**A. Practice Grammar Questions**

1. The nice young man that bought my house will begin graduate school at the

A B C

University of Oregon in the fall. No error.

D E

1. The 3-year-old boy from Dayton, Ohio, received only minor injuries after falling from

A B C

a third floor hotel balcony. No error.

D E

1. Neither the dog nor her puppies is going to eat the food we left for them. No error.

A B C D E

1. The coach said this year’s Super Bowl was boring, because his favorite team did not

A B C D

play. No error.

E

1. More than 200 county residents protested the tax hike and local politicians responded

A B C

by postponing the vote until Tuesday. No error.

D E

1. "It's so cold in here that I can't concentrate", the student said while taking the history

A B C D

exam. No error.

E

1. Her oldest son, Matthew Jackson, was hired last year by General Motors to serve as

A B C

general assistant to the president. No error.

D E

1. The organization’s secretary said that 50 percent of the members was present at

A B C

yesterday’s meeting. No error.

D E

1. The college student said that his first car, which has 120,000 miles on it has been

A B C D

very reliable. No error.

E

1. My mother, who’s been sick for weeks, lay on the couch for two hours prior to

A B C

taking a shower this morning. No error.

D E

1. After three years of minuscule pay raises all state employees were given a one-time

A B C

bonus of $1,000. No error.

D E

1. The man, along with his dog, were found unharmed in the dense woods near the

A B C D

highway. No error.

E

1. The anti-American sentiment is making it difficult for journalists to work in many

A B C D

foreign countries. No error.

E

1. Before taking her children to school each day, the young mother tried to give each

A B C

one of them a hot breakfast. No error.

D E

1. The model wanted to lie in the sun to get a tan, before her big photo shoot

A B C

on Tuesday afternoon. No error.

D E

1. Chancellor Mary Watkins, whose been in office for almost five years, was

A B C

recognized for outstanding leadership by her peers. No error.

D E

1. He bought her a dozen roses, after she complained that he was not being attentive.

A B C D

No error.

E

1. My younger sister gave her candy to her only child, who will be 3-years-old on

A B C D

Friday. No error.

E

1. After 24 years of working for a federal judge, my mother finally retired and sold her

A B C

beautiful, old house. No error.

D E

1. A student’s grade in a physical education class will not effect his overall grade point

A B C D

average. No error.

E

1. A hundred years from now, parents will still be shaking their heads at their

A B C

children’s taste in music. No error.

1. The committee will present their report after Mayor Cameron Wilson finishes his

A B C D

anD nouncements. No erroE r.

E

1. The angry student yelled at Hudson Smith and I after class ended more than two

A B C D

hours late. No error.

E

1. My brother John gave me one of those pens that writes under water.

A B C D

No error.

E

1. Jason McKinney, a graduate student in political science, would discuss his views

A B C

with whomever would listen. No error.

D E

**B. Practice Essay**

**Does Music Interfere with Reading Comprehension?**

The majority of people like to listen to music on a daily basis. Some people, such as college students, even listen to music while studying for an important exam. Music can help people study but it could be affecting a person’s reading comprehension and they may not be truly learning the material that they need to know. There have been many studies that have been conducted in order to test the effect music has on test performance and studying behavior and whether or not if music has an effect on one’s ability to comprehend the material. One study was looking at neuroticism and cognitive test performance with music playing in the background. They found that participant’s performance was not affected by the music (Reynolds, McClelland, & Furnham, 2014).

Music has been shown to interfere with people’s abilities to do tasks as well. One study found that tasks that involved creativity, higher cognitive processing, and planning were disrupted by the music playing compared to tasks that are over-learned or automatic (Hallam, S& Godwin, 2014). Our study involves both a higher cognitive processing ability but also something that is over-learned. From a young age, people are taught to read material and expect to answer some questions about it. Lastly, another study found that when listening to music that a participant preferred to listen to, it had a negative impact on their reading comprehension performance (Perham, & Currie, 2014). Our study played music that was over-played on the radio, but some of the participants could have either not liked it or have not even heard of it before so it may not have an effect on them while taking their test.

In this study, we presented a group of college students with reading material and they had to answer five questions about the reading materials without going back over the reading material. The students were randomly assigned to either one of the two conditions: group one read the material and answered the following questions with no music playing, while group two were listening to popular pop songs while reading and answering the questions. Our hypothesis is that if music negatively affects testing performances, people who listen to no music while taking a test will perform significantly higher than people who listen to music while taking a test. We predict that the results will show that individuals who were in a quiet environment will have a significantly higher amount of correct answers than individuals who were listening to music while taking a test. If we find that people who listened to no music scored better, this will support our hypothesis and suggest that people are able to comprehend more information with no music playing. This could help people study better if they know that music can help them retain information better than without any music. Otherwise, if the results show that there was no difference between the two groups, then it would not support our hypothesis.