Sentence Structure and Punctuation Drill

In the drill below, you will find only questions that focus on sentence construction. Before you start, take a few moments to go back over the review material and techniques. If you don’t spot an error as you read, remember that the answer choices may help to suggest an error for which you should look. Answers in Part VII.

When you see the gingerbread houses of Roskilde with their neatly thatched roofs, the gardens filled with flowers, blooms, and the happy smiles on the fresh-faced inhabitants, it is difficult to believe that this town was once the home of a more warlike people—the Vikings. Roskilde’s main museum is devoted to those early inhabitants, the Vikings once wandered throughout Europe, and by some reports, may have travel all the way to North America as well. The museum sits on a site at the edge of Roskilde fiord. Where the Viking ships were once launched on voyages of conquest and plunder. Until 20 years ago used only by the fishermen who still ply their trade in the fiord, tourists now arrive in buses at the craggy shoreline to watch local artisans build the Viking ships in the traditional manner.

High above the fiord is Roskilde Cathedral, built by the famous Viking King Harold Blue-tooth in the 1200s the king is said to have converted to Christianity when a visiting priest was able to cure his toothache.

1. A. NO CHANGE  
B. flowers and blooms,  
C. flowers; blooms  
D. flowers, blooms

2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. inhabitants the Vikings  
H. inhabitants. The Vikings  
J. inhabitants, the Vikings.

3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. travels  
C. traveled  
D. had traveled

4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. fiord. Where,  
H. fiord, where  
J. fiord; where

5. A. NO CHANGE  
B. the craggy shoreline must now be shared with tourists who arrive in buses  
C. tourists now arrive at the craggy shoreline in buses  
D. the craggy shoreline must now share itself with tourists who arrive in buses

6. F. NO CHANGE  
G. (Place after artisans)  
H. (Place after build)  
J. (Place after watch)

7. A. NO CHANGE  
B. in the 1200s. The king  
C. in the 1200s, the king  
D. in the 1200s, the king,
In one corner of the cathedral is a column on which the
heights of some other famous historical figures who visited the
cathedral are recorded. The tallest (more than seven feet tall, if
the markings are to be believed) was Peter the Great; the
shortest was a king of Siam; who one hopes was only a boy at
the time.

My most memorable vacation as a child was a trip I took to
the Grand Canyon with my grandfather. I was only eleven at
the time; and I'd never been outside the city of Boston. My
grandfather, a true adventurer, decided that it was time for me
to discover the great West. My romantic picture of the
West complete with cowboys and Indians was a little out of
date, but the incredible scenery took my breath away.

On our first day we decided that the best way to explore the
vast beauty of the canyon would be to take a mule-packed trip
down one of the trails. As I rode along on my mules back, I
noticed that each rock stratum displayed a distinctive
hue; gray and violet in some places, dark brown and green
in others. The rock layers of the Grand Canyon are mostly
made of limestone, freshwater shale and sandstone. The Grand
Canyon was truly magnificent. As I looked up from the floor of
the canyon, it's imposing peaks made me realize how small I
really was.