappeared both from high-school and college curricula, Alexander the Great's legend is not on the tongue of every schoolboy, though his accomplishments have not 2 diminished for all that.

Alexander was born in Pella, Macedonia, in 356 BCE. His father, King Philip II, a strong military king 3 in his own write, believed that his son was born part man and part god. Alexander came to cultivate the image himself, bolstered by his keen intellect and learning, quickened in part by his tutor, the great Greek philosopher Aristotle. Pella was at that time a backwater of Greek culture, and 4 his arrival announced a new era of what historians would later call "enlightened monarchy," 5 even though that term is used much more to describe monarchies in the eighteenth century.

Still, the age was not entirely new. Alexander spent nearly all his time abroad, first uniting the Greek kingdom that threatened to fall apart at Philip's death, then moving on to broader military conquests. 6 Alexander had conquered an incredible amount of land by the time of his death in 323 BCE, 7 as his empire stretched from Greece to modern-day India, some two million square miles. When his armies conquered Persia (now Iran and Iraq) once and for all, he took on the title by which he is still known today: King of Babylon, King of Asia, King of the Four Quarters of the World.

Alexander's historical importance is not merely one of military might, however. 8 He moved to these different parts of the world, he brought Greek culture with him, and his reign marks 9 an unprecedented instance of contact between the ancient East and West. Over twenty cities throughout the empire bear his name. Alexandria, Egypt, perhaps the most famous of these cities, continues to 10 thrive. It is the second-largest city in the modern nation of Egypt.

Perhaps history is the wrong place to understand the accomplishments of Alexander the Great. Epic poetry seems more suitable. After all, Alexander's great teacher Aristotle showed him Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, and it seems that Alexander himself understood his life as a shuttling back and forth between man and god, the individual and the world, 11 and the natural and the unnatural.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. disappeared from both
- C. disappeared both
- D. from both disappeared

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. ameliorated
- C. gone down
- D. subsided

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. in his own right,
- C. in his own rite,
- D. by his own rite,

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Aristotle's
- C. their
- D. the

5. Which of the following true statements would best conclude the paragraph by emphasizing the change that Alexander's rule brought to Macedonia?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. although those who suffered defeat at Alexander's hands might not have seen it that way.
- C. suggesting a style for the reigns of both Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte.
- D. underlining further that Philip's former militaristic state was entering a new age.

6. The author wants to insert an introductory phrase or clause at the beginning of this sentence that will emphasize the continuity Alexander's reign had with the previous one. Which of the following choices would most effectively give this emphasis?

- A. In what must have been truly exhausting,
- B. With great ambition,
- C. As his father had before him,
- D. Just as historians have noted,

7. Which of the following choices gives information consistent with the map shown below?

Extent of the empire of Alexander the Great

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. while he traveled on foot throughout most of modern-day Europe,
- C. because he circled the entire Mediterranean Sea and much of the Indian Ocean,
- D. as he conquered all of Italy hundreds of years before Caesar had done so,

8.

A. NO CHANGE

B. As he

C. Although he

D. Moreover, he

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

A. an unparalleled

B. a pioneering

C. an ahistorical

D. a never before seen

10. Which of the following is the most effective way to combine these two sentences?

A. thrive; it is

B. thrive, is

C. thrive. It's

D. thrive and is

11.

A. NO CHANGE

B. versus

C. from

D. but

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