

Part 4: Urban League Deerfield HS Last Day Assessment (from March 2020)

Writing and Language Test

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage, or punctuation. A passage or a question may be accompanied by one or more graphics (such as a table or graph) that you will consider as you make revising and editing decisions.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English. Many questions include a "NO CHANGE" option. Choose that option if you think the best choice is to leave the relevant portion of the passage as it is.

Questions 1-11 are based on the following passage.

The Pioneers of the Great Exodus

At the end of the Reconstruction era that followed the American Civil War, tens of thousands of black former slaves left the southern United States ³¹ for finding social and economic opportunity in the western states and territories. The movement was known as the Great Exodus, and ³² their participants came to be

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- A) NO CHANGE
 B) in search of
 C) with a look for
 D) to the discovery of

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- A) NO CHANGE
 B) his or her
 C) its
 D) one's

called exodusters. ³³ During this time, travel from one part of the country to another took days or even weeks, and the dangers wild animals posed were not to be underestimated.

The most popular destination was Kansas, in part because of its role as an early stronghold of the movement to abolish slavery. One settlement in that state was Nicodemus, a town in northwestern Kansas that drew more than 300 settlers to make the long journey from Kentucky in 1877. ³⁴ Real estate agents ³⁵ mentioned Nicodemus in brochures and newspapers, but the reality that exodusters confronted on arrival was less appealing. For one early settler of Nicodemus, Willianna Hickman, the flat, empty landscape contrasted starkly with the forested hills where she grew up—Hickman recalled bursting into tears when she first saw her new home.

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Which choice provides the most appropriate context for the discussion that follows in the passage?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Settlers from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri were part of the Great Exodus.
- C) The Great Exodus has parallels to large-scale migrations that occurred in the United States during the twentieth century.
- D) Drawn by the promise of farming on their own land rather than sharecropping for a landlord, exodusters founded dozens of communities in the West in the 1870s and 1880s.

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

Between 1870 and 1879, approximately 10,000 exodusters entered Kansas.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it sheds light on an aspect of the settlers' backgrounds.
- B) Yes, because it provides a historical context for the discussion of the Great Exodus.
- C) No, because it contradicts information in the previous paragraph.
- D) No, because it digresses from the discussion of the settlement of Nicodemus.

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Which choice most effectively sets up the information that follows in the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) wrote songs and slogans to attract settlers,
- C) advertised the location and characteristics of Nicodemus,
- D) promised plentiful harvests and abundant wildlife,

Some exodusters returned to the familiar ³⁶ expanse of their home ³⁷ states; but others— including Hickman and her husband, Daniel, decided to stay in their new farming villages. These farmers faced many difficulties. In Nicodemus, the lack of trees for home construction or fuel forced settlers to build houses out of sod and burn materials such as sunflowers for heat. Possessing less wealth than settlers from Europe or other parts of the United States, ³⁸ horses or farm implements could not be afforded by many exodusters, who had to do agricultural work with inadequate hand tools. In the first years, many could not raise enough crops to sustain themselves and had to seek aid from neighbors or state governments.

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- A) NO CHANGE
- B) terrain
- C) spread
- D) locale

37

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) states—but others
- C) states; but, others
- D) states, but others,

38

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) affording horses or farm implements was impossible for many exodusters, who
- C) many exodusters could not afford horses or farm implements and
- D) the lack of affordability of horses or farm implements meant many exodusters

The prosperity of exoduster settlements depended on the yields of their farms. ³⁹ Eventually, harvests in Nicodemus grew, which allowed residents to purchase lumber for their houses and attracted ⁴⁰ banks, grocery stores, and other businesses. But the challenges of small-scale farming, exacerbated and made worse by economic volatility, slowed the Great Exodus. By the twentieth century, Nicodemus had stopped growing, with many businesses moving away, and other exoduster communities had disappeared altogether. As settlers left the region, Nicodemus became the only original exoduster town to endure to the present day. It remains, in the words of a 1996 congressional bill establishing it as a National Historic Site, “symbolic of the pioneer spirit of African Americans who dared to leave the only region they had been familiar with to seek personal freedom and the opportunity to develop their talents and capabilities.”

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- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Still,
- C) Rather,
- D) Next,

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- A) NO CHANGE
- B) banks, grocery, stores
- C) banks; grocery stores,
- D) banks; grocery stores