

EXERCISE 46: Sentences—Comparatives

In some sentences in the Structure Section on the Paper-Based TOEFL, you will be asked to identify the correct comparative. A comparative can be a word or phrase that expresses similarity or difference. A comparative can also be a word ending like *-er* or *-est* that expresses a degree of comparison with adjectives and adverbs. Choose the correct answer in the incomplete sentences. Choose the incorrect word or phrase in the underlined choices.

- Tuition at an American university runs _____ twenty thousand dollars a semester.
 (A) so high as
 (B) as high to
 (C) as high as
 (D) as high than
- Alligators are about the same color than crocodiles, although the adults may be slightly darker with broader heads and blunter noses.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- Laser discs provide images of best quality than those of either television signals or video tapes.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- The cost of a thirty-second commercial on a network television station is _____ for most businesses.
 (A) so much
 (B) much
 (C) very much
 (D) much too much
- The New York City subway system is the most longest underground railroad operating in the world.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- School children in the same grade in American schools are usually the same old as their classmates.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- The seed heads of teasel plants raise the nap on coarse tweed cloth _____ than do the machine tools invented to replace them.
 (A) more efficiently
 (B) efficiently
 (C) more efficient
 (D) most efficient
- Benjamin Franklin was the editor of the larger newspaper in the colonies, a diplomatic representative to France and later to England, and the inventor of many useful devices.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- The standard for cleanliness in the area where a microchip is manufactured is same that of an operating room in a hospital.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- The North American robin is only _____ the European and African robins.
 (A) half big
 (B) as big half
 (C) half as big as
 (D) big by half
- Mountain bikes differ ordinary bicycles in that they have ten or more gears, a more rugged frame, and wider treads on the tires.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)
- As a rule, the more rapid the heart rate, faster the pulse.
 (A)
 (B)
 (C)
 (D)