

SAMPLE 2

Humanities Passage

Dong Kingman: Painter of Cities

A 1954 documentary about renowned watercolor painter Dong Kingman shows the artist sitting on a stool on Mott Street in New York City's Chinatown. A crowd of admiring spectators **12** watched as Kingman squeezes dollops of paint from several tubes into a tin watercolor **13** box, from just a few primary colors, Kingman creates dozens of beautiful hues as he layers the translucent paint onto the paper on his easel. Each stroke of the brush and dab of the sponge transforms thinly sketched outlines into buildings, shop signs, and streetlamps. The street scene Kingman begins composing in this short film is very much in keeping with the urban landscapes for which he is best known.

12

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) had watched
- C) would watch
- D) watches

13

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) box. From just a few primary colors,
- C) box from just a few primary colors,
- D) box, from just a few primary colors

[1] Kingman was keenly interested in landscape painting from an early age. [2] In Hong Kong, where Kingman completed his schooling, teachers at that time customarily assigned students a formal “school name.” [3] His interest was so keen, in fact, that he was named after it. [4] The young boy who had been Dong Moy Shu became Dong Kingman. [5] The name Kingman was selected for its two **14** parts, “king” and “man”; Cantonese for “scenery” and “composition.” [6] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to **15** paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. [7] Kingman, however, **16** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. **17**

14

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) parts: “king” and “man,”
- C) parts “king” and “man”;
- D) parts; “king” and “man”

15

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Chinese landscape artists
- C) painters of Chinese landscapes
- D) artists

16

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) evacuated
- C) departed
- D) retired

17

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 3 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) after sentence 1.
- D) after sentence 4.

18 His fine brushwork conveys detailed street-level activity: a peanut vendor pushing his cart on the sidewalk, a pigeon pecking for crumbs around a fire

19 hydrant, an old man tending to a baby outside a doorway. His broader brush strokes and sponge-painted shapes create majestic city skylines, with skyscrapers towering in the background, bridges connecting neighborhoods on either side of a river, and 20 delicately painted creatures, such as a tiny, barely visible cat prowling in the bushes of a park. To art critics and fans alike, these city scenes represent the innovative spirit of twentieth-century urban Modernism.

18

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A) Kingman is considered a pioneer of the California Style school of painting.
- B) Although cities were his main subject, Kingman did occasionally paint natural landscapes.
- C) In his urban landscapes, Kingman captures the vibrancy of crowded cities.
- D) In 1929 Kingman moved to Oakland, California, where he attended the Fox Art School.

19

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hydrant –
- C) hydrant:
- D) hydrant

20

The writer wants to complete the sentence with a third example of a detail Kingman uses to create his majestic city skylines. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) exquisitely lettered street and storefront signs.
- C) other details that help define Kingman's urban landscapes.
- D) enormous ships docking at busy urban ports.

During his career, Kingman exhibited his work 21 internationally. He garnered much acclaim. In 1936, a critic described one of Kingman’s solo exhibits as “twenty of the freshest, most satisfying watercolors that have been seen hereabouts in many a day.”

20

21

Which choice most effectively combines the sentences at the underlined portion?

- A) internationally, and Kingman also garnered
- B) internationally; from exhibiting, he garnered
- C) internationally but garnered
- D) internationally, garnering

22

The writer wants to conclude the passage with a sentence that emphasizes an enduring legacy of Kingman’s work. Which choice would best accomplish this goal?

- A) Although Kingman’s work might not be as famous as that of some other watercolor painters, such as Georgia O’Keefe and Edward Hopper, it is well regarded by many people.
- B) Since Kingman’s death in 2000, museums across the United States and in China have continued to ensure that his now-iconic landscapes remain available for the public to enjoy.
- C) The urban landscapes depicted in Kingman’s body of work are a testament to aptness of the name chosen for Kingman when he was just a boy.
- D) Kingman’s work was but one example of a long-lasting tradition refreshed by an innovative artist with a new perspective.

Answers:

12) D

13) B

14) B

15) A

16) C

17) C

18) C

19) A

20) D

21) D

22) B

For a detailed explanation of each question in this passage, see pp. 165 – 172 of *The Official SAT Study Guide*.