Passive Voice

1. There is a considerable range of talent demonstrated by the top chess players at the school.
   (A) There is a considerable range of talent demonstrated by the top chess players at the school
   (B) There is a considerable range of talent that the top chess players demonstrate at the school
   (C) At the school, a considerable range of talent is demonstrated by the top chess players
   (D) The top chess players at the school demonstrate a considerable range of talent
   (E) The top chess players, who are at the school, demonstrate a considerable range of talent

2. The decision to cancel the pep rally has already been made by the school principal.
   (A) The decision to cancel the pep rally has already been made by the school principal
   (B) The pep rally has been cancelled, in a decision already made by the school principal
   (C) The school principal has already decided to cancel the pep rally
   (D) The pep rally has been cancelled already by the school principal’s decision
   (E) The school principal decided already to cancel the pep rally

3. The volunteers at the animal shelter hope to find new homes by the end of the month for all the cats and dogs displaced by the hurricane.
   (A) hope to find new homes by the end of the month for all the cats and dogs displaced by the hurricane
   (B) hope to find new homes for all the cats and dogs displaced by the hurricane by the end of the month
   (C) are hoping that new homes will be found for all the cats and dogs displaced by the hurricane by the end of the month
   (D) have hope that new homes will be found for all the cats and dogs that were displaced by the hurricane by the end of the month
   (E) hope that, by the end of the month, all the cats and dogs displaced by the hurricane will have new homes found for them

4. The teacher caught Geoffrey cheating, and he was kicked out of the class.
   (A) cheating, and he was kicked
   (B) cheating, and therefore he was kicked
   (C) cheating and kicked him
   (D) cheating after which he kicked him
   (E) cheating, so he was kicked
Answers and Explanations

1. **The correct answer is D.** Choice A, while fine grammatically, employs passive voice. Choice C also uses passive voice and is awkwardly worded. Choices B and E are verbose and inelegant. Choice D uses active voice and avoids introducing other grammar or stylistic problems.

2. **The correct answer is C.** Choices A, B and D all use the passive voice. Additionally, choices B and D are wordy and awkward. Choice E changes the verb tense unnecessarily. Therefore, choice C is clearly the strongest option.

3. **The correct answer is A.** Only choices A and B use the active voice. Choices C, D and E are all passive and awkwardly worded (among other problems). Choice B has a modifier problem, with the placement of the phrase “by the end of the month.” The sentence construction makes it sound as though the displacement is occurring by the end of the month, not the finding of new homes.

4. **The correct answer is C.** Although choice A is not grammatically incorrect, it does use passive voice (he was kicked). Choices B and E also contain passive voice (once again both employ was kicked). Choice D is wordy. However, choice C is concise and uses active voice. Therefore, choice C is the best option.