

Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Building from the Carpet Up

1 Anna Bissell was tired of sweeping. Day after day, shipments of porcelain dishware would arrive at Anna and her husband Melville's crockery shop in Grand Rapids, Michigan, each item packed tightly in sawdust. It seemed that no matter how carefully Anna unpacked the dishware, sawdust would inevitably spill onto the carpet, and during the hustle and bustle of the workday, the fine wood particles would work their way deep into the 2 carpets fiber's. The year was 1876, and the electric vacuum cleaner was the stuff of fantasy—Anna's shop was illuminated by candlelight, and her carpets were swept clean with a wooden broom.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Anna Bissell was tired of working with her husband.
- C) Anna Bissell worked in a shop.
- D) Anna Bissell was having trouble seeing by candlelight.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) carpets' fiber's.
- C) carpet's fibers.
- D) carpet fibers'.

Melville thought he had solved his wife's problem when he purchased a carpet sweeper. This mechanical device was somewhat of an improvement over **3** Anna; it used wheels to turn a brush that dug into the fibers of the carpet, driving **4** dirt and dust upward. But Melville soon realized that the device could be improved upon. In a room above the crockery shop, he dreamed up a better carpet sweeper. Melville's sweeper used an improved gear train to drive a soft brush. Its springy bristles bent slightly as they dug into the carpet fibers, flicking debris up into the sweeper's receptacle. **5**

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Anna's problem;
- C) the prior one;
- D) Anna's wooden broom;

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) dirt and dust in an upward direction above.
- C) dirt and dust upward by the power of the brush turned by wheels.
- D) and upwardly propelling dirt and dust above.

5

At this point, the writer wants to add the following sentence.

By the 1920s and 1930s, carpet cleaning had declined in popularity because most people had hardwood floors. Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it provides important context to the passage.
- B) Yes, because it foreshadows the problems the Bissells faced in their business.
- C) No, because this information should be introduced later in the passage.
- D) No, because it detracts from the story of the Bissells' success.

The entrepreneurial couple quickly realized the potential held by Melville's improved carpet sweeper. True business partners in every sense of the word, **6** the work the couple did together turned his invention into a business. Melville oversaw a small team of workers who assembled his carpet sweepers, while Anna acted as salesperson, **7** persuading stores to carry the Bissell carpet sweeper.

By the late 1880's, the Bissells presided over a carpet sweeping empire. Tragedy struck unexpectedly, **8** in addition, when Melville **9** yielded to pneumonia in 1889. Anna channeled her grief into hard work. In a time when women in America still lacked the right to vote **10** and when the participation of women in the workplace held steady at 15 percent, Anna turned her nose up at society's expectations and took over as CEO of the Bissell corporation.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) his invention turned into a business due to the work they did together.
- C) the couple worked together to turn his invention into a business.
- D) a business was created based on the couple working together on his invention.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) yet persuaded
- C) persuade
- D) and to persuade

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) however,
- C) consequently,
- D) moreover,

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) caved
- C) deferred
- D) succumbed

10

The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion (adjusting punctuation as needed). Should the underlined portion be kept or deleted?

- A) Kept, because it adds a relevant contextual detail to the passage.
- B) Kept, because it supports the writer's claim about a growing workforce.
- C) Deleted, because it distracts from the main message of the paragraph.
- D) Deleted, because it unnecessarily repeats a point that has already been made.

During her thirty-year tenure as CEO, Anna continued to turn tradition on its head, introducing progressive labor practices such as workmen's compensation and pension plans. Anna's kindhearted policies earned the loyalty of her workers and helped the Bissell Corporation to become the largest carpet-cleaning corporation in the world. Upon Bissell's death, a newspaper obituary **11** memorialized her as, "a business executive without peer, a respected and beloved philanthropist, and a true matriarch in her family."

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) memorialized her, as
- C) memorialized, her as
- D) memorialized her as

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