

## Passage IV

### Vatican City's Wonders

Surrounded by the ancient city of

Rome, Vatican City is an independent nation

on the west bank of the Tiber River. This tiny

country—about one-sixth of a square mile in all—is

also home to a disproportionately large number of

sites with great historical, artistic, and which have

religious significance. [4]

The Vatican Museums house a great many valuable

paintings, sculptures, pieces of jewelry, and tapestries,

as well as the world's most extensive collections of

ancient manuscripts. Scholars often probe the museums'

archives of early written works for insights into lives

led long ago.

Accordingly, St. Peter's Basilica, the largest

cathedral in the Northern Hemisphere, is remarkable.

Built upon second-century foundations, St. Peter's

features a dome designed by the artist and architect

Michelangelo. [10] Intricate mosaics—enormous

“paintings” fashioned from millions of tiny cut stones

of various colors—lining each of the basilica's several

smaller domes. [12] The marble floor, with its intricate

designs, covers the cathedral's catacombs, where

popes are buried. Sculptures by Michelangelo and

Bernini, including Michelangelo's poignant *Pietà*,

contributes to the basilica's beauty.

However, to many, the most spectacular part of

Vatican City is the Sistine Chapel. This vast chapel

1. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best supports the sentence's claim about Vatican City's status as an independent nation?

A. NO CHANGE

B. with an interesting past.

C. with its own government, banking system, postal service, and army.

D. that has to import most of its supplies, even such necessities as food and water.

2. F. NO CHANGE

G. approximately about one-sixth of a square mile, all told—

H. a grand total sum of about one-sixth of a square mile—

J. a total of about one-sixth of a square mile when added together

3. A. NO CHANGE

B. having

C. as well as

D. OMIT the underlined portion.

4. If the writer were to delete the words *tiny* and *disproportionately* from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose:

F. elements of the setting of the essay.

G. a contrast emphasizing the unusual number of sites.

H. details that stress how important the sites are.

J. a comparison between Vatican City and Rome.

5. Given that all of the choices are true, which one best emphasizes the extent and worth of the museums' holdings?

A. NO CHANGE

B. thousands of invaluable

C. numerous important

D. a group of precious

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

F. in addition to

G. besides

H. also there is

J. and also

7. A. NO CHANGE

B. grab an eyeful of

C. check out

D. pry

8. F. NO CHANGE

G. Indeed,

H. For instance,

J. OMIT the underlined portion.

displays what many consider some of the most

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important works of Renaissance art: Michelangelo's awe-inspiring frescoes. These frescoes—paintings made on freshly spread, still-moist plaster—capture the attention of viewers with a complex array of religious images. One of his most famous frescoes, *The Last Judgment*, is painted on the west wall. A series of interrelated frescoes covers the vaulted ceiling.

Despite its small size, Vatican City offers its many visitors a chance to see a wide range of historical and artistic wonders. It is easy to understand why the city has become one of the most frequently visited places in the world.

9. **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** foundations,

**C.** foundations:

**D.** foundations;

10. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

In addition to being an architect and artist, Michelangelo wrote poetry, including more than 300 sonnets.

Should the writer make this addition here?

**F.** Yes, because it provides further details about Michelangelo, who designed the dome at St. Peter's.

**G.** Yes, because it reinforces the paragraph's implication that Michelangelo was extremely talented.

**H.** No, because it distracts attention from the paragraph's focus, which is on the architecture and visual art of St. Peter's.

**J.** No, because it adds more information about Michelangelo, who made only small contributions to Vatican City's art and architecture.

11. **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** that line

**C.** line

**D.** lines

12. If the writer were to delete the quotation marks around the word *paintings* in the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose a feature that suggests:

**F.** that mosaics are not paintings in the usual sense of the word.

**G.** how large and complicated the mosaics in St. Peter's actually are.

**H.** how carefully mosaics are put together.

**J.** that the mosaics in St. Peter's are not typical of mosaics in general.

13. **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** does contribute

**C.** has contributed

**D.** contribute

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

**F.** Yet,

**G.** Therefore,

**H.** Still,

**J.** Nonetheless,

15. **A.** NO CHANGE

**B.** consider some,

**C.** consider, some,

**D.** consider, some

ANSWERS:

1. C – supports idea that Vatican City is an independent nation
2. F -
3. D - provides parallel structure in the series of adjectives
4. G
5. B – thousands emphasizes the extent of the collection and invaluable emphasizes worth
6. H – unacceptable because it would create a run-on sentence and awkward structure
7. A
8. J-no transitional word is needed because the paragraph focuses on a new topic
9. B – need a comma to separate the introductory clause from the main clause
- 10.H
- 11.C – creates a complete sentence with subject/verb agreement
- 12.F
- 13.D – creates subject-verb agreement
- 14.G - unacceptable because it incorrectly suggests a cause-effect relationship between the information in this sentence and the information in the last sentence of the preceding paragraph.
- 15.A

Maybe have students summarize what they read, too, to check for comprehension of this non-fiction passage.